



November 2, 2026 | Volume 45, No. 16 | Chartered August 1, 1916

MONDAY'S PROGRAM

Vicki Puliz

*What's New With
The Rotary Foundation*



As a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation 2025-2029, Vicki Puliz will serve as Vice Chair in 2026-2027. She chairs the Executive Committee and Investment Committee, serves on the TRF Finance Committee and International Polio

Plus Committee, and is the trustee liaison to the Rotary Peace Centers Committee. She is a past Rotary International Director, 2021-2023, along with other Rotary positions including International Assembly facilitator, Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Governor of Rotary District 5190 in 2013-2014, and participation in many Governor-elect, Governor-nominee and president-elect education and learning events. She has been a proud member of the Rotary Club of Sparks, Nevada, since 1992.

Of particular focus for Vicki is developing leaders, empowering youth, eradicating polio, and building bridges to peace in our

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UPCOMING EVENTS

District 5190 Foundation Dinner

November 6, 2026 | 6:00 pm

Atlantis

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Rotary Club of Reno Board Meeting

November 17, 2026 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Dickson Realty Caughlin Ranch Office

Reno Rotary Foundation Board Meeting

November 19, 2026 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Dickson Realty Caughlin Ranch Office

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Rew Goodenow

November 9, 2026

The U.S. Fulbright Specialist Program

Devon Reese

November 16, 2026

Data Centers in Reno

No Meeting

November 23, 2026

**We meet on Monday's at noon
at the Atlantis Casino Resort**

November is Rotary Foundation Month

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RENO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Julie Griffiths President
Andrea Cantlon President Elect
Mark Growdon .. Ex-officio Past President
David Spillers Secretary
Kathy Fraser Treasurer
Christine Barnicki Director
Mark Cameron Director
Sarah Elliott Director
Julie Griffiths Director
Chesa Keane Director
Shenea Strader Director

Committee Chairs

Club Administration David Spillers
Community Service Mark Cameron
Finance Kathy Fraser
Fundraising Judy Coleman
Fundraising Tony Padavich
International Projects Colburn Shindel
Vanda Tarlea
Membership Shenea Strader
Programs Sarah Elliott
Social Christine Barnicki
Sunshine Stefanie Scoppettone
Vocational Chuck Lutz
Youth Services Chesa Keane

Reno Rotary Foundation

Steve Kent President
Oliver Grosz Vice President
Alex Phillips Treasurer
Gary Warren Secretary
Julie Griffiths Ex-officio RCR President
Stacy Asteriadis Trustee
Dave Gallagher Trustee
Chris Gaub Trustee
Phil Mahoney Trustee
Mike Young Investments

Club Communication

David Spillers Newsletter Editor
Brenda Tomburello Webmaster

LAST MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Thought of the Day Harvey Fennell
Pledge Judy Maruszko
Scanner Judy Maruszko
Sergeant At Arms Sonja Leonard
Cashier Christine Barnicki
Photographer Chesa Keane
Raffle Taalut Boisson

HONOR ROLL

Harvey Fennell \$100
Jerry Hall \$200
Marty Kramer \$100
Tom Taelour \$100



*President Julie and Past District Governor Dave Bianchi present Paul Harris Fellow Awards: **Judy Maruszko** PHF+4 and **Sonja Leonard** PH+1, and. Congratulations!*



***Niki Rubarth** is inducted into the club by President Julie and her sponsor, Past District Governor Dave Bianchi. Welcome, Niki!*

ROTARY CLUBS IN ACTION 2026

November 7, 2026 | 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Truckee Meadows Community College
7000 Dandini Blvd., Reno, Nevada

Ready to learn something new, bring fresh ideas back to your club, and discover more of what Rotary has to offer?

District 5190 Governor Kurt Raffetto and District Governor Elect Richard Forster invite you to Rotary Clubs in Action that is designed to be an exciting, fast-paced day of learning, sharing, connecting, and putting ideas into ACTION. Whether you joined Rotary last month or have been a Rotarian for decades, there is something here for YOU!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

"THE FUTURE IS NOW"

2026 Rotary District 5190
Foundation Dinner

Friday, November 6th, 2026
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

Doors open at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm

Cost: \$60 per person
Join us as we celebrate



[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Vicki Puliz

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communities and around the world. She is a Positive Peace Activator, trained through the partnership of Rotary with the Institute for Economics and Peace.

A graduate of the University of Utah with a Marketing degree and Master of Business Administration degree, Vicki owned a successful commercial electrical contracting firm in northern Nevada for 19 years before merging it into a public traded entity.

Vicki and her husband, Tim, live in Reno, Nevada, at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Their blended family includes seven adult children, twelve grandchildren, and three Rotary Youth Exchange daughters. Their interests include outdoor activities and general aviation. Vicki and Pilot Tim are members of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians. They support Our Rotary Foundation as members of the Arch Klumph Society, the Paul Harris Society, Polio Plus Society, and the Bequest Society.



Debbi Macfarlane-Clayton, last week's speaker, signed a book for our club to donate to the Dr. Robert Clift Lemelson STEM Academy library.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please contact Shenea Strader at shenea.strader@gmail.com if you have any membership questions or need information about joining our club.

6 things you should know on World Polio Day

Bill Gates, Chair, Gates Foundation. October 24, 2026



I've been following the fight against polio almost daily for more than two decades, ever since I got involved in the global coalition to eradicate it. But polio hardly ever makes headlines anymore, and most people are understandably not as focused on it as I am. Today is World Polio Day, so I want to give a quick update on how things are going.

Thanks to the world's efforts—led by national governments with support from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is a coalition of Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, the United States CDC, the Gates Foundation, and the vaccine alliance known as Gavi—polio cases are down by 99 percent since 1988, and the virus is endemic in just two countries.

One of them, Pakistan, is making major progress. Thanks to continued vaccination programs and strong leadership from the government, the number of children newly paralyzed by polio there dropped from 74 in 2024 to 31 in 2025 and just 7 so far this year.

I think it is possible to get to zero if we keep up this momentum.

In Afghanistan, unfortunately, polio cases have increased this year compared with last year. But the program is taking steps to do a better job getting the vaccine to all children, especially in the South region of the country. And it's finding new ways to work with community leaders to hear from families who have doubts about vaccinations and to address their concerns.

Some encouraging news is coming out of Africa. Five variant polio outbreaks on the continent have been closed, interrupting transmission of the virus in those countries. It's a testament to phenomenal work by governments at every level, local health workers, and the polio eradication initiative.

However, there continue to be outbreaks of variant polio in especially fragile settings. Humanitarian crises, weather-related disasters, and resource constraints are making

it harder to vaccinate children. As global immunization rates remain low, the risk that the disease will spread internationally—even to places that have long been free of polio—is high.

India and South Asia have now been free of wild poliovirus for 15 years. This region, which is home to a quarter of the world's population, recorded its last case of wild poliovirus in 2011. Staying polio-free since then is a huge accomplishment in itself. But countries in the region are also building on infrastructure and lessons from the polio program to expand people's access to other public health services.

An affordable six-in-one vaccine is making it easier to protect children in low-income countries. In most low- and middle-income countries, children get their polio vaccines in two ways: orally, via a few drops in their mouth, and by injection. The injectable vaccines require two shots, the second one weeks or months after infants have received all their other routine shots. Many families don't come back for this second visit, which means those children aren't fully protected.

The six-in-one vaccine incorporates polio protection into the vaccines that children already get routinely, reducing the need for another injection later. When a baby gets the shots that protect them from whooping cough, tetanus, and so on, they're also getting protection against polio.

Six-in-one vaccines aren't new; they have been used in wealthier countries for years. The breakthrough was to develop one that's affordable for low-income countries. Thanks to support from Gavi, Senegal and Mauritania are already using it, and Pakistan just approved its use last month.

I wish there were better news to share about funding. Even some of the most generous partners have cut back on their giving. GPEI, the eradication initiative I mentioned earlier, had to cut its budget by 30 percent

this year. I am grateful to the donors who have stayed committed and to new donors who have made significant contributions in recent years. These include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the European Investment Bank, Qatar, Australia, Canada, Monaco, and the United States.

This has accelerated a process that was already under way: lower-income countries taking more ownership of the program. For example, in the past 18 months, three more labs in Africa have been certified to do genomic sequencing of poliovirus samples. If the virus is detected somewhere on the continent, a sample can be sent to one of these labs, where scientists study its genome to figure out where it came from. The plan is to keep expanding capacity in Africa, further reducing the need to send samples overseas.

Unfortunately, none of this makes up completely for the funding shortfall. Around the world, leaders of polio programs are making painful tradeoffs. If this shortfall continues, we could lose decades of progress and see polio return everywhere. I'll continue to do my part, supporting the work through the Gates Foundation and using my voice to raise awareness.

This is a winnable fight. It is giving us a blueprint for eradicating other diseases, including malaria. It has also created a global network of labs and experts that has alerted public health officials to outbreaks of cholera, measles, Ebola, and COVID-19 at the height of that pandemic.

But for me, what it comes down to is that we should eradicate polio because it is entirely preventable. There is no reason any child should ever be paralyzed by it again. That's why I'm proud to be part of the global partnership that is committed to getting rid of it forever.

Rotary established the Rotary Endowment Fund in 1917, which became the forerunner of The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary first established the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition in 1957 for contributions of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

The first Rotary club banner to orbit the moon was carried by astronaut club member Frank Borman on the Apollo flight in 1968.

The first head of state to address an RI Convention was President Warren G. Harding in 1923, at St. Louis, Missouri.

Source: The ABCs of Rotary

Rotary
Club of Reno

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Rotary

Club of Reno



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

first Is it the **TRUTH?**

second Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

third Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

fourth Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

NOTES



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Rotary Club of Reno



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