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District Governor Tom Walker

www.rotary5520.org

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On the Road ... with DG Tom Walker



The 2015-2016 Rotary year is well underway and District and Club activities have already begun. Our district has already had our highly successful Boy's and Girl's Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camps benefitting 70 young men and 117 young women at Manzano Mountain Retreat. We are making preparations to send our twelve Outbound Youth Exchange students to their new homes for the year and, likewise, we are preparing to receive our fourteen Inbound Youth Exchange students. And so far I have visited 16 Rotary Clubs across District 5520 and participated in five club and district events such as the July 4 parade in El Paso. Every club is unique and I am blessed to meet so many remarkable Rotarians and to learn all the things our Rotary Clubs and Rotarians do.

President Ravi Ravindran's theme for the 2015-2016 Rotary year is *Be a Gift to the World*. I believe that is possibly the most overlooked gift we Rotarians have is the gift of the Rotary Family.

How many times have our Rotary friends stepped up when we needed help or were in distress. Of course, at some point each of us was invited to share the gift of Rotary Membership. Don't we owe it to our friends, relatives, associates and civic leaders to share the gift of Rotary with them? And then there are all the services and projects we provide our communities, addressing needs to make life better. And, of course, there are the projects and programs we and our district access through the Rotary Foundation — Community and Global Grants, Exchanges, Scholarships to list a few. And let's not forget the gift of Polio Eradication; anytime now it'll be a year since Nigeria has had its last case of Polio... We anticipate the last case of Polio worldwide during this Rotary year. What a gift to the world that'll be!

President Ravi reminds us that on July 1 we had 366 days and 1 leap second to accomplish all that we want to do. There's so much to do and so little time. I look forward to hearing of your accomplishments!

— Tom Walker, District Governor





Rotary International

www.rotary.org
 President: K. R. Ravindran
 President-Elect: John F. Germ
 Vice President: Greg E. Podd

Rotary District 5520

www.rotary5520.org
District Leadership
 Governor: Tom Walker
 Governor-Elect: Dave Anderson
 Governor-Nominee: Doreen Kelsey
 Vice Governor: Bobby Wallace
 Executive Secretary: Kathy Fuller
 District Treasurer: John Gordon
 District Finance: Kit Turpen
 Immediate PDG: Lonnie Leslie
District Action Team Leaders
 Lt. Gov.-North: Lieta Scoggins
 Lt. Gov.-South: Jesse Allen
 Lt. Gov.-Central: Tony Pino
 Lt. Gov.-East: Sheryl Saavedra
 Lt. Gov.-Southeast: Jim Hatcher
Committee Chairpersons
 Membership: Kathie Williams
 Foundation: Tom Lindsay
 Global Awards: Darryl Gregerson
 New Generations: Bobby Wallace
 Alumni: Katie Updike
 Public Relations: Mike Antiporda
 International Conv.: H. Peter Krebs
 Newsletter Editor: Ed Hughes

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Membership: Kathie Williams, chair

According to Rotary Coordinator, PDG Dick Jones, Zone 21b/27's membership topped 48,000 in May 2015, up 863 since July 1, making 2014-15 was the most successful year for membership development in over a decade.

District 5520 also ended the year with positive membership growth for the first time in years. Credit for this goes to the incredible efforts shown by our clubs in recruiting new members and retaining current ones. Several of our award-winning clubs (especially Santa Fe Rotary Club and Del Sol Rotary Club) had double-digit net growth.

Many of our smaller clubs also experienced good growth numbers and regularly used our District Membership Planning Calendar to plan and promote their membership initiatives. The 2015-2016 version of this document is now available for use and has been sent circulated to every club in the District.

Our recent Membership Webinar/e-training highlighted the Rotary Membership Resources available on the District, Zone and International levels, as well as an overview of the new Zone Membership Cadre. Visit the District 5520 website for a copy of this presentation and to access lots of the resources available to your clubs.

Membership best practices, research and planning will all be highlighted in the August 8, 2015, Membership Cadre Training for the Albuquerque area Rotary clubs. To schedule Cadre Training for clubs in your area contact Kathie Williams, District Membership Chair. We would love to reach out to every club in the District by the end of the year and provide this valuable training.

— Kathie Williams, kathiewilliams46@gmail.com

India RFE Team visits New Mexico

There is a lot in common with Rotary clubs in India and in New Mexico. All are involved in projects having to do with clean water, serving children, and advancing Rotary's ideals. But there is also a big difference. Kulbhushan Chopra, past president of Indore Mehdoot Rotary Club of Bhopal South grew — just last year — from 56 to 95, and its women members went from 9 to 37. It was the No. 1 growing club in their district. The India Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) Team from Dist. 3040 in India — seven strong — spent 10 days visiting sights, getting a taste of New Mexican veggies and weathering our unpredictable “monsoon season” weather. They were feasted by a scrumptious all-vegetarian New Mexico-style dinner at the home of Kathie and Gary Williams in Albuquerque, and another at the home of Helen and Jim Marquez (she of the Albuquerque club). They were hosted and attended meetings with Rotary clubs in Taos, Ruidoso and Albuquerque Del Norte, exchanging flags and gifts. They spoke of their many projects back in India and encouraged New Mexico club leaders to join in with them for a project providing desks and chairs for school children who currently sit on a dirt floor to receive their lessons. “Together, we helped eliminate polio in our countries. We can do the same with stamping out hunger with our children,” said Lokendra Papalal, PDG of D3040, and leader of the India RFE group.

District Foundation Committee Members

Chair: Tom Lindsay

tnl54th@gmail.com

Deputy Chair: Helen Doherty

helend5520@gmail.com

Grants Chair: Dominic Bernardi

dbernardi@q.com

Community Grants: Andrew Garrison

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Global Grants: Elaine McKinney

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Stewardship: David Kessinger

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Scholarship: Norm Liss

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Fundraising: Carolyn Mitchell

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PHS/Polio Plus: Yale Jones

yijonessf@gmail.com

Bi-District Conference: Vic Villalobos

vic@thriftnickellc.com

Foundation News: Tom Lindsay, chair

We have an active committee and they welcome your questions about district foundation programs.

We have two events on our immediate agenda.

- Rotary International District 5520 is offering one \$10,000.00 award to a university senior or graduate student who resides and attends university within the district.

This is a great opportunity for a student in our district. We need all of you to get the word out to our institutions of higher learning and potential student candidates.

For details of this scholarship go to this link: <http://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050134/en-ca/files/homepage/district-5520-governor-s-scholarship/5520-Governors-Scholarship-2015-16.pdf>

If this link does not work, look at the upper right hand side of the District 5520 website for a link.

- Our annual Bi-District conference with District 4110 is being held in Las Cruces, NM on August 28, 29, 2015. By the time of this publication there will be a link on the District 5520 website to register for this event. This meeting offers exciting opportunities for clubs to get partners for global grants. The presentations are excellent and as at any Rotary gathering we will also meet old Rotary friends and make new friends.

Tom Lindsay, chairman, tnl54th@gmail.com

Helen Doherty, deputy chair, helend5520@gmail.com

Bi-District Conference: August 28-29, Las Cruces

If you have never attended a Bi-District Conference, you've missed out on an incredible Rotary experience! But, don't be sad for too long! For those of you who have attended a Bi-District Conference previously, and can't wait to truly experience the power and synergy of Rotary, it's time to get ready!

The Bi-District Conference registration is now open on District 5520's web site.

Again this year, the Conference will be held at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces (705 S. Telshor). The Event begins at noon on Friday, August 28th and concludes at 2 PM on Saturday the 29th. A special rate of \$95/night (plus taxes), which includes breakfast, is available to those who make reservations no later than August 18th and mention Rotary District 5520!

The Event registration fee of \$72.50 includes the *Welcome Reception* on Friday evening as well as a box lunch on Saturday. **To register:** Go to Rotary5520.org; Under upcoming events on the left side of the page you will find **2015-Bi-District Conference**; Click on this and it will direct you to the registration site.

Be sure to let us know if you need access to power for your display as there are limited spaces available with electricity! Those spaces will be assigned on a FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE basis.

Need more information about Global Grants and the power of partnering with Rotarians from other Clubs and Districts?!? If so, drop us a line.

Looking forward to seeing you in August! — **Tom Lindsay and Helen Doherty**

Alumni: Katie Updike, Arik Kotkowski

Rotary has friends everywhere, have you noticed? But sometimes we lose track of them. Our job this year is to help you find your friends: all of those exchange students, ambassadorial scholars, and RYLA campers who now live in your area but who don't have a current connection to Rotary.

Our lists of participants are outdated and few of us use My Rotary, but we will try too help, but getting names and addresses of participants updated and out to you. Now...what can you do?

- Encourage alumni you know to update My Rotary <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/user/login>
- Let us (e-mails are listed below) know about alumni in your area for our database.
- Invite alumni to a meeting...stay in touch.
- Include alumni in your projects.
- Start a Star Club (more later on that).

So let's make 2015-2016 a year of Discovery! Discovering lost friends of ours. Thank you.



Rotaract members attending a workshop at the RI Convention in São Paulo, Brazil

Katie Updike, kupdike@bldgsolutios.com
and **Arik Kotkowski**, arik.kotkowski@gmail.com
Alumni Co-Chairs

Photo by Monika Lozinska
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Public Image District Chair Mike Antiporda speaks to the District PETS Conference in Albuquerque last March.

Public Image: Mike Antiporda

The new Rotary Year is well underway and public relations continues to be an important way to attract new members and contributions toward service projects. We took some small steps in the area of social media with a Facebook page last year and we plan to do more this year. Some at the PETS seminar in March suggested we start in LinkedIn, as well, so we will be looking into that soon. At the club level, you know how important it is for you to communicate with those in your community. If you are needing public relations guidance or advice, please feel free to reach out to any committee member. We're here to help!

Committee members:

- [Mike Antiporda](#), Chair (Carlsbad)
- Gail Tarson (Clovis)
- Carol Clark (Los Alamos)
- Donna Pedace (Albuquerque Del Norte)
- Ann Singer (Albuquerque)
- Kelly McCullough (El Paso)

Rio Grande Academy: Jeff Weinrach, coordinator

This year, we will be piloting several Rio Grande Academy (RGA) distance learning approaches to more easily reach each Club in District 5520. The feedback regarding RGA has been extremely positive since its inception with the only drawback being limited access to RGA classes for Clubs in remote areas of our District. We believe, and other Districts feel similarly, that Distance Learning is the solution.



At least two types of pilots will be conducted: one will be where groups of Rotarians from several local Clubs will meet in a central location and will be connected with Rotarians in similar locations around the District. This is analogous to teaching a class at UNM in Albuquerque and having students at UNM's other campuses participating in real time through two-way video. Another will be a webinar approach where individual Rotarians will be logged in on their computers, iPads, etc. and will have two-way video capabilities with instructors who will also be similarly logged in.

Because of the amount of interest in the Distance Learning Pilots for the Rio Grande Academy (RGA), we're going to be doing four evening's worth of sessions Monday through Thursday, August 24th through August 28th. We'll be conducting RGA Part 1; the first half of Part 1 will be conducted on both Monday and Tuesday evenings, and the second half of Part 1 will be conducted on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings. So, when someone registers, he/she should register for Monday or Tuesday, and then Wednesday or Thursday.

There will be no fee for this pilot, and we currently have a license for our Distance Learning technology to have 25 participants at a time (this is why we're doubling the sessions). I have each session capped at 20 registrants because there are a number of people both in our District and in other Districts who want to observe.

It is critical that when you or a member of your Club registers, the e-mail address that is included is the correct e-mail so that the official invitation to join the web conference (by e-mail) will get sent successfully.

The four RGA pilot dates are now in Upcoming Events on the District website, so registration is now open.

Since these are pilots, we will be learning and making adjusting as we go. We will also continue to conduct RGA sessions through our regional hubs (e.g., Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe) as we have in the past. We appreciate your interest and your participation as we expand RGA to effectively reach each and every Club in our District.

If you have any questions about the distance learning pilot program, please contact Jeff Weinrach, District RGA Coordinator, at 505-400-1403 or jbwein@nmia.com

Global Awards: Darryl Gregerson, chair

Have you explored all the Rotary member discounts available in the newly released Rotary Global Rewards program? Rotary President Ravi Ravindran and Rotary's Board of Directors developed the idea as a way to give back to those who have given so much.

The Rotary Global Rewards program currently offers dozens of discounts worldwide for products and services for travel, entertainment, and merchandise. Benefits for hotels, car rentals, movie tickets, as well as deep discounts for City Passes are available.

All active Rotarians are automatically eligible to receive these rewards. To browse all the discounts and redeem one of the offers, members need to have created a My Rotary account at www.rotary.org. Upon logging into your account, select "Member Center" from the upper banner selections using a desktop computer. Smart phone and tablet users will need to select the drop down menu on the far right of the top banner and select "Member Center". Click on "Explore Rewards" under ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS to see a list of vendor discounts, or choose a city map for a Google Maps discount locator.

—Darryl Gregerson, Chair, Global Awards, gregerson@cableone.net

Our new District Governor: Tom Walker

Rotary District 5520's new district governor rises to the challenge with a personal and professional background in service. After graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971, Tom Walker served in the United States Navy, where he served in four nuclear submarines. That service and other volunteer activities have well-prepared him to lead Rotary District 5520, which is comprised of 70 clubs and about 2,600 members in New Mexico and West Texas.



"Rotary helps people," said Walker. "Not only in our own neighborhoods, but in places that are spread out around the world. I'm excited about working with all of our members to serve our local, national and international communities."

District 5520 is the largest Rotary district in the continental United States. Walker will be traveling throughout the District to provide support and leadership. He joined Rotary in 1997 and was the 2007-2008 president of the Rotary Club of Albuquerque and continues the Rotarian tradition of his family.

His parents were both Rotarians and Paul Harris Fellows. His father was the 1994-1995 District 6030 Rotarian of the Year. Tom was the 2010 District 5520 Rotarian of the Year and received the 2013 District 5520 Service Above Self award. He was the 2010-2013 Rotary District 5520 Foundation Chair and has served 2 years as the District 5520 Grant and Annual Program Fund Chair. He is a Paul Harris Fellow, a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, a Paul Harris Society member as well as a Clinton P. Anderson Fellow and Guardian Society member of the Albuquerque Rotary Charitable Foundation. Tom is an eight year counselor at District 5520 Boys' Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp, and is a facilitator for District 5520's Rio Grande Academy for training and leadership.



Tom Walker is pinned with his new DG pin by Dist. Gov. Lonnie Leslie on June 20.

District Rotary Day: October 24, also "World Polio Day"

Last year's District Rotary Day was a grand success. We had over 40 clubs participate, raised over \$140,000 to help end polio, introduced Rotary to many members of our communities and had lots of fun too. The creativity of our members was evident as some clubs held community picnics, some held rummage sales, and many set up bell ringing sites similar to the Salvation Army at Christmas.

This year's District Rotary Day is scheduled for October 24th, which is fittingly World Polio Day. We encourage every club to participate and truly make this a District-wide event. Use your imagination; be creative in planning your local event. Our Rotary Day goals are simple; raise money to end polio, make people aware of Rotary's efforts to end this disease, introduce Rotary to your community and have fun as a club.

Discuss your event with your board and solicit input from your members, make this their event. Please let me know if your club intends to participate and briefly explain your event. If you have questions my email is earl@rioranchomagazine.com.

Good luck Rotarians,
Earl Waid



Drumroll: Drumming up interest in next RI Conference in Seoul, Korea

District Gov. Tom Walker is beating the drums these days, drumming up interest in Rotarians throughout the vast New Mexico-West Texas district to consider making it to the 2016 Rotary International Convention May 28-June 1 in Seoul, South Korea. Here's your chance to connect with Rotarians around the world, building new relationships, and exchanging ideas across the many cultures that make up Rotary today. The unofficial theme of this 107th RI gathering is "Connect with Korea—Touch the World."



Candid camera: It's a happening place in 5520 land



District Gov. Tom Walker visiting Chama Valley club for steam train ride.



July 4 parade in El Paso. Who is that man with that fancy set of wheels?



Dist. Gov. Tom Walker receives a special "End Polio Now" scarf from RFE Team leader from India, Kulbhushn Choppa.



Receiving a flag in San Juan County.

DG Visit Schedule: Month of August

- 3- Moriarty Rotary Club, 6 p.m.
- 4 – Santa Rosa Rotary Club, noon.
- 5 – Rio Ranch Sunrise Club, 7 a.m.
 - Albuquerque Del Norte Club, noon
- 6- Tucumcari Rotary Club, noon
- 8- District Training, Albuquerque, 8:30 a.m.
- 11- Clovis High Plains Club, noon
- 12- Texico-Farwell Rotary Club, 11 a.m.
- 13- Roswell Rotary Club, noon
- 14 – Rotary Club of Las Cruces Rio Grande
- 17- Santa Fe Centro Board, 6 p.m.
- 18 – Santa Fe Centro Rotary Club, 8 a.m.
 - Las Vegas Rotary Club, noon
- 19 – Santa Fe del Sur Rotary Club, noon
- 20 – Rotary Club of Santa Fe, 11:30 a.m.
 - Santa Fe Club event (Opera), 6 p.m.
- 24 – Las Cruces Rio Grande Board, 6 p.m.
- 25 –Las Cruces Rio Grande Rotary, noon
- 26 – Rotary Club of Las Cruces, noon
 - Las Cruces-Mesilla Valley Board, 6 p.m.
- 27 – Las Cruces-Mesilla Valley, 6:45 a.m.
 - Anthony Rotary Club Board, 11 a.m.
 - Anthony Rotary Club, noon
- 28-29 – Bi-District Conference, Las Cruces