



## Welcome to District 5080

District 5080, located in Southeast British Columbia, Eastern Washington, and Northern Idaho, joins a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who take action to create lasting change. We use our passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects, from literacy and peace to water and health (***and so much more!***), we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Rotarians believe in promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Fulfill your passion and get involved!

**Sincere apologies for the delay this month. I was waiting on a couple of articles. I then had some issues with the Bulletin. Thanks to everyone who used Ez-Story to create their stories it makes my job a lot easier.**

At your Service Gordon

## [A Message from RI President Stephanie Urchick](https://www.rotary.org/en/20200401MessageFromRIPresidentStephanieUrchick)

## Tremendous Support for Crisis in Goma

I am both pleased and humbled by the response throughout our district to the appeal for support for the people of Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In total we have received over \$7,200 (U.S.) for this effort, from all corners of the district, and from both individuals and clubs. We wanted to be able to respond quickly as the need was so great, and we were successful, sending the first draw to them in 2 weeks from the time of the appeal.

April is **Maternal and Child Health Month** on the Rotary calendar. This fits hand-in-glove with **World Immunization Week** which takes place during the final week of this month.

We have been reading and watching reports of a serious outbreak of Measles in North America this winter. This is largely in unvaccinated areas of the population, and it is unnecessary. With Rotary's work to eliminate Polio we



know what a positive impact we have created around our world. We know that vaccines are effective. We are not done yet, but we will continue to work, and engage with our partners in this project, until the task is complete.

[Read More](#)

## District 5080 Honored with Bronze Achievement Award at the North American Youth Exchange Network Con

Merida, Mexico – February 22, 2025 – District 5080 has been recognized with a prestigious Bronze Achievement Award at the North American Youth Exchange Network (NAYEN) Conference in Merida, Mexico.

The award highlights the district's dedication to excellence in their youth exchange program and recognizes the district's hard work in maintaining high standards and continually striving to enhance its exchange programs.



2023-24  
**NAYEN**  
**BRONZE**  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD



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## District 5080 Conference



- **\$149 CDN/USD for 2 full days of activities, including 4 meals**
- **Thoughtful breakout sessions**
- **Great guest speakers - Cam Stewart, David Swain & Dr. Svetlana Hadikin**
- **Home Hospitality, Brewery Tour & Taco Feast, gala dinner with Rail Town Rock for entertainment**
- **District business meeting too!**

**Register Via DACdb**



## Apply Now for Rotary Foundation District Grants

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

April 15 Deadline for Rotary Foundation District Grant Applications

The deadline is near for any clubs wanting to apply for district grants. All applications must be entered in DACdb no later than April 15. The District Grants Sub-committee will meet on May 14 to review and approve applications for inclusion in the 2025-26 block grant spending plan. We normally receive approved block grant funds from The Rotary Foundation by July or August and then disburse to the clubs.

Clubs may apply for up to two grants: one for a local project and one for an international project. The maximum grant is \$10,000 USD, matching club funds. For 2025-26, club requests will again exceed available DDF. Consequently, we may need to limit clubs to a single grant or scale back funding for some projects. The funding available for our 2025-26 block grant (\$92,308) is one half of the DDF derived from donations made to the Annual Fund-SHARE in 2022-23, supplemented by spendable earnings from the Endowment Fund.

Supporting documents are available in DACdb in District Files (Public) Rotary Foundation Giving-Grants, in the DACdb grant module (Grant Secure Files), and on the District website Foundation/Grants page. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact District Grants Sub-committee Chair Karen Cook ([mkarencook26@gmail.com](mailto:mkarencook26@gmail.com)) or District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair Doreen Kelsey ([dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com)).

## Rotary Partnerships at Work

For the past 6 years, I have been the Lead Contact for a partnership between my club, the Rotary Club of Nelson, and three San Diego Rotary Clubs. Rotary Peace Scholarship Students - a Rotary Global Grants program - attend the Kroc School of Peace and Conflict, USD, in San Diego, to achieve a Masters degree in Peace related studies. We have been the 'International Club' and the San Diego Clubs have been the 'Host Clubs' for students from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Georgia, Kenya, and Rwanda.

Léa is our latest Peace Scholarship Student. I was in San Diego recently and met with Léa and some of the Kroc staff and the Dean. Léa is a remarkable young person and is doing very well at the school. Attached and pasted is an article about Léa that she has approved for publication. Her picture, for publication, is also attached.





I hope that you find this a suitable submission for the District Digest. This is a remarkable Rotary Peace initiative, and the students have all exceptional scholars.

## COEUR D'ALENE SUNRISE ROTARY SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES

Partnering with Newby-Ginnings of North Idaho Inc., we provided the items most requested by low-income veterans, active military and Gold Star Families. Those items included sets of bath towels/hand towels/washcloths, bed linens and non-perishable food items.

[Read More](#)

## Goma Relief Efforts

By Doreen Fox Kelsey



### Goma Relief – Aid Distributed

Last month we shared the story of the Goma crisis and requested donations for humanitarian relief. To recap, the city of **Goma**, located in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has come under siege by rebel groups. Men, women, and children are being harmed and slaughtered. There are few supplies and little food. People are taking refuge in churches and they desperately need medical supplies and other basic necessities.

Members of the Rotary Club of Global Action for Refugees and Forced Migrants, responded to help with the humanitarian crisis. Supplies were purchased in nearby Uganda and delivered to Goma, where members of the club distributed maize flour, sugar and oil in the packages along with hygiene supplies to 74 families. This effort was a risky endeavor for all those involved in the transport and distribution of this aid.

To date, \$7,000 USD has been raised, and the first installment of funding was sent last month. We hope to extend our fundraising efforts through the end of April to provide additional assistance.

Tragically, the club registered 17 women who have died due to a lack of disinfectants and first aid for their fistulas caused by rape and sexual mutilations. The beneficiaries of food and sanitary and hygiene supplies were picked from families that were identified with urgent health needs.

If you're in a position to help, please send a cheque/check payable to Rotary International District 5080 to:

**U.S. Contributors** – Ms. Debi Dockins, [1320 W. Cove Rd., Viola ID 83872-9706](#)

or contact Debi Dockins ([ryla5080@gmail.com](mailto:ryla5080@gmail.com)) for instructions for making electronic transfers.

**Canadian Contributors** – Jeanette McCarvell, [619 W. Innes St., Nelson, B.C. Canada V1L3J4](#) or make e-transfers to [district5080treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:district5080treasurer@gmail.com)

You can view video of the relief efforts on the District 5080 Facebook page.

Please mark your contribution as **"Gift to Goma"**. We are not able to provide tax receipts for these gifts.

[Read More](#)



## Nobel laureate leads speaker roster for 2025 Rotary International convention

The first woman from the Arab world to win the Nobel Peace Prize will address Rotary International's 2025 convention, which takes place from 21-25 June in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Tawakkol Karman has endured persecution and imprisonment for speaking out in favor of democracy and women's empowerment.

Read her story [here](#).



## Rotary International Convention





**Photo: Roam Creative**

## CONVENTION NEWS - JANUARY

Hello to everyone who has registered for the 2025 Rotary International Convention! We look forward to gathering with you 21-25 June in Calgary, Canada.

### Hotels

The demand for lodging in Calgary is high, and rooms are selling fast. If you don't find a room in the location you want in Rotary's official block, you can explore [hotels that aren't part of our block](#) through the aRes Travel booking engine. Book rooms online or call +1-619-546-7263 for live assistance. **Just note that Rotary and Maritz, Rotary's official housing partner, do not manage aRes Travel reservations or inquiries.**

### New on [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)

Have you booked your flight to Calgary yet? If not, be sure to use the discount codes from WestJet and Air Canada on our new [Airline Discounts page](#) when you do.

Do you want to know the lineup of speakers and entertainment at our general sessions? Visit the new [Speakers page](#) and check back often for updates!

### Breakout sessions

You can choose from 70 breakout sessions that will inspire you, improve your skills, and help you discover **The Magic of Rotary** through projects, fundraising, inclusivity, and more. Join these engaging sessions Monday through Wednesday, 23-25 June, on topics such as:

- **Strengthening your club.** Learn strategies for keeping members engaged, encouraging greater diversity in your membership, and inspiring people to get involved in Rotary.
- **Connecting and taking action.** Meet members who are making a difference in addressing the world's biggest challenges, and find out how you can help.
- **Using Rotary's Action Plan.** Discover how the Action Plan can improve the health of your club or district.



More information will be posted on the [Breakout Sessions page](#) when it's available.

## House of Friendship

The House of Friendship exhibit hall is the ultimate destination for attendees to gather, network, and learn about your product, program, or service. The [application to exhibit in the House of Friendship](#) at the 2025 Rotary International Convention is now available. Rotary and non-Rotary groups are welcome to secure booth space.

Applications will be accepted until 28 February. If you have questions, write to [exhibitor@rotary.org](mailto:exhibitor@rotary.org).

[Read More](#)

## Need Help - Call a Rotarian

By Doreen Fox Kelsey



### Being a Rotarian Means Someone is Always Willing to Help You

I was reminded recently of the fact that Rotary means no matter where you find yourself in the world, or whatever help you may need, there is always a Rotarian willing to assist you. I think it's one of the best benefits of being a Rotarian.

Last month, I received a call from Sandy Hartman, a member of the Castlegar Sunrise Rotary Club. Her son Alex was registered to attend a retreat at the LoveYourBrain Foundation in the Denver area for individuals dealing with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Alex has brain challenges that affect his brain function, and these increase when he is tired or overstimulated. This is an invisible disability and although he appears able to travel on his own, he may require assistance. Air Canada provides this service through its unaccompanied adult program.

This means an agent of the airline is required to meet him before he boards the plane, and another agent must assist him in making his connection. When Alex was scheduled to arrive at Denver International Airport, an agent would accompany him to Baggage Claim. So far so good.

[Read More](#)

## Join us for our Epic Day of Service

I have proudly taken on the roll as the District 5080 Epic Day of Service Champion.

To attend the National Epic Day of Service call, you will need to **open the attached flyer and register.**

To date, I have heard from the following D5080 Clubs desire to participate in the 2025 Epic Day of Service event in May 2025:

**Colfax; Spokane Rotary North; Castlegar; Colville; Pullman**

**Bonnars Ferry; Nelson; Christina Lake** have expressed an interest but no firm commitment yet.  
[Read More](#)

## Applications Open for Peace Fellowships

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

## Application Deadline is May 15 for Rotary Peace Scholars

Promoting peace is a cornerstone of Rotary's mission. By carrying out service projects, supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, and partnering with others, Rotary members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. Rotary Peace Fellowships that train peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace are one of the most effective ways to build peace.

The fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship, which covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of dedicated peacebuilders from communities around the world to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking.

[Read More](#)

## Understanding the cost of food waste



### The Real Reason We Trash So Much Food

No one feels good about wasting food. But once tossed, it is easy to forget about. Rejected food piles up in landfills, where it releases methane, the supervillain of greenhouse gases. Shorter-lived than carbon dioxide, methane is far better at trapping heat during its 10 or so years in the atmosphere. For this reason, reducing food waste is one of the single most effective ways we can slow our planet's heating. [Learn how Rotary members are working on the issue and what can be done to reduce our food waste.](#)

## Making Rotary's public image a priority

Helping others understand who we are and how we make a difference as people of action is something all Rotary members can do. Use the tools in the improved Brand Center to help publicize the work of your club or district and share the impact you make. Making public image a priority can help expand Rotary's reach by attracting members, volunteers, and donors and strengthening our brand. [Read More](#)



## Rotary Youth Exchange reaches milestone

In 2025, Rotary Youth Exchange is celebrating a half-century as an official Rotary International program. Look for historical highlights, testimonials from members and volunteers, and more on the new Rotary Young Leaders Instagram page and Rotary International social channels and then share them on your club and district channels. This 50th anniversary observance is a unique opportunity to inspire future generations of volunteers and participants, promote Rotary to your community, and reach new audiences.

## Promote Rotary through events

Events are more than just ways to take action and involve members. They help you connect with the public and expand





your reach. Find [resources](#) to help you plan and promote your events, including templates to create event flyers and social media posts in the [Brand Center](#).

## Connect to new audiences with social media

Build your social media presence.

Social media is an excellent way to keep current, past, and prospective members, donors, and friends connected to your club and to foster a sense of belonging. It's also a great way to increase awareness of your club and its activities and to project a welcoming environment. You'll find guidance on achieving a successful social media plan on the [Brand Center](#).

## World Immunization Week

By Edward H. Kowitz

World Immunization Week is fast approaching on 24-30 April. This is a critical time to raise awareness about the importance of immunization and the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.



Why do we believe so strongly in this? Rotary made a promise to the children of the world with the launch of the PolioPlus program in 1985 that we would eradicate polio from the world. Thanks to vaccines and the incredible support of Rotary members like you, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9%. [Read More](#)

## Waterton Glacier International Peace Park - An Enduring Example of Peace



Contributed by  
Brian Walton, Past  
President of the  
Rotary Club of  
Calgary at  
Stampede Park  
and a former  
Director of the  
Waterton-Glacier  
International  
Peace Park

Association. Published in the Calgary Herald.

In the weeks and months ahead you will be hearing more about the Rotary International Convention that is coming to Calgary on June 21-25, 2025. Up to 20,000 Rotarians from around the world will descend on our great City.

Given the current times, several Rotary members thought it would be appropriate for Calgarians to learn more about a peace initiative with our friends in the US that was conceived, promoted, and is nurtured to this day by Rotarians on both sides of the border. It all began when a group of Rotarians from

Cardston, Alberta invited fellow Rotarians to the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Lakes National Park on July 4-5, 1931 for a good will meeting. Over 100 Rotarians from Montana, Saskatchewan and Alberta attended the meeting. At that meeting there was a consensus to advocate for the creation of an International Peace Park that would encompass both National parks. It was resolved, "that the proper authorities be petitioned to commence negotiations to establish the two parks indicated as a permanent International Peace Park, which will be definitely set aside for this laudable purpose, pledging our loyalty and allegiance to foster all international relationships". Canadian and American Rotarians reached out to their respective federal governments and in the days when things could get done expeditiously, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a first in the world was commemorated on June 18, 1932!

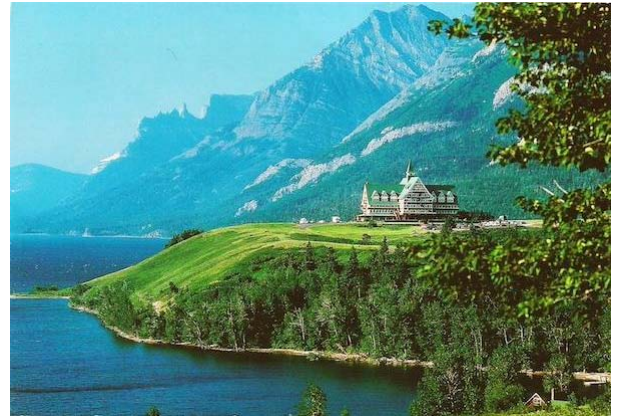
[Read More](#)

## Opinion Piece for Calgary Herald

***(This was written by former WGIPPA Director Bryan Walton, and published in the Calgary Herald on 2 April, 2025)***

In the weeks and months ahead you will be hearing more about the Rotary International Convention that is coming to Calgary on June 21-25, 2025. Up to 20,000 Rotarians from around the world will descend on our great City.

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## Charter Meeting of the Rotary Action Group for Peace Northwest Plateau Chapter

The District 5080 and District 5060 Peace Committees are entering into a partnership in the creation of the Rotary Action Group for Peace Northwest Plateau Chapter.



The concept of the RAG for Peace Chapter was created to build a method for diverse Peacebuilder Clubs in a shared geographic area to build a network for collaboration, shared resources, shared ideas, and fulfillment of common goals to spread peace throughout their local sphere of influence.

The Northwest Plateau Charter meeting will be held on 19 April 2025 at 6 pm London, 10 am Pacific, 11 am Mountain via Zoom. Speakers for this meeting will include PRP Gordon McNally,

Please plan on joining us for this momentous event. The zoom link for this event will be posted to the home page a week prior to the scheduled meeting.

[Read More](#)

## Enhance your club experience with videos

A convenient way to boost club meetings is to show videos from Rotary's Brand Center. The improved Brand Center has more than 90 high-quality videos that can be used to supplement club and district meeting agendas and inspire members. Remind your clubs' leaders that they can use the Brand Center's filters to search for campaigns, causes, keywords, and regions. [Explore our video selection](https://rotary.org/brandcenter) at [rotary.org/brandcenter](https://rotary.org/brandcenter).

## Rotary Youth Exchange at 50



This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rotary Youth Exchange as an official program of Rotary International. For five decades, we've enabled students to experience new cultures, develop lasting friendships, and become global citizens. We're grateful for the dedication of the Rotary members and host families who make the program possible. [Read More](#)

## Learning plans for club committee chairs

Are you getting ready to lead in your club as a club committee chair? It's an exciting time, but also a time to learn how best to perform your new roll. In addition to attending the District Spring Assembly (which I hope you got a lot out of!), you can enroll in role-based learning plans before the start of the next Rotary year. We have learning plans for:

- club administration chair
- membership chair
- Rotary Foundation chair
- public image chair, and
- service projects chair.

Members of those committees can complete the learning plans, too. Find them all in the Learning Center under Club Leadership Courses. [Read More](#)

## Meet the 2025 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award recipient

The 2025 recipient of Rotary's [Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award](#) combines a longstanding commitment to empowering women with a talent for teaching and mentorship. Ayda Özeren, a member of the Rotary Club of Izmir-Gündoğdu, Izmir, Turkey, is an author, mediator, and professional speaker whose work has touched the lives of as many as 11,000 women and girls.

"We have to change the leadership process. We should make more women leaders," she says.

Read the article [here](#).

## Abigail Koech Wins Princeton Prize in Race Relations

By Amanda Le Blanc

We are thrilled to share a remarkable story of leadership, perseverance, and community impact that shines a spotlight on one of our own. Abigail Koech, a senior at Richland High School (RHS) and daughter of our fellow Richland Rotarian Phillip Koech, has been named a 2025 recipient of the prestigious Princeton Prize in Race Relations. This national honor recognizes high school students who demonstrate exceptional dedication to advancing racial equity and understanding in their schools and communities—and Abigail's work is nothing short of inspiring. [Read More](#)

## WGIPPA Peace Park Director Jeff Mow



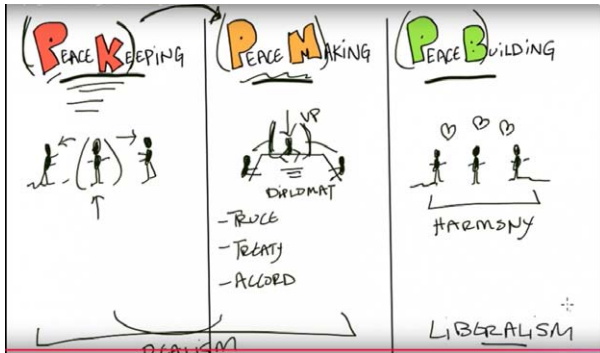
Jeff Mow shares why is he proud to be a Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Association. We are all members!!!

[https://studio.youtube.com/video/1iYGwqy\\_h3E/edit](https://studio.youtube.com/video/1iYGwqy_h3E/edit)

## Articles and Videos

Peacekeeping,  
Peacemaking,  
Peacebuilding

Goodwin  
Education



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2xOe22dwi4&t=1s>

## Walla Walla Peace Gathering

By Nancy Jean Milton

2nd Annual Walla Walla Valley  
**Regional Peace Conference**



**“Our Piece of Global Peace”**

**Saturday, April 12, 1 to 5 pm**

**209 E Birch St, Walla Walla**

**“The Parlor” at Pioneer United Methodist Church**

[Read More](#)