



**Rotary**  
DISTRICT 5520

# THE YUCCA

October 2025 ♦ NO. 4

DISTRICT GOVERNOR Tom Simon



## *Reconnecting Business and Rotary: Healing the World Together*

**This month is Community Economic Development month.** Rotary President Francesco Arezzo wrote an excellent article about it in this month's Rotarian Magazine, which I encourage you to read. I've chosen to write about reconnecting with the roots of Rotary, business.

From Rotary's earliest days, commerce and service walked hand in hand. Paul

Harris and his fellow founders were business leaders who saw their daily work as an avenue for connection and engagement in service to society. That original vision is alive in our Vocational Avenue of Service—and it is time to re-energize it.

District 5520 is preparing to launch a **Rotarian Business Directory**—a platform to connect and support Rotarian-owned businesses, while showcasing how we live the Four-Way Test in the marketplace. By choosing to “Buy From Rotarians,” we strengthen connections within our clubs reinforce for the public the value of doing business with Rotarians.

This initiative echoes the powerful message of Raj Sisodia's book, *The Healing Organization: Awakening the Conscience of Business to Help Save the World*. Sisodia reminds us that when businesses serve all stakeholders—employees, customers, suppliers, communities, and the planet—they not only prosper, they help heal the world. That is Rotary's vision too.

As Rotarians, we can **Unite for Good** by supporting one another's enterprises, mentoring young professionals, and holding ourselves accountable to the Four-Way Test. Every Rotarian business has the potential to be a beacon of “conscious capitalism” and prosper when we communicate the values that Rotarians bring into their business life.

You are invited to explore this vision further at the **District Conference & Celebration in Santa Fe, April 9th through the 11th, 2026**, where Raj Sisodia will be our Friday night keynote speaker. Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from one of the leading voices of the global Conscious Capitalism movement and to meet him in person.

Together, let's reconnect Rotary with its business roots—demonstrating that profit and purpose are partners in creating a better world.

“ That original vision is alive in our Vocational Avenue of Service • and it is time to re-energize it. ”

**Tom Simon, District Governor**  
District Governor 5520 2025-26  
Phone: (505) 670-3007



# You're Ready!

## Time to Step up and Lead!

Dear Presidents,

**The District-5520 Nominating Committee** is soliciting candidates for the office of District Governor serving the Rotary year of 2028-2029 (beginning 7.1.28). The Committee will meet in November-2025 to select a qualified candidate to become our District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND).

As club leaders, we are asking you to look at your membership and recommend a qualified Rotarian to be considered as a candidate for District Governor 2028-2029. Please note that only a Club can nominate a member, and the club can only put forth one candidate. The procedures and requirements are delineated in the RI 2022 Manual of Procedure, Article 12, and the Governor's qualifications and duties are noted in Article 16. The District 5520 Bylaws delineate the duties of the District Governor Nominee DGN in Article 2.030.

At the time of consideration by the Nominating Committee, the candidate must:

- Be a member in good standing of a functioning Club in District 5520
- Have served as a Club President for a full term or as a charter President for at least 6 months
- Have the willingness, commitment, and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of Governor as provided in the RI Bylaws
- Demonstrate knowledge of the District Governor's qualifications, duties, and responsibilities as prescribed in the Bylaws and submit to RI, through its General Secretary, a signed statement acknowledging a clear understanding of those requirements. This statement must also confirm that the candidate is qualified for the office of Governor and is willing and able to assume the duties and responsibilities of the office and to perform them faithfully.
- The Governor, upon taking office, must have been a Rotarian for at least 7 years, continue to possess the qualifications noted in Article 16 of the RI Bylaws, and must have attended an RI International Assembly for its full duration.

To nominate a candidate your Club must submit the Governor-Nominee form, the Nominee Information Sheet and the Candidate Biography. All forms can be found on the District 5520 website (<https://rotary5520.org/>) under the Administration tab and then under the DG Nomination tab.

These forms must be addressed to the Nominating Committee Chair, Yasser Murga, Immediate Past District Governor email: [YasserRotary@gmail.com](mailto:YasserRotary@gmail.com). **The documents must be received by 5:00 pm, MST, Wednesday, October 15, 2025.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 915.873.8545 or [YasserRotary@gmail.com](mailto:YasserRotary@gmail.com). On behalf of the Nominating Committee, we look forward to receiving your nominations.

With warmest regards,

**Yasser Murga**, IPDG - Nominating Committee Chair



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

# Global Grant and International Project Fair

Rotary



October 10-11, 2025  
El Paso, TX

**Mark your calendars and save this date!**

District 5520 will host a **Global Grant and International Project Fair** workshop to provide you with in-depth knowledge and understanding of Rotary's Global Grant process and demonstration the new Commitment Agreements for the projects.

District Governor Tom Simon has an exceptional team of facilitators. Elizabeth Mahoney is Zone 26's Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator and PDG Felipe Meza from District 4110, our founding partner.

The Zoom link for this workshop is.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85959715097?pwd=TOp2URQWHAADHI78xSwqILUur27uTn.1>

The International Project Fair is October 10 and 11 in El Paso at the DoubleTree Hotel. Register now for the International Project Fair at

<https://rotary5520.org/events/international-project-fair/>



The International Project Fair brings together Rotarians from our District 5520, from our Mexican neighbors, District 4110 and our Colorado neighbors, District 5470, to share service ideas, seek partners, and strengthen the impact of Rotary in the world. Whether your club is considering a new international project or looking to support existing ones, this is your chance to engage directly with Rotarians making a difference across borders.

If you have any questions regarding our Zoom training or the Project Fair, please contact me [rjones9755@aol.com](mailto:rjones9755@aol.com)

Hope to see you on-line!  
PDG Dick Jones  
District Foundation Chair

## Why should my club do something for World Polio Day?



Each year on **24 October**, Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world join with our partners, health organizations, and public health advocates to mark World Polio Day. You have a critical role in this by hosting events and activities to increase awareness about polio and raise funds toward eradicating it.

**To build on the success of last year, we need your help!**

See PolioPlus newsletter here -

<https://msgfocus.rotary.org/q/12FVqmUrejUpmTu7kGwp69vg/wv>



# STUDENT EXCHANGE NEWS!

Welcome to this year's inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Students from Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Brazil, and Switzerland! We look forward to the time we'll be able to spend with you and what we will learn from each other!

- Jeff Weinrach

Here are some photos of the Inbound Students at our Orientation in Albuquerque. The dates of the Orientation were September 4th - 7th,, 2025.

**Students:** Martin from Spain Hosted in Roswell, Sauh from Brazil Hosted in El Paso, Anton from Germany Hosted in Hobbs, Marliese from Netherlands Hosted in Los Alamos, Lilian from Switzerland Hosted in Rio Rancho

- Lorraine Huit





# HUNGER STRIKE 2025

Part of the National Rotarian Hunger Strike Initiative  
A District-Wide Fundraising Challenge for Hunger Relief!  
**October 1 – November 3, 2025**

Rotary clubs across District 5520 are joining forces for an exciting and impactful event — Hunger Strike 2025 — a fun, easy, plug-and-play online fundraising competition supporting local and national hunger relief efforts.

----- Real-Time Competition | Prizes & Awards | Global Impact -----

## Why Your Club Should Join Easiest Fundraiser Ever

- > No setup or heavy lifting — each club already has a customized event page ready to go.
- > Encourage members and your community to form teams and invite friends and family.
- > Engage Your Community

Invite your community to join Rotary's fight against hunger.  
Build deeper connections and attract potential new members through meaningful action.  
Incredible Incentives for Participants

### Fun challenges, prize drawings, and live awards.

Major prizes include a New Year's Eve Presidential Experience in Las Vegas, a 7-Day Stay in Hawaii, and more.  
Direct Local Impact

50% of the net funds your club raises go directly to the local hunger-relief charity you select.  
The remaining 50% supports national leaders in hunger relief: No Kid Hungry and Harvest Against Hunger.  
Tremendous Public Image Benefits

### Your club will receive a professional audio Public Service Announcement to air locally.

Present a check to your chosen nonprofit and celebrate your impact in the community.  
The Grand Finale: The LIVES

### November 3, 2025: Live online event with optional in-person celebrations.

District-wide awards, live prize drawings, and announcement of top clubs and teams.

### Ready to Make a Difference?

Clubs are already gearing up — don't miss out. This is your club's moment to strike hunger with Rotary spirit, fun, and purpose.

Visit <https://hungerstrike.events> to find your club's Hunger Strike2025 page (already set up for you) and get started. (Add a link on your website... send an email to your club... challenge another club - it's easy!)

**Hunger Strike 2025 is part of the national Hunger Strike initiative** — a joint venture between the No Kid Hungry campaign, Harvest Against Hunger, and Rotary clubs across the United States. Powered by the Rotarian-founded fundraising platform Our Mayberry.

Let me know if you have questions and if you decide to take part :)

**Meredith Eisenberg**



**Meredith Eisenberg**

District Public Image Chair  
Albuquerque Del Sol

505-999-8602 (Home)



# Where is the ... District Governor



In mid-September Deborah and I snuck away for a short weekend to visit Deborah's sister and spend some time on Camano Island. While there, I had lunch with a fellow Governor, **Tony Camarada**, whose district includes portions of Washington and Vancouver Island. Tony shared the challenges of leading a District that includes both the U.S. and Canada and that he's learned that being an **ambassador of peace** is part of the job description.



Tony Camarada


**It's time! Ticket are  
on sale now for  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
[elpasowinefest.com](http://elpasowinefest.com)**

**Grand Tasting  
Saturday, November 1st  
Gastronomic Battle  
Sunday, November 2nd**

*Día de los Muertos Weekend  
Savor the Sip / Celebrate the Spirit*

**PRESENTED BY**

**W** WestStar

**Rotary**   
West El Paso

**first tee**  
greater el paso

**Friday  
October 24  
2025**

Painted Dunes Golf Course  
12000 McCombs St  
1:00 pm Shotgun

**(915) 252-6511**  
[FirstTeeDesertClassic.com](http://FirstTeeDesertClassic.com)

# Rotary Club of Aruba

## A Historic First for Aruba & the World!



The Rotary Club of Aruba has proudly inaugurated the world's first registered underwater Peace Pole at Tres Trapi. Carrying the message *"May Peace Prevail on Earth"* in the four languages, Papiamentu, Dutch, English, and Spanish, this Peace Pole connects Aruba to a global network Peace Poles around the world.

Tres Trapi is a beloved snorkeling site where locals, families, and visitors gather, and the only place in Aruba where you are almost guaranteed to see sea turtles grazing peacefully. Its unique beauty made it the perfect place for a monument of peace, awareness, and respect for both people and nature.

Unlike traditional Peace Poles, Aruba's is made of reinforced concrete coated with epoxy-based sand, designed not only for durability but also to encourage marine life to grow on its surface.

The pole stands just under 5 feet tall, placed in 12 feet of water, about 55 meters from shore, in a designated safe-swimming and no-boating area. Its top rests more than 7 feet below the surface, making it perfectly safe for swimmers and fully protected from boats and anchors.

With the support of Rotary International, and honored by the presence of Previous Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick and Previous District Governor Debbie Roopchand, this project reminds us that peace is not only global, but begins right here in our community.

Peace is awareness, peace is empathy, peace is finding out how we can live together — not just with other humans, but with our nature as well. The Rotary Club of Aruba is proud to share this symbol of unity, harmony, and sustainability with the world.

### WHAT IS A PEACE POLE?

A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message *May Peace Prevail On Earth* in the language of the country where it is placed. It usually displays 3 to 7 additional languages meaningful to the host site.

The message is referred to as an affirmation of peace and its placement furthers Rotary's goal of building a culture of peace throughout the world.

Peace Poles are intended to inspire **unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds**. These poles serve as tangible symbols of hope and Rotary's commitment to conflict resolution and building a culture of peace, encouraging community engagement and reflection on shared humanity.

The message *May Peace Prevail On Earth* was authored by the late **Masahisa Goi of Japan** after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It is now an international message of peace with over 250,000 Peace Poles (it's not just a Rotary project) in every country in the world, dedicated as monuments to peace. **We welcome you planting your community Peace Pole and we will put it on our Rotary Peace Poles Map.**

<https://rotarypeacepoles.world/>



## A Peace Pole will be installed at the Zone Institute to be held in Albuquerque October 23-25!

**Welcome Rotarians from the 30 Districts in our Zones 26/27** who have lots of programs and ideas ... Rotarians from West Texas to Hawaii, from New Mexico to the northern border (and even Vancouver, BC) will be there!

**Thanks go out to Tom Walker and Katie Williams for chairing this amazing event.**





**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!**



**The Moriarty Rotary Balloon Glow was a wonderful success.**



**Our Rotary Club is collecting baby and toddler items for Rotary's Year of Cheer! Rotary Club of Albuquerque Sandia**



**Carlsbad Rotary spotlights Dr. Gerry Washburn, Superintendent of Carlsbad Municipal Schools.**



**Rotary Club of Los Alamos Fundraiser**



**Rotary Club of White Sands Project**



**Today is the installation of the Rotary Santa Fe Centro Passport Club and Los Alamos club Peace Pole.**

*See these stories and more on Facebook!*





## FLEXIBLE OPTIONS FOR CLUBS

Rotary and Rotaract clubs are empowered to create a culture that provides a positive club environment for their members. Each club also offers a unique experience for its members, whether it does so by following a club model that appeals to certain people or by allowing members to join with differing levels of involvement. When club leaders ask what members want, they can design or adjust the club to keep everyone engaged and ensure the club experience is meaningful.

### What options do we have for enhancing our club experience?

Rotary has many programs and opportunities that engage members and offer them a range of experiences. Your club can also make its own innovative changes, customized for your members, potential members, and your community. Here are some examples:

- Explore various club types, meeting formats, and models.
- Offer different membership types, such as corporate membership.
- Change your meeting location, frequency, or attendance policy.
- Try new meeting practices, content, and service projects.
- Start a satellite club to specialize in a particular interest of, or meet a particular need of, a group of members.

The role of District Governor is described as a life-changing experience, providing extensive training and support to help you succeed.

You Are Ready! **It's Time to Step Up!**



Rotary Founder Paul Harris cuts the cake at the celebration of the Rotary Club of Buffalo, New York, USA, 1936

Paul Harris's attendance at local-club celebrations like the Buffalo event symbolized his continued leadership and the personal connection between Rotary's founder and member clubs across the United States. Photographs of him taking part in anniversary rituals (cake cutting, speeches, public receptions) were used to reinforce Rotary's shared identity and history.

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](mailto: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!**



## Rotary International Council on Resolutions

Fellow Rotarians,

**Rotary International's Council on Resolutions (COR)** meets electronically every **October** to consider Resolutions to be forwarded to Rotary's Board of Directors (BOD) or The Rotary Foundation's Trustees. **This is our opportunity to influence the direction of Rotary International!**

Earlier this week the 32 resolutions proposed for 2025 were released; this is about three-quarters as many as last year. The full text of all resolutions can be viewed at the links below. There are a few resolutions similar to prior years' resolutions, but most are new, serious proposals!... There's something for almost everyone!

The 2025 Council of Resolutions (COR) voting window **opens on October 15 and runs through the close of October 31**. I ask that you and/or your clubs review these 32 proposed resolutions and share your observations, responses and/or recommendations with me.

I read your responses and I value your insights and input! Please contact me at...

**Tom Walker**

Rotary District 5520 Council on Legislation (& Resolutions)

Representative 2023-2025

Rotary District 5520 Governor 2015-16

(505) 237-0237

[ftwalker1@comcast.net](mailto:ftwalker1@comcast.net)

For  
Council on  
Resolutions  
(Full text)

CLICK HERE

For  
Council on  
Resolutions  
(Recap)

CLICK HERE





**No. 41 – September 16, 2025**

*1 minute to discover Rotary news*

## **Yinka BABALOLA President-elect 2026/2027**

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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.





Rotary's official monthly theme for October 2025 is **Economic and Community Development**. This theme focuses on supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, improving financial access, and providing job training to strengthen communities and livelihoods.

**Purpose:**

To encourage Rotarians to engage in projects that foster economic growth, create opportunities for employment, and build capacity for communities to thrive.



<https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>



**To all Rotarians in District 5520:**

You're invited to the International Project Fair (formerly Bi-District Conference) on **October 10–11 in El Paso, Texas**—a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians, learn about global grant projects, and explore ways we are doing good in the world.

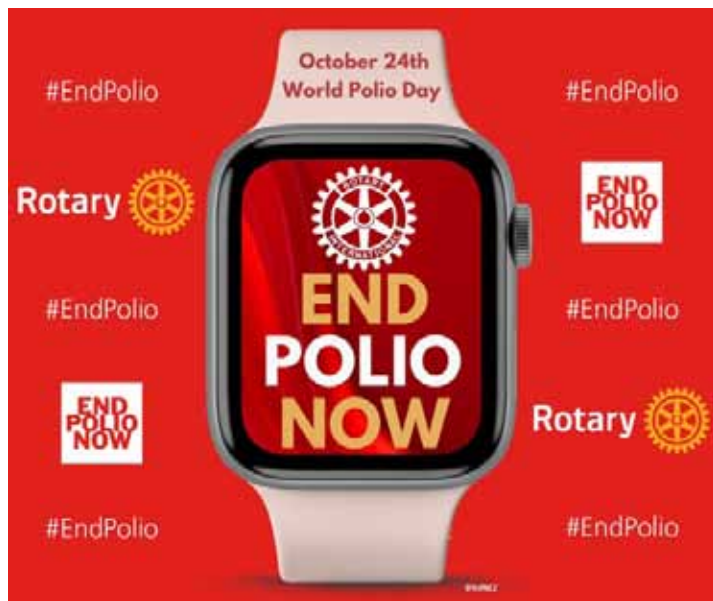
This fair brings together Rotarians from our District 5520, from our Mexican neighbors to the south, District 4110 and our Colorado neighbors to the north, District 5470, to share service ideas, seek partners, and strengthen the impact of Rotary in the world.

Whether your club is considering a new international project or looking to support existing ones, this is your chance to engage directly with Rotarians making a difference across borders.

**Registration is now open.**  
**Click | Connect | Engage**

**CLICK HERE**





Rtn. Debbie Vance - Rotary Graphics

**What is your club doing?**  
**Let the world know what your club is doing on October 24!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

## AG/LG Training

Feb. 27, 2026 1:00 p.m. –  
 Feb. 28, 2026 12:00 p.m.

Rotary District 5520

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

## District Conference 2026 Santa Fe

Apr. 09, 2026 – Apr. 11, 2026

Support youth programs like Rotary's RYLA Camp with an evening of wine tasting, charcuterie, and good company at Sheehan Winery's Old Town Tasting Room. Enjoy a silent auction, wine pull, and more. Please bring an unwrapped toy or book —we can't wait to see you!

Click here for tickets or scan the QR code

4<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL  
WINE  
TASTING

Thursday, October 30th

6 pm to 9 pm

Sheehan Winery's  
Old Town Tasting Room

Albuquerque Metro  
Rotary Club



## Hey! Don't blame me!

I had this space reserved for your fund-raising flyer but you never sent it to me.

If you had of sent it, I would have put it in this space for the rest of the District to see and maybe attend.

Well, maybe next month! But it is up to you!

ALBUQUERQUE RIO GRANDE ROTARY CLUB

# OKTOBERFEST

## Fundraiser

October 12 | 1PM - 4PM

Food - Fun - Live Entertainment  
Live Auction

ALBUQUERQUE COUNTRY CLUB  
601 LAGUNA BLVD SW

TICKETS \$100 INCLUDES 2 BEER OR WINE



DUKE CITY BRASS

AND FOOD  
UNDER 21 \$75  
12 AND UNDER FREE



FOR MORE INFO  
CONTACT MICHAEL MARTINEZ  
(505) 900 - 6482 OR VISIT  
[ABORIOGRANDEROTARY.COM/NEWS-EVENTS](http://ABORIOGRANDEROTARY.COM/NEWS-EVENTS)

