









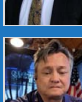




Highlighter



District Leaders

-  [Michael D Driebe](#)
District Governor
-  [Gilda Riazi Moshir](#)
District Gov-Elect
-  [Dennis M. Franklin](#)
District Gov-Nominee
-  [Karina D. Anderson](#)
District Gov-Designate
-  [Michael L. Soden](#)
IPDG
-  [Larry Archuleta](#)
Area Governor
-  [Mary Lou Byrne](#)
Area Governor
-  [Lydia L. Carswell](#)
Area Governor
-  [Manuel L. Franco](#)
Area Governor
-  [Edgar O Garcia-Mora](#)
Area Governor
-  [Dan C. Harley II](#)
Area Governor
-  [Toni Kern](#)
Area Governor
-  [Mack Moore](#)
Area Governor

MAY 2025

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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- DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS**
- ??????Successful District Training Assembly
- RISE Retreat May 17**
- Next Rotary Leadership Institute in August**
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- Rotaplast Missions Announced**
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Celebrate Youth Service Month: Engage, Inspire, Empower

DG Michael Driebe



May is Youth Service Month, a time for Rotarians across District 5300 and the world to shine a light on one of Rotary's most impactful areas of service: investing in young people. This month, let's celebrate by finding new, creative ways to engage with youth, inspire future Rotary leaders and empower the next generation through service.

Youth Service is more than a program, it's a commitment to mentorship, opportunity and growth. Whether it's through Interact, Rotaract, TLC, RYLA, or Youth Exchange, we have countless ways to connect with students and young adults. Each of these programs give youth the tools to lead, serve, and create lasting change in their communities.

This May, I invite you to reimagine how you can celebrate and support youth. Host a joint service project with a local Interact club. Invite a Rotaractor to say a few words at your next meeting. Partner with a school to introduce students to Rotary's values. Make plans to send young people to RYLA this December and to TLC next spring. Contact Las Vegas Rotarian, Kim McMahon for Youth Exchange stories you can highlight in your social media postings. Gestures don't have to be grand to leave a lasting impact.

However your club marks Youth Service, I hope you'll make this month one of action and



Debra A. Parsley
Area Governor



Eric B. Threeton
Area Governor



Nona Tirre Miranda
Area Governor



Isaac Hung
EAG - CA West



Edward Abad
EAG - Antelope Valley/Victor Valley



Rae Kearney
EAG - CA East



Rebecca Fritz
EAG - Nevada



Vicky Ann Abbott
Assistant Governor



Mark Mariscal
Rotary Foundation Chair

celebration. As Rotarians, we have the power to shape lives - not just today, but for years to come. So, celebrate by reaching out to the leaders of tomorrow, and by making plans to lift them up throughout the year ahead!

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS

District Training Assembly Success

By DGE Gilda Moshir

On behalf of our learning facilitator, PDG Dr. Luciano de Sylva, I want to thank all the Rotarians who attended the District Training Assembly on Friday, April 11. We had 194 in attendance from our district. Thanks to all the leaders who facilitated a class and introduced Rotarians to topics familiar and not so familiar. We will be putting the information you received onto the website for easy access & sharing with other members in your clubs.

Events like these have a lot of moving parts behind the scenes that attendees don't always see. I want the attendees to know that if you responded to the survey, we are taking your suggestions seriously so we can improve future assemblies. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue supporting and attending the programs our district offers. Our goal is to educate member Rotarians on best practices for running clubs more effectively as well as attracting and retaining members.



RISE Leadership Retreat For Presidents Elect and District Leaders

On behalf of DGE Gilda Moshir

Presidents Elect and District Leaders are invited to attend RISE - Rotary Inspired Synergy & Excellence on **Saturday May 17, 2025** from 10 am - 3 pm. This event is being organized by incoming Governor Gilda Moshir to brainstorm and strategize with the incoming District leaders and the incoming Presidents about how best we can support the clubs in the 2025-26 Rotary year.

You must register via the link on the flier below (or by visiting the DACdb calendar).

If you have not gotten your 25-26 leadership polo, you can order it via the link provided. On this day, polos, backpacks for PE's and badges for district leaders will be distributed.

Please note Gilda wants us to read for discussion at the retreat: *Begin With WE: 10 Principles for Building and Sustaining a Culture of Excellence* by Kyle McDowell. You can find the book on kindle, amazon and audible. Read it even if you can't attend, and if you can't attend, please let Gilda know right away. Thank you!

Events

May 3rd
[LV After Hours - Super Build in Tecate Mexico](#)

May 3rd
[Growing Club Membership](#)

May 6th
[Green Valley Teacher Appreciation at Robert Taylor Elementary](#)

May 7th
[LV SW Greenspokes](#)

May 8th
[Ontario-Montclair Students of the Year](#)

May 8th
[Multi Club Social Upland, LaVerne, Claremont, Claremont Sunrise](#)

May 9th
[Henderson After Hours 2nd Friday Round-Up](#)

May 10th
[Henderson After Hours @ Art Festival](#)

May 10th
[Green Valley-Your Perfect Footwear Festival](#)

May 10th
[Apple Valley-Community Health & Resource Fair-](#)

RISE

Rotary
District 5300



ROTARY-INSPIRED SYNERGY & EXCELLENCE

A leadership retreat to ignite conversations, share ideas, collaborate and brainstorm ideas with fellow leaders to make the 25-26 Rotary year a success in all the areas our district needs to grow. Let us RISE together towards excellence.

Let us define how we can use Governor Gilda's slogan Honoring Our Legacy Envisioning Our Future and the Rotary International Theme of Unite for Good in our quest for excellence.

All leaders in the 25-26 District leadership team are invited.

JOIN US
FREE



Registration closes
May 12, 2025

AVUSD

May 11th
Henderson After Hours @
Art Festival

May 17th
LV Summerlin-Just One Pop
Up

May 17th
Leadership Retreat 2025-
2026

May 17th
2025-2026 Leadership Polo
Shirt link

May 20th
Altadena - Families Forward
Reading Program

May 21st
LV Summerlin Just One
Project - Grocery Packing &
Stocking

May 21st
Student & Teacher of the
Month Awards

May 22nd
Azusa City of Hope Tour

May 22nd
Henderson After Hours Club
Service - Spread the Word-
NV

May 23rd
Boulder City Best Dam
Barbeque

May 24th
Boulder City Best Dam
Barbeque

May 24th
Altadena - Put Up Flags for
Memorial Day til
Independence Day

May 29th
LV Southwest - Gold Raffle

May 31st
Altadena Pancake Breakfast
- Grocery Outlet

May 31st
Green Valley - Going Away
Potluck for Patrick and
Jennifer Jones and family

May 31st
Apple Valley Chili Cook off

June 3rd
Growing Club Membership

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVE . .

Please read Begin With WE: 10 Principles for Building and Sustaining a Culture of Excellence by Kyle McDowell, you can find the book on kindle, amazon and audible, We will start our retreat with an analysis of the book to apply its principles to our shared brainstorming.

LEADERSHIP POLOS & BADGES

If you didn't get your polo at PETS go to this link to place your orders there's a link on DACdb for polos (leaders pay for their own polo)



Order your
polo today!

Badges will be available
for pick up at event.

UNITE FOR GOOD



Saturday, 17 May 2025
10:00AM - 3:00PM



Excelsior Charter School Building 11
18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
GILDA MOSHIR (818) 807-6060
GILDAROTARY5300@GMAIL.COM



Next Rotary Leadership Institute--August 2025

By Dennis Franklin

Over the last several months, District 5300 had 40 people participate in our Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) workshops and the feedback has been tremendous.

"Fantastic learning through group conversation"
"Super encouraging"
"Great exercise to tap into everyone's expertise"
"Great group input, and great ideas shared"

RLI is leadership development training that provides the foundation of what it means to be a Rotarian. It exposes participants to the wide scope of Rotary around the world, and builds an overall understanding of the organization.

Our next events are scheduled for August in both California and Nevada. Stay tuned to learn the time and locations. You won't want to miss them!

June 5th
[Apple Valley Concerts in the Park](#)

June 10th
[Glendora Club Demotion Dinner](#)

June 12th
[Apple Valley Concerts in Park](#)

June 13th
[Henderson After Hours 2nd Friday Round-Up](#)

June 14th
[Family Bowling Party in Boulder City](#)

June 14th
[Apple Valley Demotion Party](#)



Membership Action Plan Workshop

By DGN Dennis Franklin, District Membership Chair



Mark your calendar for the **Rotary 2025 Membership Action Plan Workshop** taking place from 5:00-8:00 pm on Thursday, May 8.

The course will walk you through the three crucial parts of the membership planning process.

Attracting new members

Onboarding members in a meaningful way

Engaging existing and new members.

The training will provide clear direction to help your club develop and implement an intentional and effective plan to grow membership. Having sat through it myself, I have to say that it is some of the finest training available. I encourage every club in our district that wants to grow to make sure that it has representatives on this call. To register go to <https://bit.ly/4iEoWt1>

Rotaplast Missions Announced

Drexel L. Smith, Rotary District 5300 Cleft Lip/Palate Project Committee

The D5300 Cleft Lip/Palate Project Committee has lined up two exciting surgical Rotaplast Missions.....both with Rotaplast International. For both missions, teams will depart/return via San Francisco.

Nagamangala, India - December 6 – 21, 2025 – As a sponsor for this Mission we have four non-medical positions available to us:

- Medical Records
- Mission Historian
- Patient Transporter
- Sterilizer

Kampala, Uganda 2026 - June 6 – 21, 2026

Welcoming Mental Health to Our District Rotary Team

Rotary District 5300 Leadership Team (Inclusive Leadership, Public Image, Membership)

We are thrilled to officially welcome *Mental Health* alongside *Public Image*, *Inclusive Leadership*, and *Membership* as key pillars of our Rotary family. Each of these groups plays a vital role in building a stronger, more vibrant Rotary — and together, their collaboration is essential for our success.

Mental Health is foundational to our ability to engage meaningfully with our members and communities. When paired with Public Image, which tells our authentic story; Inclusive Leadership, which ensures everyone feels seen and valued; and Membership, which focuses on growth and belonging — we create a Rotary that truly lives its values.

Attraction, engagement, and retention are not isolated goals. They are interconnected. A welcoming image attracts. Inclusive practices engage. Support for mental health retains. Each group feeds into and strengthens the other, creating a cycle of belonging, service, and leadership.

Collaboration is not optional — it is critical. By working together, we amplify our impact, create a Rotary that is more resilient and relevant, and ensure that every member feels supported, inspired, and proud to be part of something greater than themselves.

Together, we are not just growing Rotary — we are transforming it.

Be on the lookout for more to come from the Mental Health Committee in 2025!

Unite for Good as a Rotary Rose Parade Float Ambassador

By PDG Raghada Khoury

Are you ready to Unite for Good as a Rotary Rose Parade Float Ambassador? The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee thrives thanks to the energy and dedication of our ambassadors.

Ambassadors are the heartbeat of our mission—uniting Rotary clubs and individuals to celebrate service, amplify awareness, and bring Rotary's message to millions through our award-winning Rose Parade floats.

As champions of the float, Ambassadors rally support, raise vital funds, and represent the values of Rotary in their communities and around (across) the globe. Together, Ambassadors help build the float and, more importantly, build pride, connection, and global goodwill—one conversation, one club, one supporter at a time.

If you love Rotary—and the Rose Parade—this is your moment to shine. Your voice can make the difference. Promote participation, inspire fellow Rotarians, and grow the team of Ambassadors committed to service and celebration.

Join us. Unite for Good. Become a Rotary Rose Parade Float Ambassador today. Learn more and sign up at rotaryfloat.org/ambassador-signups/



Somos Latinos: Latinos and the Future of Rotary

By Gino Reyes

Latinos represent one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic communities in the United States and around the world. Yet, Rotary's relationship with Latino communities has often been overlooked or underserved. Intentionally recruiting Latino members isn't just about diversity — it's about strengthening Rotary's future.

Latinos bring a deep-rooted culture of service, family, leadership, and resilience — values that align seamlessly with Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self." Their entrepreneurial spirit, community pride, and global mindset are exactly what Rotary needs to stay vibrant and relevant in today's changing world.

However, repairing and rebuilding trust must come first. Rotary must acknowledge past gaps, listen authentically, and create spaces where Latino voices are valued, not just welcomed. Recruitment must be intentional, culturally responsive, and relationship-based, not transactional.

When Rotary embraces Latino members fully, it unlocks new leadership, innovative ideas, and stronger connections to communities that are already driving positive change. Ignoring this opportunity is not just a loss — it's a failure to live up to Rotary's highest ideals of inclusion and impact.

Now is the time to build bridges, foster real belonging, and reimagine Rotary's future together — stronger, richer, and more connected than ever.

Pictured are Latinos in Leadership: Luis Carranza, Stephanie Velasco, Gino Reyes



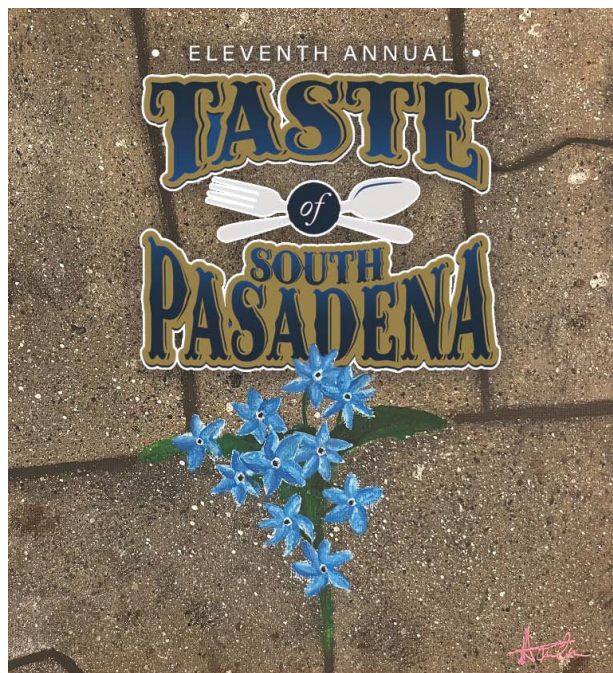
INVITATIONS TO CLUB EVENTS

Taste of South Pasadena -- Eaton Fire Edition

By Betty Bui

Then, on **May 13**, we host our **11th Annual Taste of South Pasadena - Eaton Fire Edition**, our signature fundraiser supporting local and global service projects. Stroll along Mission Street and Fair Oaks Avenue, sample dishes from over 20 incredible local restaurants, enjoy live music, and support Eaton Fire Relief - with 100% of net proceeds aiding our neighbors in need. Tickets are available now at: tasteofsouthpasadena.com. For guests 21 and over, an additional ticket grants access to our exclusive Wine & Spirits Tasting, featuring world-class wineries and spirit companies. It's the perfect way to elevate your evening!

Eaton Fire Relief Grants: The Rotary Club of South Pasadena and the South Pasadena Rotary Foundation are launching a special grant program, funded by the Taste of South Pasadena. Grants of up to \$2,000 will assist individuals and families impacted by the Eaton Canyon Fire with replacing treasured personal items. Applications are open through May 31, 2025, with priority given to those employed in South Pasadena. Learn more: (Kathy Selders) rotaryclubofsouthpasadena@gmail.com



TUESDAY
MAY 13TH 2025
5:00PM-8:00PM
EATS ON THE STREETS
EATON FIRE RELIEF EDITION
Rotary Club of South Pasadena

Boulder City - Best Dam BBQ, May 24-25

By Amy Vandermark, Boulder City President

Mark your calendars for Memorial Day Weekend, **May 24-25, 2025**, for the next Best Dam BBQ sponsored by Boulder City Rotary. Vendor applications were being accepted with deadlines in early May, indicating preparations are underway. For the latest details, check the [official event website](#).

Imagine the tempting aroma of slow-smoked barbecue filling the air in Boulder City, Nevada, during the annual Best Dam BBQ on Memorial Day Weekend. This tradition, held since 2005, has grown from a local event to a major draw, attracting thousands of guests and over 40 competitive barbecue teams from states like California, Arizona, Utah, and Montana. Its consistent scheduling on Memorial Day Weekend has solidified its place as a regional holiday tradition. The event's longevity and its evolution into a Nevada State Championship sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) highlight its prestige and the high-quality barbecue it showcases.

[Read More](#)

Antelope Valley Fiesta Day FUN-raiser June 8

By Josh Konrad

Our upcoming **June 8 Fiesta Day FUN-raiser** is coming up. You are invited to help us celebrate the Rotary Club of the Antelope Valley's 75 years of serving the City of Palmdale through our Fiesta Day FUN-Raiser. There are only 100 tickets available, so don't hesitate to contact our club secretary, PP Shearon Freeman, or our Treasurer, PP Tina Borzage, to purchase your tickets.

If you cannot attend our June 8 event, please

know that we also offer "opportunity tickets" to Rotarians only. With this "opportunity," 50% of what is collected will go to our Fiesta Day FUN-Raiser, and the other 50% will go to another Rotarian/Rotary Club. The magical part of this drawing is that no matter who holds the winning ticket, Rotary WINS!

The Club was given a generous donation from our local semi-pro Antelope Valley Alta Soccer Club FC. For the whole month of May, a portion of the proceeds from all home game tickets purchased using the link: <https://avaltafc.group/AVRotary> will be donated to our Fiesta Day FUN-Raiser. If you are even slightly interested in soccer, please click the above link to purchase your tickets to support Rotary and our local team, the AV Alta FC.



Rotary
Club of The
Antelope Valley

FIESTA DAY 2025

SUNDAY, June 8, 2025 From 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

PLACE:
The Historic LAZY T RANCH
4218 Elizabeth Lake Rd.
Leona Valley, Ca. 93551

TICKETS:
\$40.00 Per person
(Must reserve ticket)

Authentic Mexican Food:
Tacos, Rice, Beans, Guacamole, Quesadillas,
Café de Olla (Coffee), and Mexican Pastries

No Host Bar:
Margaritas, Wine, Beer, Soft drinks

Fiesta Activities:
Raffles - Silent Auction - Live Auction.
Photo Booth - Horse/Pony rides

All Proceeds will support our Rotary Club projects in the community and abroad
For Tickets and questions call: Tina Borzage (661) 803-3940 or
Sharon Freeman (661) 233-1480

Looking forward to seeing you all on June 8 at the Laz-T Ranch in Palmdale!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Altadena Club Jr. ROTC Scholarships

By Peter Huisking

The Altadena Rotary club supports a Junior Reserve Officer Training Course program at Blair high school, giving a scholarship to every graduating JROTC cadet.

On April 29, we held an award ceremony which included presentation of these scholarships. Peter Huisking was honored to be the club's representative. The new US Army Corps of Engineers Commander for the fire recovery efforts, Brigadier General Bill Hannan, was able to participate, which was great!

Only a few of these students will go on to military service, but they have learned about teamwork, leadership, and the responsibilities of citizenship at a young age. It also goes along with our Rotary concept of "Service above Self".

This will stand them in good stead throughout their lives. These kids are setting a good example.

Antelope Valley – April report

By Josh Konrad, Antelope Valley

April was a terrific month for our members and friends. At our District Conference, Mickey was upstaged by several of our members. Gene and Charlene Melchers were presented with an award for being Paul Harris Super Donors and for being Super Duper notable Rotarians!

Friend and District Foundation Chair Mark Mariscal presented to the Melchers their certificate of appreciation and 100 Years of Rotary book. PP Gene Melchers, PP Chuck Church, and Vikki Ryan, on behalf of Ex. PADG Don Ryan, were also presented a star from an American Flag to commemorate their service in the United States Army or United States Air Force.

The Club hosted a dinner for three young women, whom we sponsored to attend RYLA, their Interact coach, and a guest Rotarian from Lancaster West, Barbara Fraiser. It was a fantastic night learning about these young people's experiences, knowing that their RYLA weekend will live within them for years.

Sign up for our Fiesta Day (described above)!

LV After Hours Scores Big with Charity Putt Putt

By Linda Bertuzzi, LV After Hours

Our recent Charity Putt Putt event at Angel Park was a great success, drawing over 80 golfers and featuring nearly two dozen sponsors, plus 15 exciting auction prizes. The After Hours Founders' team took first place, with Downtown Rotary's Greg Adams' team coming in second. Thanks to the total support of our members we exceeded our fundraising goal, with proceeds going to support local organizations like The Just One Project, Lunt Elementary, Project 150, Baby's Bounty, and the Agassi Boys and Girls Club and more.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work of our members who secured teams, auction prizes, and sponsorships. Special thanks to Karen Whisenhunt from the Las Vegas Club for sharing their playbook, making the event planning smoother. We also appreciate the generosity of our major sponsors: NOVA Home Loans, Summerlin Rotary, A Good Life Chef, UNLV, Amerisent Insurance, Allstate Insurance, and Horizon Print Solutions.

For the first time, we opted for dinner table sponsors instead of tee sponsors, which was a hit! Thanks to LaRae Sloan, Realty ONE Group Las Vegas, Deb Parsley, Realty ONE Group Mesquite, Rose Parade Float Committee, D&R House of Diamonds, Omni Communications West, Evie's House of Travel, and SIWS Promotions & Balloons by Dawn for their support.

A special shout-out to our digital sponsor, Toto Marketing, whose hologram advertising backpack and massive digital truck kept our club's branding front and center all night. Vegas, baby!



Las Vegas Southwest Scholarships

By Keith Thomas

The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. For more than 40 of those years, it has offered a scholarship program.

Each year, the Club awards one \$9,600 academic scholarship to a graduating senior who intends to attend a public college or university in Nevada. The \$1,200 scholarship is awarded on a per-semester basis and is renewable for up to 7 semesters of college as long as the applicant maintains a 3.0 GPA and completes a minimum of 12 semester hours per semester. The scholarship is paid directly to the school.

In addition to the 4-year scholarship, from time to time the Club also awards a 1-year scholarship if there are applicants with significant need.

Our program is named the "John and Lou Yoxen Academic Scholarship" in honor of a former Southwest Rotarian who donated a significant sum to our club for scholarships.

Because the program has been so successful, we were the recent beneficiary of a \$25,000 donation from a non-Rotarian who needed someone to administer a scholarship program in honor of her late husband. The result is a \$5,000 annual scholarship titled the "Barry A. Smith Memorial Scholarship" and will be awarded at the same time as our annual scholarship.

Pictured below are members of our scholarship committee with recent scholarship recipients. All recipients visit our club from time to time and are invited to participate in our service projects.



Moapa Valley - A Mighty Rotary Presence at the Clark County Fair

By Gino Reyes, President Vegas Verde Rotary Club

This month, I had the opportunity to attend the Clark County Fair in Logandale for the very first time — and what an incredible experience it was! I was especially excited to see the *Moapa Valley Rotary Club* in action, and they did not disappoint.

Moapa Rotary is a mighty force in its community, full of energy, service, and spirit. Their leadership at the fair was on full display as they successfully operated the famous beer garden — a major part of the event and a huge undertaking. Watching their team work together seamlessly, all while having fun and raising funds to support their projects, was truly inspiring.

Clubs like Moapa Rotary remind us of the power Rotary has when deeply rooted in the local community. Their efforts make a real difference, and their example sets a high bar for all of us.

With that spirit in mind, I hope we can build an even bigger Rotary presence at next year's Fair! Let's mark our calendars for *Saturday, April 12, 2026*, and make it an **official Rotary Night at the Clark County Fair**. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate service, fellowship, and the impact we can have when we come together.

Thank you, Moapa Rotary, for showing us how it's done!

Pasadena Rotary Club - Global Grant Scholar

By Global Grant Scholar Tallan Donine

First, I hope everyone is safe from the devastating fires, I'm sending wishes for a quick recovery. Thank you all at the Pasadena Rotary Club for supporting this *once-in-a-lifetime* educational opportunity. My time at Edinburgh pursuing an LLM in Human Rights has been fantastic. I have enjoyed my courses spanning conflict resolution and international human rights law. I am exploring this field from new and challenging angles and am excited to step back into the professional realm of atrocity prevention once I graduate.

Over the first semester, I participated in several events with the Rotary Club of Corstorphine, including their charter dinner, and another nearby club's international night. I look forward to meeting more Global Scholars this term and volunteering with local Corstorphine Club events.

The members of the Rotary Club of Corstorphine have been so welcoming. From picking me up at the airport when I first arrived in Edinburgh to helping me get items for my dorm and even taking me to a rugby match. I am excited for the next semester; time is flying by quickly.

Pomona - Backpacks for Survivors of Human Trafficking

By Josh Landis, President, Rotary Club of Pomona

On April 25th, members of the Pomona Rotary club distributed backpacks to a local nonprofit that supports victims of human trafficking. These backpacks were made during the District conference through the collaboration of so many that were in attendance.

When the CEO of the nonprofit came to see the room filled with backpacks, she was overtaken with emotion as these backpacks mean so much to the victims. Pomona Rotary thanks all of those who helped put the backpacks together during the conference. They will be used immediately to help those in need!



Rancho Cucamonga's 55th Anniversary

By Rick Gomez

We are thrilled to announce that the Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club is celebrating its 55th anniversary—marking over five decades of commitment to community service, leadership, and positive impact. Since its founding, our club has remained dedicated to the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," working tirelessly to support local and global initiatives that make a difference. From educational programs and scholarships to humanitarian efforts and volunteer projects, the Rancho Cucamonga Rotary Club has been a driving force for change. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our members—past and present—who have shaped our legacy and ensured our mission continues to thrive. We invite our community, partners, and supporters to join us in commemorating this special occasion.

Stay tuned for details on upcoming anniversary events, celebrations, and ways to get involved! Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to 55 incredible years—and many more to come!



South Pasadena - Taste. Build. Celebrate. Rotary in Action This May!

By Betty Bui

May is Youth Service Month, and the Rotary Club of South Pasadena is leading the charge with service, celebration, and community connection!

On May 3, we're proud to join clubs across District 5300 under the leadership of Corazón Chair Robin Smith (Summerlin, NV Rotary Club) to build homes for families in need near Tecate, Baja California. Fifteen volunteers from our club and the South Pasadena High School Interact Club will spend the day bringing hope, shelter, and smiles to a deserving family.

Don't miss the Interact Club of South Pasadena High School's **2nd Annual Pickleball Fundraiser** - a fun, energetic way to support youth-led service projects. This year, proceeds will benefit Pasadena Meals on Wheels, helping deliver fresh, nutritious meals to homebound seniors and disabled individuals. [Pickleball tickets available here.](#)

And be sure to accept our invitation to the 11th Annual Taste of South Pasadena, above.

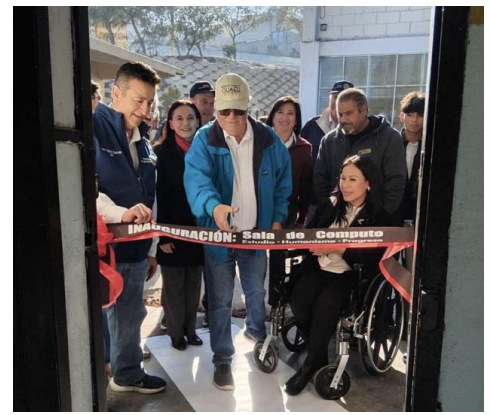
From building homes to building community, May showcases the Rotary Club of South Pasadena's commitment to Service Above Self. Join us!

West Covina Computer Classroom in Tijuana

By David Carmany, West Covina

The picture below shows the ribbon cutting for a new computer classroom, supported by the West Covina and Tijuana Agua Caliente Rotary Clubs, at Escuela Secundaria Leona Victoria 67 on January 18, 2025.

The students raced to try out the new computers, and Principal Gabriela Tovar (seated) spoke eloquently and in gratitude. Pictured cutting the ribbon is West Covina Rotarian Jose Gutierrez (blue jacket).



RECOGNITION AND MEMORIALS

Honoring Luis Manjarrez – A Legacy of Service, Laughter, and Dedication

By Paul Henry, Claremont Sunrise

After 37 years of unwavering service with Claremont Sunrise Rotary—and 57 years in Rotary overall—Luis Manjarrez is stepping into a well-earned role as an Honorary Member. Throughout his remarkable tenure, Luis maintained perfect attendance, a testament to his steadfast commitment and love for Rotary.

Since joining Claremont Sunrise on February 1, 1987, Luis quickly became a fixture of the club. He served as Club President and held the important role of Attendance Secretary for many years. Known for his welcoming nature and quick wit, Luis brought a warm energy and sense of fun to every meeting. Members could always count on being greeted by his friendly smile at the front table each week.

Luis's passion for community was matched only by his love for baseball. A lifelong fan and longtime competitive softball player, he carried that same team spirit into everything he did—on and off the field.

Now in good health and high spirits, Luis has decided it's time for new adventures. While we'll miss seeing him weekly, we are proud to honor his legacy and welcome him into the distinguished ranks of Honorary Members.

Thank you, Luis, for 57 years of Rotary dedication, your sense of humor, and your unwavering presence. Your impact on our club is lasting, and your Rotary story continues to inspire.



In Memory of Pomona Rotarian Beth Brooks

By Josh Landis

Monday April 21st, Pomona Rotary Club member Beth Brooks sadly passed away after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Beth joined Rotary in 2007 and was Club President in 2017-2018 where she left her mark on each meeting with jokes to make everyone smile. A lifelong resident of Pomona, Beth was committed to her family, church, and community to make a positive impact in so many lives. Each year for Pomona Rotary's annual Hot August Night fundraiser, Beth was a key figure to make raffle baskets or sell any last minute tickets to fill a table.

Her presence will be deeply missed for many years to come.

