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District Governor Tom Walker

www.rotary5520.org

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***On the Road ...with DG Tom Walker***



**H**ow fast November has gone! All over District 5520 it seems as if every club has had some activities. With the arrival of Thanksgiving, the holiday season is upon us. Many clubs are planning activities to serve those in need in our communities. It's no wonder why District 5520 Rotarians and Clubs are so busy in their communities and in being a gift to the world.

The end of November marks the passage a nearly half of our 366 days. I have visited 63 of 68 our clubs. I am proud and thankful to represent our clubs that are so busy serving their communities, addressing all sorts of needs in our district and providing so much support.



The end of November also means that we're beyond the halfway point to meeting your club goals for the Presidential Citation which is due by the end of March. Look at the Presidential Citation Dashboard at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) to see how your club is progressing toward President Ravi's Citation. The end of November also means that it's time for clubs to hold their elections for 2016-2017 President-Elect and Board Members; these elections are to be completed before the end of December.

As we approach the end of 2015, it's time to review our goals, our progress toward those goals and to make mid-course corrections if warranted. There is still a lot of time to get things done. Before long it'll be time to start planning for the 2016-2017 Rotary Year.

Rotary Day in October was very successful. Some activities included El Paso-area clubs' "Pints for Polio" (blood drive), Albuquerque-area clubs' "Pints for Polio" partnerships with local breweries, and Silver City's Polio Eradication reception and fundraiser. And congratulations to Rio Rancho's Interact Club that was chartered on Friday, November 20.

I want to wish each District 5520 Rotarian as well as your families and friends, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year. May all of your dreams come true!

—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: Lleta 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

Friendship Exchange: Donna Pedace

Historical: Dan Schulte

International Conv.: H. Peter Krebs

Newsletter Editor: Ed Hughes

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## The Elect's Corner: Year-end thoughts

Maureen and I hope each of you had a very Happy Thanksgiving and were able to share it with family and friends. Just back from a week in Colorado celebrating with family, I would like to share a few brief thoughts with you:

• **Communications** – Our District Rio Grande Academy has begun to use the video conferencing program ZOOM to conduct training for

those who are unable to actually attend RGA sessions. We have been also using it to communicate with members of the District leadership team. Soon we plan to begin using ZOOM to communicate regularly with more Rotarians throughout the District, especially our LGs, AGs and President Elects. Our hope is to cut down on endless driving to attend meetings and free you for more important things. However, it is VITAL that we have your current email addresses to send meeting invitations. **PLEASE take a moment and ensure that your current email address and an accurate phone number are listed in the District 5520 web site.** If you need assistance, please contact Kathy Fuller [kfuller5520@gmail.com](mailto:kfuller5520@gmail.com)



DGE David Anderson

• **RGA** – Speaking of the Rio Grande Academy, all AG's and LG's LGs, and AGs should participate in RGA as soon as they can, even if it is past AG/LG Training on February 19 and 20 in Las Cruces. We do ask that all club President Elects attend before PETS next March 10 – 12<sup>th</sup>. To help those of you who live outside the RGA meeting places, District Trainer Jeff Weinrach has scheduled the first half of part 2 on Tuesday, January 12 and Tuesday January 18, and the second half of Part 2 on Tuesday, January 19 or Wednesday, January 20. (Note: *parts can be taken in any order*). Each session will be from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please log in to the district website (<http://www.rotary5520.org>) and you'll see these RGA sessions in the Upcoming Events section on the left hand side of the home page.

• **FOUNDATION** – Two items here. First, if your club has not been represented at a Foundation training session it will NOT be able to participate in some Rotary grants next year. Please contact PDG and Foundation Chair Tom Lindsay ([tnl54th@gmail.com](mailto:tnl54th@gmail.com)) and arrange training. And second, with the year fast drawing to a close, a reminder that the Rotary Foundation depends on donations from Rotarians to continue its charitable work. Donations can take many forms such as cash, securities, etc. and qualify for a tax deduction. Best of all, a portion of donations will come back to us as District Designated Funds in the future and can be used to support our local community grants.

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**We wish you all the most blessed, happy and peaceful holiday season.**

— Dave Anderson, District Governor-Elect, and Maureen

## ***RI Convention: Find your soul in Seoul, Korea***

**Y**ou've never been to a Rotary International conference? Maybe now is the time to do it. And now is also the time to do it while the registration package is discounted!

RI President Ravi Ravindran invites all Rotarians to experience the friendship and hospitality of the Koreans in Seoul on occasion of the 2016 Rotary International Convention, May 28 to June 1, 2016.

And if you book by December 15, you will save \$130 off the regular convention fee!

**Now** is the time to do it, and here's why:

- The convention is a great way to experience what it truly means to be a part of Rotary. You will not only be inspired by fascinating speakers, but also have an excellent opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians from around the world.
- You will experience firsthand the vibrant city of Seoul, as well as exchange ideas, build your skill set, and have fun. The House of Friendship also provides a space where you can connect with different cultures clubs. See more details in the convention brochure which exists as a paper copy in your home club and can be accessed online as well at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).

So what are you waiting for? **CONNECT WITH KOREA - TOUCH THE WORLD**



– Peter Krebs, Rio Grande, NM

## ***District Conference: It's Anchors Aweigh April 28-May 1***

**I**n honor of our District Governor and retired Naval Commander, Tom Walker, we have selected “Anchors Aweigh” as the theme for our Annual Conference to be held April 28 through May 1, 2016 at the beautiful Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town. Very soon your club will be receiving information and details about all the events.



This year, we will be hosting a Hawaiian Luau on “Walker Island” where you will be able to celebrate the Outstanding Active Rotarian (OAR) in your club. It's an opportunity to recognize that Rotarian in your club that best exemplifies “Service Above Self”. There will be an island buffet, Hula Dancers and Hawaiian Music. You'll want to be sure and wear your island clothes and celebrate with us.

The Annual Paul Harris Luncheon will be on Friday, April 29, so plan now to make this your “All Club Luncheon” and bring your members to celebrate with us. RI Coordinator, David Norris, will deliver an entertaining and uplifting message about being a Rotarian.

Co-Captains, Shane LeMon and Kathie Williams, along with committee members throughout the District are hard at work making sure that every detail is perfect.

The Conference will feature a variety of social and educational events. Governor Tom notes, “It's a special opportunity for all Rotarians in our District to further the programs of Rotary. We look forward to seeing all of you at this yearly event.”

## ***Alumnae Report: Staying connected***

**By Jack Maxon, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, Chile 1968**

**F**orty seven years ago in January of 1968, a twenty-two year old recent college graduate arrived at the airport of Santiago, Chile. He disembarked from the airplane wearing his new Resistol cowboy hat and Tony Lama cowboy boots in eager anticipation of his upcoming year as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. He knew there would be an enthusiastic group of Chilean Rotarians there to meet him, along with, perhaps, their equivalent of a mariachi band.



However, after scouring the airport for some distinguished looking men with Rotary pins on their lapels for over an hour, he realized that no group or individual was there to meet him, and he took a bus into downtown Santiago, a city of over five million inhabitants at that time, and found an inexpensive hotel to spend the night. Thus began a life changing experience that every Rotary sponsored international student goes through and that began my almost 50 year commitment to Rotary.

Even though I had many obstacles to overcome during my year, my time in Chile with Rotary was one of the highlights of my life. I recall learning more about myself and my beloved United States of America and the internationality of Rotary than any scholarly experience.

Upon returning to my hometown of El Paso, Texas, I decided to go with my entrepreneurial inclination and I opened my own restaurant in 1973 in downtown El Paso. Even though my sponsoring Rotary Club encouraged me to join them, I did not have the time to meet the attendance requirement for the first 10 years of my business career. However, I did join the Rotary Club of El Paso in 1983, and I have been an active member for the last 32 years, serving as Club President in 1989-1990. I am a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. My proudest Rotary contribution during my year as President was the establishment of the Rotary Club of El Paso Foundation, which now has a corpus nearing \$3 million. I have been involved with the various youth programs of Rotary including Foundation Scholars, Youth Exchange and RYLA.

*Our District 5520 needs to reach out to all former Foundation recipients including GSE Team Members, Rotary Scholars and Peace Scholars and ask them to join Rotary. Our challenge is to find them. They will make outstanding long term Rotarians. Let's find them and invite them to join our organization!*

***Now....what can you do?***

*Encourage alumni you know to update My Rotary <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/user/login>*

*Let us (emails 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 encourage our future peace makers and help them be gifts to the world. Thank you.*

*Katie Updike [kupdike@bldgsolutios.com](mailto:kupdike@bldgsolutios.com) and Arik Kotkowski,  
[arik.kotkowski@gmail.com](mailto:arik.kotkowski@gmail.com) Alumni Co-Chairs*

## RGA update: Online leadership classes to resume in January

On November 7, Rio Grande Academy leadership sessions were held in both Las Cruces and Albuquerque. Pictures of the happy participants and some of the facilitators are shown below. Thanks to our Southern Area RGA Coordinator, LG Jesse Allen, and the facilitators in Las Cruces; and our Central Area RGA Coordinator, PDG Rick Akins, and the facilitators in Albuquerque for putting on two fantastic RGA sessions!

Based on the success of our first online RGA sessions earlier this year, we'll be hosting a second set of online sessions on January 12, 18, 19 and 20. Each session will cover either the first half or the second half of Part 2 of RGA. Registration information is on the District website in the Upcoming Events section. If you are interested in RGA but haven't had a chance to participate, or you live outside our major cities, please consider taking these online sessions.

If you have any questions about the Rio Grande Academy, please contact Jeff Weinrach, District RGA Coordinator, at 505-400-1403 or [jbwein@nmia.com](mailto:jbwein@nmia.com).



In Las Cruces (pictured above): Sue Strother, Sunny Yates, Nelson Calzadilla, Annette Sanders, Ofelia Mletzko, Jesse Allen, Doug Borrette, Phyllis Duncan, Janet Honek, Peter Herzberg, Midhat Quadri, Jaime Tobin, and Cindy Seipel-Tunnell. Not shown: Tom Lindsay and Earl Greer.



In Albuquerque (pictured at left): Dave Ring, Ruth Ronan, Steve Becker, Greg Chalmers, William Dennis, Andrew Garrison, Michael Madanick, Marty Padilla, Jim Quick, Pat Diem, Bill Rothweiler, and Jeff Weinrach. Not shown: Rick Akins, Doreen Kelsey, Dom Bernardi, and Mary Bresnahan.

## RFE Update: Still room for trip to Vancouver, Canada

*There is a new opening in the RFE going to the Vancouver, Canada, area June 2-16, 2016. The group filled very quickly but, as often happens, a couple had to drop out, so their slot is now available. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would be interested in going on this RFE.*

Are you thinking about making travel plans for next summer? If so, we are planning an RFE visit to the Vancouver area of Canada next June, 2016, and it is now open for members to reserve a space for themselves or as a couple. The dates will be June 2 - 16 and they ask that the group members fly in on June 1st and stay overnight at a local hotel before being picked up on the 2nd to begin the RFE.



By comparison with overseas RFE's, this trip will have a short flying time and no problems with the language. The area is beautiful and offers water, mountains, a large city, and many lovely small towns, so I expect this will be a popular RFE.

The group will be home hosted and many meals and some social activities will be covered by the clubs/hosts. However, the group members will be responsible for their own transportation to/from Vancouver, some meals, and some sightseeing costs. In addition to being a very low cost way to travel, RFE's are an incredible opportunity to see another area from an "insider's" viewpoint and I can promise you that you will do and see more than would ever be possible as a normal tourist.

*If you would like to join the group, please send me a return email indicating your interest and then put a check for \$100 per person (made out to Rotary District 5520) in the mail to me, **Donna Pedace**, at 3730 Linda Vista Ave. NE Rio Rancho, NM, 87124*

## ***Candid camera: 5520 country is a happening place!***



*DG Tom meets with Maureen Anderson, DGE Dave Anderson's wife, during an Albuquerque Metro Rotary fund-raiser.*



*DG Tom presents Polio Plus Giving Award to Clovis Club President Gail Tarson.*



*DG Tom visits with Rio Rancho Club's first Interact Club — one of RI President Ravi's top goals for 2015-16.*



*Del Norte Rotarians help out during the Post Office's can food drive in Albuquerque.*



*Rio Rancho Rotarians celebrate "Pints for Polio" at a Sandia Park pub.*



*DG Tom and members of the Franklin Mountain Club of El Paso, showing that Rotary is "this close" to eradicating Polio from all corners of the world.*

## **A Park Above: Rio Rancho Rotarian's dream comes true**



*Jennie Baca at the dedication of "A Park Above."*

**R**io Rancho Rotarian Jennie Schulte Baca had a dream of creating a park for handicapped children like she had seen in Florida. She proposed the idea with her club, then pursued all her friends and contacts (in high places). After seven years of dogging her dream, the most unique park in all of New Mexico, named "A Park Above," was finally dedicated on November 20 by city and state officials. All told, the project featuring an outdoor amphitheater cost more than the initial estimate of \$800,000. Some \$40,000 was raised by the Rio Rancho Rotary Club. The park will officially open in mid-December.



*Playground equipment at "A Park Above" in Rio Rancho.*

## ***District Executive Secretary's Report: Thank you!***

**T**hank you, thank you!

As an organization which relies on its “volunteer power” to get things done, sometimes we forget to say “Thank you!” Even though, as Rotarians, we have willingly taken up the call to live our lives by exemplifying “Service Above Self,” it’s still a good thing to share – and to hear – the words, “Thank you.”

As Rotarians, and as we give life to the Four Way Test, as well as the Objects and Motto of Rotary, “we find that we are replacing hate with love; that we are ready to help those who may injure us rather than looking for revenge; that we strive to bring about union and prevent discord; that we do our best to instill faith in those who may have doubts; that we want to replace darkness with light, despair with hope, and when we find sadness, we shall do our very best to bring joy.” (author unknown)



For those of you who have answered the call to serve your Club and/or District 5520 in a position of leadership in ANY role, “Thank you!” (The appreciation may become even more relevant as Clubs hold elections for officers in the coming days.)

So, “Thank you!” once again. Thank you for your Service. You are Rotary!

— **Kathy Fuller, Executive Secretary** [Kfuller5520@gmail.com](mailto:Kfuller5520@gmail.com)

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## **Holiday Greetings from RI President: Give the Gift of Rotary**

**A**s this year comes to an end, we have the opportunity to reflect on what we’ve accomplished so far and what else we hope to do. As I said in [my message](#) in the December issue of *The Rotarian*, this is also a time for giving. I would ask that you continue to Be a Gift to the World by giving the [gift of Rotary](#). By giving to our Foundation, you help provide the means to address the needs of our local and global communities. No gift is too small: just \$15 can pay for polio vaccines, and gifts of up to \$200 can pay for much needed medical equipment in a rural hospital. With your support, we can continue to accomplish much more. You can even give to a specific area of focus that has become important to you. [Learn more](#) about what your gift could support.



Rotary’s six areas of focus have helped us channel our efforts so that we can better meet the needs of communities around the world — to provide clean water, to educate children, to help bring peace and hope to areas of conflict. Together with Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Ray Klinginsmith, I am sponsoring a series of five presidential conferences between January and March to highlight our areas of focus, beginning with the [Rotary World Peace Conference 2016](#). Local Rotary districts will serve as hosts, and the conferences will be open to both Rotary members and the general public. They will feature engaging speakers, informative general sessions, and hands-on workshops. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with fellow leaders and take away new ideas and strategies. [Visit the conference websites](#) to learn more about each program and to register. And be inspired to *Be A Gift to the World*. — **K.R. Ravindran, RI President**