



The Rotary Foundation: Doing Good in the World — and in District 5520

The Rotary Foundation
Doing Good in the World

- Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Maternal & Child Health
- Basic Education & Literacy
- Community Economic Development
- Environment

November is Rotary Foundation month. This is a time to highlight the organization that is the beating heart of Rotary International — our shared engine for **Doing Good in the World**. Donations to the Annual Fund come back to our District after 3 years to help fund District and Global Grants of our choosing. Yes, what’s unique about our Foundation is that we choose how the funds are spent. Not only do our contributions come back to us in the form of **District and Global Grant** opportunities, but our contributions also help fund global grants in the 200 countries where Rotarians live and work.

- For example, with the help of more than 30 global grants, the Philippines have built one of the

most robust human milk bank networks in Southeast Asia.

- Contributions have helped midwives in Papua New Guinea to improve their skills, increase their confidence and save lives.
- Contributions to Rotary’s peace centers helped fund the first graduating class of 13 Peace Fellows from such diverse countries as Egypt, Bulgaria, Kenya, Jordan, Israel, and beyond. They are now equipped to apply their peacemaking and conflict resolution skills in their home communities and professions.

Read more about what Rotarians are doing around the globe by going to <https://www.rotary.org/en/news-features>

Last Rotary year, 541 or 20% of all the Rotarians in our District contributed a minimum of \$25 to The Rotary Foundation. If you have never contributed, please consider a donation of \$25 to start, by going to www.rotary.org and click on donate. You don’t need to have a login.

Thank you to the many Rotarians in our District that are part of a culture of giving to The Rotary Foundation. Your donations truly fuel the engine for doing good in the world.

The Rotary Foundation is not just a fund; it’s a force for peace, education, and human dignity. If we are truly to Unite for Good, our goal for 2025-26 is that every club is engaged, every member inspired, every project sustained. Whether through a Global Grant in Mexico, Bolivia or Nepal, or a District Grant in Albuquerque, Angel Fire, El Paso or Gallup, let’s affirm our belief that Rotary is the world’s most effective platform for turning service into sustainable change by giving to The Rotary Foundation at whatever level is sustainable for each of us.

Learn more about ways to give

<https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>



DG Tom

Well Done District 5520

Zone Institute A Success!

Over **500 Rotarians** from across the 30 Districts of Zones 26 & 27, “The Big West” (including nearly 50 from D5520), attended the 2025 Zone Institute at Albuquerque’s Clyde Hotel Sunday through Saturday (October 19-25, 2025). The Zone Institute is held annually in one of the cities in our combined Zones 26 & 27 to conduct mandatory training for our Governors-Elect and -Nominee and the mandatory triannual training for Council on Legislation representatives. In addition to mandatory training there was training for Emerging Rotary Leaders identified by their districts (ERLs) and optional training for Rotarians interested in specialized training in areas like Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Public Image, etc.

With the emphasis on training for our future Governors and leaders, you might think that the Zone Institute is only for Governors. Not so! The Zone Institute is also to promote fellowship among the Rotarians of our 30 Districts and to provide information, and timely presentations from Rotary Leaders and leaders of industry!

There were a number of informative, thought-provoking presentations on a variety of topics such as “From Impact to Action” (Michael Sheldrake), “When Poverty Tried to Silence Me, Rotary Gave Me a Voice” (Miquette McMahon), Al (Isar Meitis), “Future of The Rotary Foundation” (TRF Vice Chair Greg Podd), “The Power of Trust in Leadership: Applying the Four-Way Test for Stronger Teams and a Brighter Future” (Patrick Galvin). We also heard inspiring messages from RI President-Elect Olayinka (Yinka) Hakeem Babalola, RI President-Nominee Larry Lunsford, TRF Vice Chair Greg Podd, TRF Vice Chair-Elect Vicki Puliz, Director Wyn Spiller, Big West Peace Fellow Isabelle (Izzy) Gutierrez, Polio Survivor Ina Pinkney, and, with a warm welcome and Polio Day Proclamation, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller.

I first attended a Zone Institute fifteen years ago here in Albuquerque at the Embassy Suites. I can say that this Zone Institute was the very best I’ve attended; that was due in great part to the support local D5520 Rotarians provided; especially helpful were the Rotary Clubs of: (1) **Albuquerque Del Norte** (Printing, Year of Cheer, support for RID Wyn Spiller, Canadian National Anthem and general support); (2) **Albuquerque** (Concierge Desk, interface with Mayor Keller, Peace Pole, 1960’s Route 66 Corvette and general support), (3) **Albuquerque del Sol** (Sunport Greeters, Del Sol Septet, National Anthem), (4) **Albuquerque Rio Grande** (transportation), (5) **Los Lunas Interact**, and (6) **D5520 Youth Exchange** I think you’ll enjoy the attached photos!

Make plans to attend next year’s Zone Institute, September 3-6, 2026, at Phoenix’s WigWam hotel! Register on the Zone 26/27 website



Tom Walker
District Support Committee Co-Chair
District 5520 Governor 2015-16

<https://zone2627.org/>



Kathie Williams
District Support Committee Co-Chair



BIG WEST
 TRAVELS DOWN
 ROTARY ROUTE 66
HOTEL CLYDE
 ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO
 OCTOBER 23-25 2025



Tom Walker introducing
 Izzy Gutierrez



Big West Peace Fellow
 Izzy Gutierrez



Del Sol Quartet with Kent Cravens
 Bruce Bortner, James Morrison & Kit Turpen



Arch Klumph Society with RIVP Yinka
 Chuck and Jeri Borders



Emerging Rotary Leader (EML)
 - AG George Greenlee



Greg Podd, RIVP Yinka, RID Wyn
 Spiller at RI Leadership session



Michael Martinez's PolioPlus
 wrapped RV



Albuquerque Mayor Keller
 with Polio Day Proclamation



AI expert Isar Meitis



Polio survivor
 Ina Pinkney speaking



Maureen Anderson singing the Canadian National Anthem



Kit Turpen singing the National Anthem



RI Director Wyn Spiller



World Polio Day on Civic Plaza



Zone Conference Emcees Jordan Harrison and Amelia Stansell



Tom Walker and Kathie Williams welcoming Rotarians to Route 66



RIPN Larry Lundsford at ERL Graduation



Shane LeMon welcoming Rotarians with Vintage Route 66 Corvette



Zone Conference Chair Bob Deering



TRF Vice Chair Greg Podd in TRF 50 years from now

More Fun Snapshots from ZONE!



ZONE 26 and 27 Rotarians from District 5520



DG Elect and Clare



DG Tom Simon,
RI President Elect Yinca Babalola
and First Lady Deborah Simon



RI President Elect
Yinca Babalola
RI Director
Wyn Spiller



DG Tom Simon, ERL Veronica Hernandez
DG Elect Jeff Weinrach



DG Tom Simon addressing
the
ZONE members



Rotary Foundation Trustee Greg Podd
Past RI Director Dan Himelspach



No. 41 – September 16, 2025

1 minute to discover Rotary news

Yinka BABALOLA President-elect 2026/2027

Olayinka (Yinka) Hakeem BABALOLA, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been elected President of Rotary International for the year 2026/2027.

He will take office on July 1, 2026.

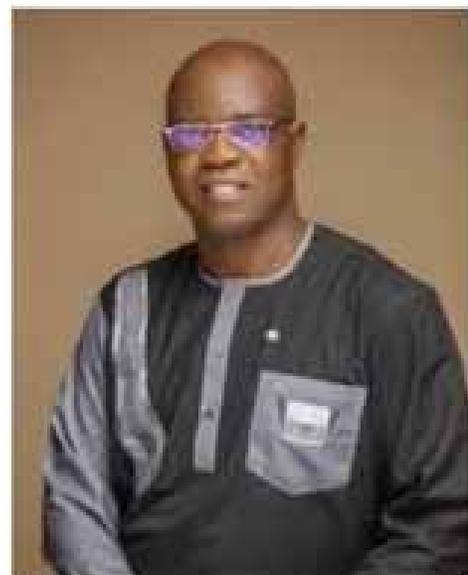
A Rotary member for over 30 years, he will become the second African to lead Rotary International, after Jonathan B. MAJIYAGBE (2003/2004).

A long-time supporter of peace and community development, he contributed to the creation and growth of the Rotary Peace Centre at Makerere University in Uganda, the first on the African continent.

He also became involved in the fight against polio, supporting vaccination efforts in Africa.

Yinka holds an engineering degree and has spent over 30 years in the oil and gas industry, including senior management positions at Shell PLC.

He and his wife, Preba, support The Rotary Foundation through a named endowment and are members of the Arch Klumph Society.





Where is the ... District Governor



We had 19 days on the road in October so it's nice to be home to enjoy our pond and yard. This photo of a curious snake, interested in our goldfish and koi, was taken this summer.



<https://www.rotaryglobaltravelers.com/>

Club focus and activities

International service: The club's primary mission is international service, which they accomplish through grants, travel, and support for projects in other countries.

Membership: It is a global, virtual club with members across the United States and around the world, which is part of District 5950 in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Service projects: They have engaged in grants and projects in various regions, covering multiple areas of Rotary's focus, and actively contribute to global initiatives like the "End Polio Now" campaign.

Travel: The club was founded by a group of Rotarians who had a history of traveling together internationally. They continue to organize and participate in service-oriented trips.

Fellowship: A key aspect of the club is building friendships through shared travel experiences and service.



Exchange students Anton Wodarz from Germany and Martin Llanes Padillo from Spain playing soccer against each other. Hosted in Artesia and Roswell





Invitation to Submit Letter of Interest – Executive Secretary and Bookkeeper Positions

Dear District 5520 Members Rotarians,

Rotary District 5520 is seeking **Letters of Interest** from qualified Rotarians or non-Rotarians familiar with Rotary for two important contracted positions within our **District: Executive Secretary and Bookkeeper**.

Attached are job descriptions for both positions. Current budgeted annual funding levels are as follows:

Executive Secretary: \$22,551 per year

Bookkeeper: \$15,035 per year

Interested individuals should submit a Letter of Interest outlining their relevant experience, skills, and understanding of Rotary, along with contact information to the District Governor: tomrsimon@gmail.com, by no later than December 10th. The duties will begin July 1, 2026 with training from the existing Executive Secretary and Bookkeeper prior to that time period.

I also want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to **Donette Wagner and Debbie LeMon**, who have faithfully and expertly served in these roles for many years and will continue to do so through June 30th, 2026. Donette's steady leadership as Executive Secretary has ensured continuity, accuracy, and professionalism in every aspect of district administration. Debbie's skill as Bookkeeper has kept our finances transparent, compliant, and in excellent order. Their commitment and institutional knowledge have been invaluable to the success of our district. This is an exciting opportunity to serve our District behind the scenes—ensuring that our operations remain strong, our members well supported, and our mission of Service Above Self carried forward efficiently and professionally.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Rotary and to the success of District 5520.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Tom Simon

District Governor 2025–2026, Rotary District 5520



Executive Secretary



Bookkeeper



The 2025 Interact Awards are open!



For this year's Interact Awards, we invite Interact clubs to showcase how Interactors Unite for Good and build peace in the world. Submit a vertical video (9:16 aspect ratio, in the style of a social media reel or short), of two minutes or less, that shows how your Interact club is involved with peacebuilding.

The Interact clubs whose submissions are named best video and runner-up will receive funds to support their next service project. Submissions should be in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, or Spanish and are due 1 December.



Don't MISS OUT!
CLICK HERE

CLICK THE FACEBOOK LOGO TO SEE THESE AND ALL THE OTHER GREAT THINGS GOING ON IN OUR DISTRICT! GET A FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN IN!



El Paso Northeast Rotary Club at Fire Fest 2025 selling Flags for Hereos and Wreath Across America.

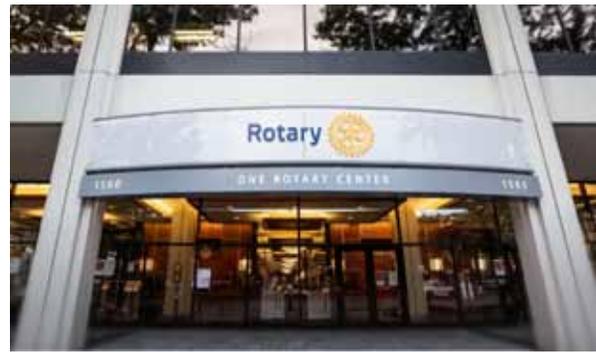


DG Tom visiting the Northeast El Paso club



**We are Rotary Beirut liberty in Lebanon
 We say hi to all Rotary women's clubs all over the world.
 Click Facebook logo to send your greetings!**





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrCGgAHWXA0>

Click on the above site to see a 4:30 virtual tour of Rotary International Headquarters.

Rotary's People of Action Honors

Do you know a young leader who puts their talents to use in service of a brighter future? Consider nominating them for Rotary's 2025-26 People of Action Honors: Champions of Tomorrow!

The Champions of Tomorrow are people ages 13 to 30 who are leading dynamic projects for positive change in their communities.

CLICK HERE



Thanks to Rotary Club Members:
Public Image, Graphics & Ideas Hub



How can I help?

<https://endpolio.org/>

Learned at ZONE!



Membership - Expand Rotary through **P.E.C.A.N.S.**

P **Professional Associations**
Aligning Purpose, Leadership, and Community Impact

E **Ethnic Communities**
Expanding Impact Through Inclusion, Service, and Shared Values

C **Corporations**
A Strategic Alliance for Service, Culture, and Impact

A **Active Adult Communities**
Where Experience Meets Service, Fellowship, and Legacy

N **Non-Profits**
Where Global Service Meets Local Mission

S **Schools / Education**
Engaging Educators, Empowering Students, Enriching Communities



Good morning, Facebook Friends! I held off on posting from the Rotary Zones 26/27 Institute until it ended this past Saturday because I wanted some time to reflect.

For my District Governor-Elect colleagues and our partners, this Institute provided the perfect blend of fellowship and learning that left me inspired, focused, and occasionally breathless! And for Clare and me to serve as hosts for our class was a wonderful icing on the cake!

There are way too many people for Clare and I to thank (and hashtag) in this post for their support and their friendship, not just during the Institute but prior to and, I expect, well after the Institute.

The path to becoming Rotary District 5520 Governor has had numerous twists and turns, which we have been successfully navigating from day one. **The journey continues forth with much gratitude...**

- Jeffrey Weinrach, District Governor Elect 2026-27

Hello District 5520 Rotary Club Grant Administration!

El Paso Sunrise Rotary Club is excited to submit the Final Grant Report for our **Matt Keats Memorial Park Project** (2024-2025 grant cycle). As shown in the pictures attached to this email (as well as in the documents folder in the grant portal), this project was a major success and the memorial bench and plaque honoring Matt Keates look amazing!

Thank you for your time and support.

All the best,

El Paso Sunrise Rotary Club



Matthew Keats is remembered not only for his professional and civic contributions but also for his warmth, energy, and commitment to Rotary ideals. His passing was a significant loss to the El Paso community, but his legacy lives on through the fund established in his name and the many lives he touched.





Subj: Selection of Council Representative (2026-28)

Every third year, every district selects a representative to serve at the Councils on Resolutions and the Council on Legislation that take place during their Council term which will be from 1 January 2026 through 30 June 2028. This term is six months shorter than usual because of a Board of Directors transition plan to change to the terms to end the June of the Council on Legislation. The Council representative will represent our district at the:

- 2026 and 2027 Councils on Resolutions
- 2028 Council on Legislation

The Council Representative (2026-28) will be elected by the District 5520 Nominating Committee to be held on Saturday, November 15 in accordance with Article 9.050 of RI Bylaws. Immediate PDG Yasser Murga of the Rotary Club of El Paso will chair this Nominating Committee.

Selection requirements and duties for representatives can be found in Article 9 of the RI Bylaws (attached). In summary, to serve as representative, a candidate must:

- Be a member of a club in the district;
- Have served a full term as an RI officer, likely as a district governor, at the **time of election**;
- Understand and be qualified, willing, and able to perform the duties and responsibilities of a representative.

Additionally, a candidate should also be:

- Digitally literate;
- Able to complete mandatory Council training which is online **AND** at the 2027 Zone Institute (which is not reimbursed), and;
- Able to attend the Council on Legislation for its **entire duration**.

In accordance with RI Bylaws Article 9.060.2, any club may nominate a qualified Rotarian as a candidate for Council Representative 2026-28 using the attached form whether or not that candidate is a member of the nominating club.

However, if the candidate is not a member of the nominating club, the President and Secretary of the candidate's club must certify the nomination (i.e., verify the candidate's name, RI number, club membership, RI Officer status).



A Rotary council representative, specifically for the Council on Legislation, acts as a legislative delegate for their district, representing its voice at the international level. Their duties include helping clubs prepare legislation proposals, ensuring these ideas are discussed at the district level, acting as an objective legislator at the Council, and then reporting the Council's debates and outcomes back to the clubs. The Council on Legislation meets every three years to vote on proposed changes to Rotary's governing documents. Tom Walker has handled this job for us capably for the last several years.



TOUCHDOWNS, TEAMWORK, AND TOYS LOBOS JOIN ROTARY DISTRICT 5520 YEAR OF CHEER

Alice Mehlberg, Year of Cheer Co-Chair, along with Evelyn and Fred Bryant, recently met with Brandon Hurst, Director of Marketing for UNM Football, and Jeremy Parks, Assistant AD for Marketing & Revenue Generation. A special thanks goes to Rotary member and past UNM Lobo Club President, John Perner, for helping us bring this exciting partnership together.

We are thrilled to announce that the UNM Football team will join Rotary’s Year of Cheer by helping collect toys for children and families at UNM Children’s Hospital. Fans are invited to participate in toy drives during four home games this season:

-
- Oct 18 – Nevada **Alice Mehlberg**
amehlberg@yahoo.com
(505) 463-6593 **Berdel Boulanger**
berdel.boulanger@gmail.com
(505) 328-2166
-
- Oct 25 – Utah State
-
- Nov 15 – Colorado State
-
- Nov 28 – San Diego State

The Rotary Year of Cheer is a year-long initiative dedicated to bringing joy, comfort, and celebration to children at UNM Children’s Hospital. Partnering with the Lobos creates a powerful opportunity to spread cheer both on and off the field.

In addition to game-day toy drives, we are working with UNM Children’s Hospital Child Life specialists to arrange visits from UNM Athletics staff and Lobo football players, giving children special moments of connection, encouragement, and fun.

We extend our deepest gratitude to UNM Children’s Hospital for their incredible work in caring for children and supporting families. It is truly an honor for Rotary to stand beside them — and now alongside the UNM Lobos — in this effort.

Together, we’re scoring big for kids!



ARE WE ATTUNED TO OUR MEMBERS' NEEDS?

From the Rotary
Blog

By Gurjeet S. Sekhon, past governor of District 3070 (India) and member of the Rotary International Membership Growth Committee

In the business world, there's a common understanding: knowing your customers is essential for success. Companies invest significant resources in understanding their clients' needs, preferences, and behaviours, not just out of generosity but because their future depends on it.

So, here's an important question: How can we extend the same level of care and support to our Rotary members?



Rotary members in India work with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group on a mapping exercise. Action Groups are one way to keep members engaged and active.

Click here for the full article



NOVEMBER ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

"I believe we can change the world, one life at a time. No project is too small or insignificant, especially to those who benefit. My hope is that these seeds of service will blossom and live on for countless generations to come".

PRIP Bhichai Rattakul 2002-03



November is Rotary Foundation Month, a time to focus on and support The Rotary Foundation, which is the charitable arm of Rotary International. During this month, Rotary clubs highlight the Foundation's global humanitarian and educational projects and encourage members to contribute to its funds.



**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SESSION
FEBRUARY 27-28, 2026
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO**

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A BLOG SITE FOR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL?!?



LOTS OF
GOOD
STUFF!

Rotary 360 | The official blog of Rotary International

THE YUCCA



Greeting Rotarians

Send me your article material to the same email address rotarymaterial@gmail.com.

Keep your articles short and concise. Photos are OK, just remember to put down the names of the folks in the photo. We (the Yucca readers) would like to see flyers of your upcoming fundraisers and events and photos of the aftermath. We will keep you informed of the district happenings and upcoming events, conferences, seminars, training etc. Send me flyers of your fundraisers.

Learn how to use Facebook in order to get ALL your club activities on the District Facebook page.

Let's keep it simple - The deadline for articles will be the first of every month. I will get the newsletter out as soon as I can after that.

Don Powell

Send me flyers and other information about your events and fundraisers.

Who knows - we may want to come for a visit!



Learned at ZONE!

Don't have enough money to join the Arch Klumph Society??
(me either - I lack \$245,000)

You can still say "YES" to International Service!

Say YES to International Service

Service projects, events, and activities taking place between Rotarians and others in two or more countries

1. Volunteer on a Rotary project in another country
2. Raise funds for an international project
3. Go on a National Immunization Day
4. Attend a Rotary International Convention
5. Visit a Rotary Club in another country
6. Join a Rotary Fellowship
7. Join a Rotary Action Group
8. Go on a Rotary Friendship Exchange
9. Join or Create a Sister Club
10. Attend a Project Fair in another country
11. Sponsor a Peace Fellow
12. Write or support a Global Grant
13. Host a Rotary Youth Exchange Student
14. Be a Counselor for an Ambassadorial Scholar
15. Help write and submit a District Grant Request for an international project
16. Host a Rotarian from another country
17. Join or create an Inter-Country Committee
18. Attend a Zone Institute
19. Help build an International District Resource Network
20. Invite an international speaker to a Club or District Event

Help put wreaths at Ft Bliss Cemetery for all soldiers buried there and all the other military cemeteries. Wreaths Across America! A project of the Rotary Club of Northeast El Paso!



Wreath Sponsorship Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Grave specific request name #1: _____
 Grave section/number: _____
 Grave specific request name #2: _____
 Grave section/number: _____
 Continue on back for additional wreaths.



Northeast El Paso Rotary Club
 Sponsoring Group ID Number: TX1001P
 Cemetery Designation: FT Bliss National
 Cemetery ID Number: TXFBNF

I WILL PLACE _____
 VOLUNTEER PLACE _____
 Pick up between 8:00 AM and Noon

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1700.00		

Please make checks payable to:

Northeast El Paso Rotary Club
 4717 Hondo Pass, #1D, PMB 227
 El Paso, TX 79904
 Questions? Please call 915 274 5050
 Or email: nerotaryelpaso@gmail.com
 Order online: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/167565/Overview/?relatedId=0>

CUT OFF DATE
14 NOV 2025



915/549-5031

follow and like on FACEBOOK.....Wreaths Across America—El Paso
 Visit at.....www.epwreaths.org

Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to
Remember, Honor and Teach!

We ARE NOT responsible for wreaths that are picked up and moved through the cemetery after they have been placed.

REMEMBER * HONOR * TEACH