

# Rotary Club of Visalia



## August 30, 2023, General Meeting Francie's View and Diane's Pictures



### Save the Date Speakeasy-Casino Night

October 14, 7 pm  
\$100 per person  
payable to Downtown Rotary Foundation.  
Club members are assessed for two tickets.

### Happy \$10 Announcements

Happy Birthday to **Marie Pinto!**  
Happy **Jennifer Welch-Nicolson** for a great year at Riata Ranch; Show on Oct 30th with dinner and auction to raise money for a tractor and a cover (I think?) for the arena.  
Happy **President Greg** getting married June 15th (congratulations!)  
Happy **Rob Fox** for 6th Annual Creative Center Golf Tournament, October 13th



### Speakers

September 20, 2023

[Amy King](#)  
Tulare County Museum

September 27, 2023

[Jennifer Nicholson](#) Executive Director Riata Ranch Int'l

### Club Meeting

**Visalia**  
Meets at  
Marriott  
Hotel -  
Downtown

300 South  
Court  
Visalia, CA

Time:  
Wednesday  
at 12:00  
PM

### Club Leaders



[Greg Hagopian](#)  
President



[Marc Mertz](#)  
President-Elect



[Mary Jane Jennings](#)  
Secretary



[Wayne Yada](#)  
Treasurer



[Michael B. Brown](#)  
Club Director



[Peter M. Cowper](#)  
Club Director



[Michael D. Damron](#)  
Club Director



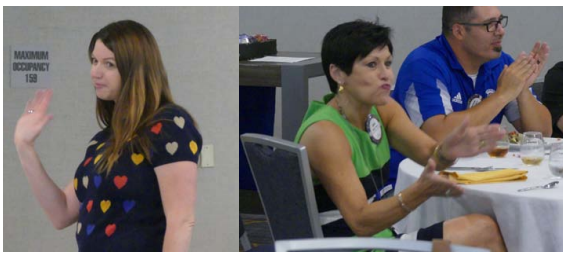
[Nevin House](#)  
Club Director



[Dennis R. Forester](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Ron Hellstern](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



## Program

### Leroy Blankenship, Youth Exchange Recovery After COVID

Rotary Youth Exchange is a priceless learning and growing opportunity for young people. Although there are rules, requirements, forms to complete, background checks, compliance, etc., it's about the students. It is a high school study abroad program for the academic year where students read, write, sleep, and speak English. They live with local host families and are fully active in all aspects of school, including sports, music, dances, and student body activities. Students want to participate in the program to make friends, improve their English skills, travel, become more independent, and become more open-minded. In the first couple of weeks, they notice how expensive it is here, the food, the homeless population, and everything is air conditioned in the valley. On the coast, you need a coat in August. Students use their cell phones during class. We turn right on red. At a restaurant, when paying for a meal, the server takes the card away. They see churches everywhere of all different denominations, fast food is everywhere, and the people here are so very friendly. It is truly an "exchange" of students: one outbound student is replaced by one inbound student. The cost for a sponsoring club is \$450 for an outbound student. Hosting is \$900. Parents of outbound students pay a participating fee of \$4,500 and sometimes the District supplies a scholarship of \$1,000 to reduce the cost. Hosting a student includes the sponsoring club paying \$150 to \$200 a month stipend. A host is charged with acclimating the student to American life. It is suggested a prospective host family ask prior hosts about the unexpected challenges. Even if the student says they are fluent in English, they probably are not. They may say they like pets... maybe not in reality. Some students are not used to bathing daily. However, overall, host families' lives are enriched by the experience. Host families are not required to have a student near the age of the inbound student. The foremost requirement is to want to host a student. Contact President Greg if you are interested in hosting a student.

LEROY W. BLANKENSHIP - District 5230 Youth Exchange Chairman



Scott Kevin Jacobsen  
iPast President



Scott Ray James II  
District Assistant Governor

## Birthdays

Diane Aden Hayes  
August 31st  
Sam Sigal  
September 1st  
Max Lupercio  
September 3rd  
Mitchell J Milligan  
September 4th  
Justin Gary Mosley  
September 4th  
Robert Fox Jr.  
September 4th  
Nevin House  
September 6th  
David Heaney  
September 6th  
Richard Wehmueller  
September 13th  
Sherri K Smith  
September 15th  
Paul Hurley  
September 22nd  
B.J. Perch  
September 24th  
Ralph Bookout  
September 26th  
Russell R. McKinney  
September 26th  
Terry L. Culotta  
September 30th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Bill W. Whittatch  
August 31st  
T. A. Akin  
September 3rd  
Edward Lynn  
September 5th  
Gregory J. Meis  
September 8th  
Gary Castro  
September 11th  
Agnes Margaret Heaney  
September 12th  
David Heaney  
September 12th  
Randolf R Smith  
September 12th  
Brian G. Hyde  
September 22nd  
Jennifer Welch-Nicholson  
September 24th  
Susan Winey  
September 27th



## Announcements!

October 8 - Icehouse Theater (I expect someone will remind me the name of the sponsoring organization!! [laughing face!])  
October 13 - Creative Center Golf Tournament  
October 14 - Speakeasy-Casino Night  
October 30 - Riatta Ranch Show, Dinner, and Auction

Rotary Merchandise: SHOW YOUR CLUB SPIRIT! Go to our club website and click on "Merchandise." You can now order quality Rotary Merchandise; our club receives a portion of the proceeds from these sales.  
PLEASE BUY SOME STUFF! Go to <https://stores.inksoft.com/rotary/shop/home>