



January is Vocational Service Month on the Rotary Calendar

By Lorne Westnedge



I often think that Vocational Service is the forgotten Avenue of Service in Rotary. Not that we have gone away from high ideals and ethical standards, but because it is hard to quantify and measure. In preparing to write this article, I googled "Rotary Vocational Service", and here is some of what I found:

Rotary Vocational Service is a shared responsibility of Rotary clubs and their members that focuses on promoting ethical standards in business and professions, and using vocational talents to serve the community.

Rotarians should promote high ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employees, employers, and the public.

Rotarians should use their vocational talents to help solve community problems and needs. [Read More](#)

Spokane Aurora Northwest helps fight food insecurity for children

By Karen Davis on Monday, January 6, 2025

Spokane Aurora Northwest received a grant from a Rotary Foundation-funded district grant to help fight food insecurity for children in our local community. We used this grant to fund the Bite2Go program at Creekside Elementary in Mead, WA. This program ensures that underserved children chosen by the school social worker have adequate nutrition to get them through the weekend. Each child receives enough nourishment for 2 days of meals to stave off hunger over the weekend. This program has made a huge difference in the lives of children struggling with weekend hunger. Every school in our community has a population that is in need of this program. We are very fortunate to be able to make a difference in this school with the grant monies we received and our club contributions. Aurora Northwest has a driving crew of 7 Rotarians including supportive spouses, ensuring those packs are picked up and delivered to our school each Wednesday.

In October, Aurora Northwest, Rotary 21, and several other Rotary Clubs participated in a joint food-packing event for children at Bite2Go with 40 + Club members. Bite2Go Crew members were amazed at the attitude and energy as Rotarians filled the packs. It was a great team-building event for all. At that event, Aurora Northwest and Rotary 21 presented a combination of our grant funds and Club contributions amounting to \$25,460 to the 2nd Harvest ~Bite2Go team. It was a great moment!

The true Spirit of Rotary is exemplified by the efforts of serving others in this amazing endeavor to help local hungry children in need. We are Rotary!!



How to help with the devastating fires that are ravaging parts of Southern California

By Lorne Westnedge on Thursday, January 9, 2025



Good afternoon to all active Rotarians in District 5080.

You have likely heard about the devastating fires that are ravaging parts of Southern California.

My friend, Albert Hernandez, is the District Governor in District 5280, which is in the middle of the affected area. I am including a message that he has sent out to all of the Governors in Zones 26 and 27. If any of you, or your Rotary Club, would like to make a donation, or can provide other resources at this time, please follow the link below, which will take you to the District 5280 Disaster Relief web-site. This is a current and ongoing need at this moment.

From District 5280

Our District leaders have created a Wildfire Resource Page so all our clubs and partnering Districts can make a monetary donation, make resources available to those in need, seek resources and provide collaborative support in the ways of meals, water, blankets, etc. Visit this [webpage](#) to see how you can support our efforts.

(To access information and a link to **District 5300's Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund**, please click [HERE](#).)

Thank you!

Lorne

Lorne Westnedge
Rotary District 5080
District Governor (2024-2025)

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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](#)

Jimmy Carter, Remembered



This story appeared in the February 2018 issue of Rotary magazine.

Former President Jimmy Carter has spent his life fighting for peace: brokering the 1978 peace talks between Egypt and Israel that led to the Camp David Accords, paving the way for a nuclear pact between the United States and North Korea in 1994, and monitoring elections in Panama, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and other places where the ballot box became an alternative to civil war. During his time in office, from 1977 to 1981, the United States was not involved in any wars.

Read the article [here](#).

Jimmy Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his decades of work resolving international conflicts and advancing human rights.

A promotional graphic for a Rotary event. It features a dark blue background with a yellow and white geometric design. On the left, the text reads: 'Rotary', 'JOIN US IN HONORING JIMMY CARTER'S PEACEBUILDING', 'Special Mega-Meeting/Podcast', 'Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution', 'JAN 15', '10 AM PT', '1:00 PM ET', '18:00 UTC', and social media links for 'Mega-Meeting.com' and 'TheWorldIsMyCountry.com/club'. On the right, there is a smaller version of the photo of Jimmy Carter holding his Nobel Peace Prize award. The text 'NOBEL PEACE PRIZE' is visible at the bottom of the photo.

Space is limited (500) and seats are filling up fast, so please register now at: [Mega-Meeting.com](https://www.mega-meeting.com)
(If the meeting is full - watch on [YouTube LIVE](#))

Online District Grant Training

By M Karen Cook on Monday, January 6, 2025

Online District Grant Training is scheduled for January 11, 2025, from 5:30pm-7:00pm PST. This training is for club members who were unable to attend the in-person grant training sessions in October.

If your club wants to apply for a district grant for a project to be implemented during the 2025-26 Rotary year, you will need to have at least two members of your grant project committee(s) and the club grant steward attend the training and successfully complete the post-training quiz. The online training will only be offered once via zoom.

For those who are unable to attend the online training, a video link will be posted to the district website after the online session has been delivered.

Thank you,
Karen Cook, DGSC (District Grant Sub-Committee)

[Read More](#)

Bud Belles Memorial Fund

By Lorne Westledge on Monday, January 6, 2025

Friends in District 5080 – A former member and past-president of the Rotary Club of Spokane North, **Bud Belles**, passed away just before Christmas, 2024. Although Bud had not been active in recent years, he had previously been actively involved with his club's Youth Exchange, program. It was his hope that a "**scholarship program**" might be established to assist **Spokane area** youth who would qualify as Rotary Exchange students, but who might not be able to participate without some financial support.

It has been determined that the **District 5080 Charitable Fund*** would be a great vehicle to make this a reality. ...

[Read More](#)

District and Rotary Foundation Award Opportunities

By Debi G Dockins on Friday, January 10, 2025

What is this all about? Our District Conference is coming May 1-4 in beautiful Nelson, B.C. and it provides us with an opportunity to shine a Rotary light on those clubs and individuals that go above and beyond to make a difference.

Think of a club that stretched a bit this past year – was it yours? Who in your club always goes above and beyond? Could they be our next Rotarian of the Year? Know anybody who has lived a lifetime of service in Rotary? There is recognition for all of this and more!

Please check out the opportunities below to recognize the dynamic clubs and individuals who embody "Service Above Self." Maybe someone has already popped into your head as you read this.

Let's shine the Rotary spotlight on those deserving individuals and clubs.

Process: The nominations close **March 31, 2025** so the committee can meet and review the applications. (Late applications will not be accepted.)

Applications are on the District5080.org website under District Resources/District Awards.

We hope to receive at least one application, in one area, from each club – you know who that truly deserving club or individual is. Tell us more!

We would love to see lots of nominations in order to select truly deserving recipients.

Categories: Please click on the award name listed above to review the criteria and complete the application form.

- [Rotarian of the Year](#)
- [Rotaractor of the Year](#)
- [Interactor of the Year](#)
- [Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [Outstanding Rotary/Rotaract Club of the Year](#)
- [Outstanding Interact Club of the Year](#)
- [Excellence in Club Newsletters](#)
- [Pivot Award](#)
- [Excellence in Social Media Citation](#)



Deadline: The final **deadline for all award nominations to be received is March 31, 2023.2024**. Late applications will not be accepted. Awards will be presented at the District Conference in Nelson.

Let's give our stars the spotlight and celebrate their hard work. Are you in?

Rotary Foundation Awards are handled differently. [Here](#) is a list of the different awards. Contact Doreen Kelsey (dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com) when you get inspired!

Debi Dockins, District 5080 Awards Chair (Ryla5080@yahoo.com)
D.G.D. (2027-28)

Annual report available online

(This is much more interesting than your average Annual Report! Check it out!)

Look back at some of our most memorable moments, share inspirational stories of clubs making a difference, and learn why donors contribute to The Rotary Foundation in the [2023-24 annual report](#).

Nina Métayer: From Rotary Exchange Student to the World's Best Pastry Chef



In 2023, Nina Métayer won the title of World Pastry Chef. The following year, she became the World's Best Pastry Chef.

In 2024, Nina Métayer was named the world's best pastry chef at the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada (USA). Nina, who lives in Paris and works as an entrepreneur and consultant, shared her story with *Rotary Mag* (Rotary's French regional magazine). She talked about her life-changing experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Mexico 20 years ago and how it influenced her career. In the interview, she explains how Rotary's values of service, adaptability, and global connections guided her journey from being a young and uncertain teenager to becoming a famous pastry chef.

Read the interview [here](#).

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 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; 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

Let's try this again! David Savage, a WGIPPA Director

Have you ever wondered why people from four different Districts want to serve on the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Association? Here's David telling you why he does it!



[Play it here.](#)

(Yes, I tried to send this out last time and failed. Ahhhh, me...)



[Play this video by clicking here --- https://youtu.be/ksrAVmNbc3A](https://youtu.be/ksrAVmNbc3A)

Discover the beginnings of the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park and the ongoing work that is being done as a result of the first International Peace Park in the World. If you are planning to attend the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, we are less than 270 Kms away. There is a 2 day pre-conference trip available where we will stay in Waterton for a night and we will visit Goat Haunt, in the US by boat. Here is the link to register for the trip. <https://www.andersonvacation.com/trip...> We look forward to seeing you in the Park. For more information on the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Association, <https://www.watertonglacierpeacepark...>

The Truth Behind the Headlines

By Doreen Fox Kelsey on Monday, January 6, 2025

Rotarians in our district may have seen headlines or read news stories about a Rotarian's widow who is contesting her husband's will. Steve McEachern of Edmonton, Alberta left a generous trust for the benefit of his wife and the remainder of his estate to the Rotary Foundation Canada. The headlines are misleading in that they imply Rotary instigated legal action against the widow. In fact, the family members initiated legal proceedings, not Rotary. They challenged the will before Rotary was even notified of the gift, hired a legal team, and contracted with a public relations firm to sway public opinion in the hopes of achieving the outcome they desire.

[Read More](#)

KIND VS NICE

NICE IS EASY, KIND IS RIGHT

Integrity vs. Conformity

Kind: Make decisions based on what's right, even when it's difficult or unpopular.

Nice: Go along with others to keep everyone happy, even if it means compromising your principles.

Sincerity vs. Flattery

Kind: Celebrate others' hard work and dedication with sincere recognition, which strengthens bonds.

Nice: Give vague praise just to maintain a positive image, which can come off as insincere.

Honesty vs. Sugarcoating

Kind: Speak the truth, but do it with compassion. It helps others grow and builds trust.

Nice: Soften every critique to avoid upsetting others, which often leaves people unclear about where they stand.

KIND	NICE
I stand firm in my values	I avoid upsetting others
I recognize others' efforts sincerely	I give compliments to be liked
I speak the truth with compassion	I sugarcoat to avoid hurt feelings
I connect genuinely with empathy	I say what others want to hear
I ensure everyone is treated fairly	I avoid conflict by agreeing with everyone

By Justin Mecham

Genuine Connection vs. People-Pleasing

Kind: Build true relationships by showing empathy and understanding, which deepens connections.

Nice: Say things just to please others, which might lead to weak and shallow relationships.

Fairness vs. Compliance

Kind: Ensure all are treated with fairness. This may not always be what people want, but it's the right approach for lasting respect.

Nice: Avoid saying no to keep the peace, even if it leads to more problems down the road.

Follow me for more | [Justin Mecham](https://fullpotentialzone.beehiiv.com/) | <https://fullpotentialzone.beehiiv.com/>

Better Serving the Underserved

A 90-minute, free virtual mini-conference sponsored by Zone 26/27 RYS (Rotary Youth Service) Task Force;

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 11 a.m. PST

Who are we missing? What youth, due to their circumstances, are being deprived of the advantages being offered by Rotary to other young people through their participation in our exceptional Rotary Youth Services programs? This is the topic of the next 90-minute virtual mini-conference sponsored by the Zones 26 & 27 RYS Task Force.

[Read More](#)

Who Are We Missing?



Peacebuilding with the District 5080 Speakers' Bureau



Is your club interested in Peacebuilding?

Is your club exploring the idea of becoming a Peacebuilder Club?

Would you like to learn how your club can contribute to the Vision of Rotary through local action?

The District 5080 Peace Committee can help!!

The Peace Committee Speakers' Bureau offers several programs for virtual or live presentations that focus on these questions.

- **The History of Peacebuilding and Rotary**
- **Peacebuilder Clubs: People of Action**
- **Becoming a Peacebuilder Club**
- **Healthy Conversations in Difficult Times**
- **Peacebuilding in Waterton Glacier International Peace Park and Beyond**

If you would like to learn more about how the District Peace Committee can help you achieve your Peacebuilding Goals, please contact the Speakers' Bureau Coordinator, Nadine Parker at ubigmooserents@gmail.com.

2025 Zone Institute Albuquerque

Embark on a Rotary Journey Like No Other!

From **October 23-25, 2025**, the Rotary Institute will take you on an unforgettable journey along Rotary Route 66.

Celebrate friendships, old and new. You'll have the opportunity to build lasting relationships with fellow attendees, creating a network of support and collaboration that extends far beyond the event itself.



**OUR ROTARY
JOURNEY CONTINUES**
EMBRACING OUR LEGACY - EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

BIG WEST
TRAVELS DOWN
ROTARY ROUTE 66

HOTEL CLYDE
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO
OCTOBER 23-25 2025

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