

February Rotary Theme: Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution

A Message from Director Dan Himelspach

In a world deeply intertwined yet persistently divided by conflict, the principles of peacebuilding and conflict resolution have never been more critical. After thirty years in the conflict resolution business, the following are my observations about conflict:

[Read More](#)



Help to Support the WGIPPA Peace Garden Project at Waterton Lakes NP





Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Association is in the process of completing the Peace Garden, a project initiated at Waterton Lakes NP in September 2023. The final stage includes the installation of boulders with peace quote signage, a sign for the dedication of the garden, and landscaping of the garden area. While the project was primarily funded by a District grant, the costs of the project were greater than expected. Please consider making a donation to help defray the remaining costs. All donations can be made using the [WGIPPA Peace Garden donation site](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/11e2aff4-22ea-4b32-ae62-09fef21b596b). All donations will be used to fully fund the project. Our payment portal does not charge fees for donations. No credit card service or bank ACH fees will be charged for this donation.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/11e2aff4-22ea-4b32-ae62-09fef21b596b>

Leaning to Assess Clubs & Communities for Peace



The District 5080 Peace Committee is pleased to announce the upcoming Peacebuilders in Action Summit: Assessing Peace to be held in conjunction with the Annual District Conference in Nelson, BC on 2 May 2025.

The Peace Committee is planning to introduce the idea of "Assessing Peace" within your club, your community, and in yourself. To create peace, it is critical to understand the state of peacefulness that currently exists, what gaps are present, and how to make changes to achieve a greater state of peacefulness.

The Peace Summit will begin with a brief breakfast, registration, and period of fellowship. Michael Hayes, Past Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace will provide a keynote presentation on "Rotary and Peace – Past, Present, and Future". This keynote will be followed by a presentation on the "Methods for Assessing Peace."

Each participant will be given the opportunity to participate in a workshop where peace assessment methods will be reviewed and practiced using examples from clubs and communities.

After the Peace Summit, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony scheduled to be held at the Rotary Lakeside Park.

Rotary International Convention



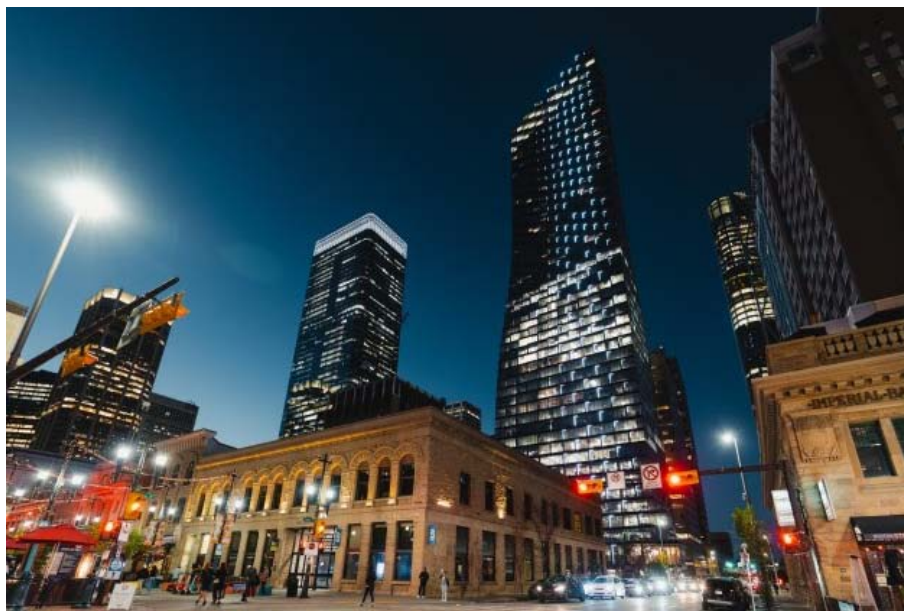


Photo: Roam Creative

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

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.

[Read More](#)

Peace Literacy in the Classroom

By Maxine A Ruzicka

The Rotary D5080 Peace Committee initiated a teacher training pilot project in partnership with the Peace Literacy Institute founded by International Educator Paul K Chappell. He is a former West Point graduate who was deployed to Iraq and left active duty as a captain, realizing that humanity is facing challenges that require us to become as well-trained in waging peace as soldiers are in waging war. Chappell has created Peace Literacy to help students and adults from all backgrounds work towards a more peaceful world. The Peace Literacy Institute, along with educators, have designed a curriculum for prekindergarten to grade 12 that aligns with many of the objectives that are required in most of the subjects taught. Through a partnership with Oregon State University, teachers are able to receive CE credits for their professional development. Peace Literacy empowers us to create peace that is realistic and sustainable and needs to start with our children and youth.



Peace Literacy 1 Navigating Aggression: Its Causes, Anatomy, and Alternatives

Online | 5 Weeks | Self-Paced*
Feb. 17-Mar. 21, 2025

The next program on Peace Literacy: Navigating Aggression: Its Causes, Anatomy, and Alternatives will be offered again this Spring.

See a free preview [HERE](#)

To register, go [HERE](#)
For Information on Scholarships or sponsorship contact Joann Deck at joannpdeck@peaceliteracy.org

[Read More](#)

Friends, Rotarians, Countrymen.....

By Debi G Dockins on Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Lend me your ears! It's time to represent! Your Club, your District, your members and yourself! Take a look at these amazing awards – and tell us who should be receiving them. We can't have awards without nominations, and YOU know best who is doing the work in your area. We know that YOU know someone who would be honored to be nominated in one of these categories, so please take a look at the awards (and new citations) and nominate, nominate, nominate! You know who you are – now lend me your knowledge and let's do this! [Read More](#)



Rotary Award at Moscow City Council

By Dave Ostrom on Wednesday, January 22, 2025



The Moscow Rotary Club presented a Certificate of Appreciation on January 21st to the Moscow Farmer's Market/Amanda Argona who manages the market. The club grossed just over \$50,000 in calendar year 2024 from Kettle Corn sales with almost all of that coming from the Farmer's Market. Those monies allow us to support many different entities in Moscow and the surrounding area. The club could not do this without the earnings from Kettle Corn Sales and it was great to show our appreciation.

New Digest Editor!

Saturday, February 1, 2025

I (Lynn O'Connor) am happy to announce that the District Digest will have a new editor, starting this month.

Gordon Malcom has been an active Rotarian since 2021, and is member of the Castlegar Sunrise club. We're all going to have fun getting to know him!

Send your Digest articles to him at gmalcolm1676@gmail.com.

I will be staying on as District Public Image Chair until such time as some wonderful person in our District would love to fill this position. It's fun! You get to play with the wonderful people in District leadership. You get to play with District Membership Chair Todd Shepard who loves social media, websites, and all things that strengthen clubs. You get to play with social media. You get to play with the website. Most importantly, you get to promote Rotary in all sorts of ways! I would stay on as a committee member to ease any transition stress. Please contact me when you're interested! (lynntoconnor@gmail.com)



Help Wanted - District level service

By Lynn Theresa O'Connor

Help is needed in the following areas of District Service. I remember when I first said "Yes" to District service - scary at first, all those cool people doing really cool work, and who was I? It is so much fun, and you get to work with wonderful people and make good friends. Saying, 'yes' is a great thing! One always gets more in return.

Here are some of the places that need your talents:

Public Image Committee:

- I am happy to announce that the District Digest will now be managed by Gordon Malcom (*Castlegar Sunrise*)! I am editing the January 2025 issue, and Gordon will take over in February.
- *District Social Media*: responsible for keeping posts on all social media sites current and interesting; the cover photo every month to reflect a new theme or new month; sharing interesting club project posts; other duties as needed.
- *Webmaster*: this is a fun one - working directly with Todd Sheperd, Membership Chair, on making and keeping the website current for Rotary members and the public seeking more information about us.
- *Public Image Chair*: oversees the above activities, plus provides for District Education in public image knowledge for club leaders at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Manages incentive programs such as Club Public Image Citations; is a member of and reports to District Council.

Contact Lynn O'Connor if you are interested in any of these positions; lynntoconnor@gmail.com

Committee members to serve on the **district international service subcommittee** - the **International Service Sub-committee** assists clubs with finding international service projects, partners, and funding and assists with completion of grant applications.

Chair of the Scholarship Sub-committee - leads efforts to promote scholarships in the seven areas of focus; interviews potential scholars; assists with funding and completion of global grant applications; coordinates with international and host partners; assists with scholar orientation and preparation.

Chair of the Vocational Training Team (VTT) Sub-committee - leads efforts to form or host VTTs in the seven areas of focus; interviews potential team members; assists with funding and completion of global grant applications; coordinates with international and host partners; assists with orientation and preparation of team members.

Chair of the Fundraising Sub-committee - partners with the chairs of the Annual Fund Sub-committee, the Polio Plus Fund Sub-committee, and the Endowment Fund Sub-committee to raise awareness and encourage donations to any of these Rotary Foundation funds.

Chair of the Grants Sub-committee - *position will be open in July 2026*. The volunteer would begin training with the current chair (Karen Cook) as soon as selected. The Grants Subcommittee Chair is responsible for reviewing all district grant applications sponsored by member clubs; training and qualifications of district clubs wishing to apply for district grants; review and approval of interim and final reports for district grant-funded projects; and, disbursement of funds from the district block grant to clubs approved for district grants.

More detailed job descriptions are uploaded to district files in DACdb. Contact Doreen Kelsey at dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com

Ride to End Polio 2024: Record-Breaking Success

By Lynn Theresa O'Connor



The Ride to End Polio (RTEP) in Tucson, Arizona, has become a defining event for the Rotary International USA-CAN Cycling to Serve Fellowship. Held annually during the El Tour de Tucson on the third Saturday of November, this past year's ride on November 23, 2024, was nothing short of extraordinary!

Incredible Impact, Unstoppable Passion

With the combined efforts of 65 Rotarian cyclists and countless supporters from District 5500, the **2024 Ride to End Polio raised an astounding \$5,032,219 for Rotary's polio eradication efforts**. This includes the transformative Gates Foundation match, bringing the total funds raised since the event's inception in 2009 to an incredible \$72.3 million.

[Read More](#)

A new course about polio is now in the Learning Center

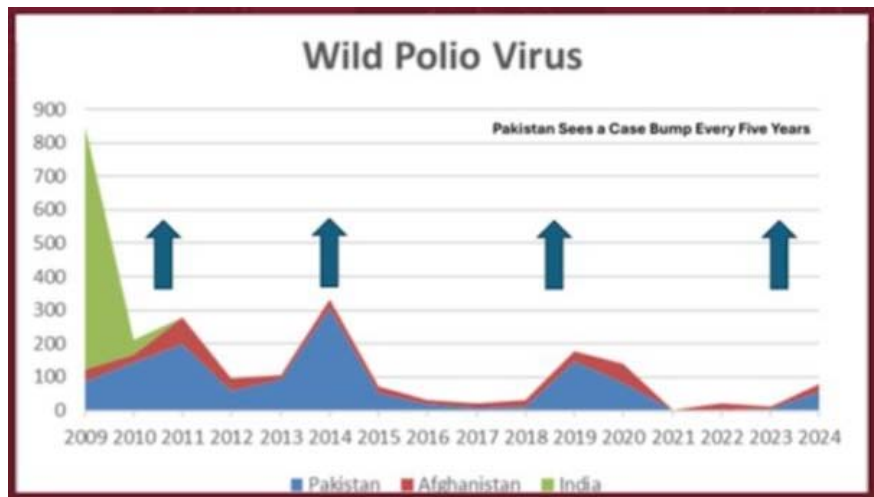
By Edward H. Kowitz

Eradicating polio is Rotary's top humanitarian priority. Learn about our continued efforts to eradicate polio forever, as well as how your club can support this cause, by taking our new course in the Learning Center.

Sign into your MyRotary account, navigate to the Learning Center, Course Catalogs and look for this title: **The Importance Of Eradicating Polio**

End Polio Now Musings About

We are a little more than half-way through the Rotary Year, but a month past the end of the calendar year. It can be confusing when your End Polio Now Coordinators talk about dollars donated (reported by Rotary year) and number of children paralyzed by polio (reported by calendar year). Complicating this more, the totals of cases from each calendar year often don't all report until late spring/summer of the following calendar year. [Read More](#)



Let's Recognize You!

By Doreen Fox Kelsey on Monday, January 6, 2025



As a gesture of appreciation and congratulations, the Rotary Foundation (TRF) offers several forms of recognition to individual donors and their clubs.

For individual donors, TRF offers the following:

A \$25 USD gift to the Annual Fund makes one eligible for Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) status.

A \$100 USD gift to the Annual Fund makes one a Sustaining Member.

Cumulative giving of \$1,000 USD to any combination of donations to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, or an approved Global Grant makes one a Paul Harris Fellow. Cash gifts may be combined with transfers of Foundation Recognition Points (FRPs) for this form of recognition. For example, an individual may transfer 500 FRPs to a donor who makes a \$500 USD

gift to TRF, and this combination would make the donor a Paul Harris Fellow. There are nine levels of Paul Harris Fellow recognition up to Paul Harris Fellow + 8, awarded in \$1,000 USD increments.

[Read More](#)

L.A. Wildfire Disaster Relief and Matching Grant

As you know, Los Angeles has been devastated by multiple large fires and tens of thousands of people have lost their homes, including many of our fellow Rotarians and some of the first responders who live in the fire areas. [Read More](#)

2025 Zone Institute Albuquerque

Embark on a Special Rotary Journey!

At Zone Institute, meet Miquette McMahon, founder of TeachHaiti, committed to changing the face of Haiti through the education of the next generation. Growing up in Haiti, Miquette received a remarkable opportunity to become a Rotary Youth Exchange student to Detroit, an experience that changed the course of her life. Miquette is a visionary leader whose inspiring story of resilience and impact will leave you motivated and ready to make a difference.



Institute Is Open to All - Register Now!

From October 23-25, 2025, the Zones 26 & 27 Rotary Institute in Albuquerque will take you on a journey of connection, new possibilities, and FUN! Join us on Rotary Route 66!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER NOW.

For more information and to make Hotel Reservations, please visit the Institute Website <https://www.zoneinstitute.org/>