

THE Renotarian



Chartered August 1, 1916 || Volume 43, No. 36 || April 21, 2025
We Meet on Monday's at noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort

Monday's Program

Nick Tscheekar & Travis Sandefur
Volunteers of America

Nick Tscheekar leads fundraising for Volunteers of America's programs in Northern Nevada, which are dedicated to moving people from homelessness to independence.

Travis Sandefur is the VOA Regional Vice President of Northern Nevada. Prior to joining VOA's staff, Travis served on the VOA Board of Directors for four years as a member and as the Vice Chair. He is a local business owner of Pangolin Café, and a dedicated advocate for the community.

Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada (VOA) moves people from homelessness to independence with love and dignity. VOA houses and shelters more than 1,000 people on any given night in the Reno-Sparks Area.

VOA offers a unique continuum of housing options and services for people who are experiencing homelessness or are struggling. Supports range from conducting outreach along the Truckee River in the downtown corridor to build rapport with people sleeping outside, to operating the Nevada Cares Campus emergency shelter, offering case management, and providing more than 400 units of affordable housing.

Upcoming Events

Reno Rotary Foundation Board Meeting
April 17, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Dickson Commercial Group

Vinton Cowboy Poetry & Music Show
April 18, 2025
Vinton, CA

Food Bank Volunteer Day
May 10, 2025

Rotary Club of Reno Board Meeting
May 20, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Dickson Commercial Group

Upcoming Speakers

Helen Townsell
April 28, 2025
Black Springs

President Laurie Leonard
May 5, 2025
State of the Club Update

Vicki Puliz
May 12, 2025
Rotary International Foundation

**The Rotary Club of Reno
Officers and Directors**

Laurie Leonard President
 Mark Growdon President Elect
 David Spillers Secretary
 Kathy Fraser Treasurer
 Stacy Asteriadis Director
 Andrea Cantlon Director
 Julie Griffiths Director
 Chesa Keane Director
 Jon Olsen Director
 Shenea Strader Director

Committee Chairs

Club Administration David Spillers
 Community Service Andrea Cantlon
 Finance Kathy Fraser
 Fundraising Mark Growdon
 International Projects Phil Mahoney
 Marketing/PR Oliver Grosz
 Membership Shenea Strader
 Programs Dave Bianchi
 Social Stacy Asteriadis
 Sunshine Stefanie Scoppettone
 Vocational John Tatum
 Youth Services Kim Mazeris, Jon Olsen

Reno Rotary Foundation

Mike Blakely President
 Corry Castaneda Ex-officio RRF P. Pres.
 Laurie Leonard Ex-officio RCR President
 Mark Growdon Ex-officio RCR P. Elect
 Steve Kent Vice President
 Dave Gallagher Trustee
 Oliver Grosz Trustee
 Charlie Dodson Trustee
 Alex Phillips Trustee
 Stefanie Scoppettone Trustee
 Gary Warren Trustee
 David Spillers Secretary
 John Spears Investments

Newsletter/Website

David Spillers Newsletter Editor
 Patrick Dunn Web-master
 Oliver Grosz Reno Rotary Roundup

Last Meeting Volunteers

Thought of the Day:..... Chesa Keane
 Pledge: Kathy Fraser
 Scanner Gary Warren
 Sergeant At Arms Colburn Shindell
 Cashier Christine Barnicki
 Photographer Chesa Keane
 Raffle Judy Maruszko
 Set Up/Take Down Carl Fuetsch

Honor Roll

Charlie Dodson \$100
 Pat Dunn \$100
 Sarah Elliott \$100
 Carl Fuetsch \$500
 Phil Mahoney \$100



President-Elect Mark Growdon presents a PolioPlus Award to our speaker last week, Dr. Gideon Caplovitz. The PolioPlus Award says, "Our club will donate \$100 to PolioPlus in honor of you speaking to us today".

The Rotary Club of Reno Board of Directors Candidates Election held April 21, 2025 Meeting - Vote for three

Christine Barnicki

Christine is a Southern California native and resident until March 2024, when she happily relocated to Reno. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Otis College of Art and Design. Christine established a communication design studio, and 39 years later, she is still serving clients. She has Received multiple national awards for both writing and design. Christine was widowed in 2018 after 50 years and 6 days of marriage. She is the proud parent of three wonderful and engaging children, one of whom lives in Reno.

Christine was a member of the Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Peninsula, from 1991–2024. She worked twenty-two years as editor of the weekly newsletter, and 25 years as the primary editor and creative director for print materials of the club's primary fundraiser, the annual Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance, and related social events.

Christine worked two years as creative director for signage for the South Bay Beer & Wine Festival, annually the largest such social event in the area.

For Rotary women, she established and oversaw monthly poker games and dine-out events, and managed the book club. Christine also established and managed small-group dinner parties for members and their partners, if any, to build better friendships. (Rave reviews from participants.)

As a member of The Rotary Club of Reno, (July 2024–present), she has been a frequent meeting volunteer for the pledge, scanner, sergeant-at-arms, and cashier. She has volunteered at three community service events, and is managing the newly launched girls-only monthly events.

Mark Cameron

Mark relocated from Tucson, Arizona with his wife, Leona, and his two children, Crissey and Scott and has lived in Sparks since 2005. Growing up in the mountain-west city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Mark knew he wanted to raise his children in a western community with all the outdoor activities a region like the Truckee Meadows has to offer. So, moving here was an easy decision to make.

Mark worked in the airport industry for over 20 years; five years with the Tucson Airport Authority and later at the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA) where he worked for 15 1/2 years - in his last position at the RTAA, he served as the Vice President of Operations & Public Safety. Since then, Mark's professional pursuits have led him to upper-level management positions in two different local nonprofit organizations - first, with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) as the Executive Director and most recently with the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail as their President/CEO. Outside of work, Mark enjoys traveling, gardening, camping, hiking, skiing, and doing a lot of cycling.

Mark has a strong background in leadership and community engagement. He is deeply dedicated to our local community as is evidenced by his involvement in various organizations, including the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce adult Leadership Reno/Sparks; making significant contributions as a Board Member and President of the Board for the Veterans Guest House; and by actively participating in many environmental sustainability initiatives, like lending a helping hand at many KTMB community clean-ups and Christmas tree recycling events through the years.

Mark has been a member of the Rotary Club of Reno (RCR) for two years and can

often be found at RCR volunteer events. Mark and his wife have registered for and are looking forward to attending the Rotary International conference in Calgary this summer. He looks forward to the possibility of serving as a member of the RCR Board and thanks you for your consideration.

Patrick Dunn

Patrick is the Global Head of Technology Disaster Recovery at Broadridge Financial Services, a global Fintech leader with 13,000 employees and 78 data centers worldwide. With 25 years of expertise in Operational Resilience, he has been instrumental in shaping cybersecurity and business continuity strategies at organizations both in the United States and Globally.

Patrick's commitment to service extends to several non-profits, where he has held key leadership roles:

- President, North Georgia Rowing Academy Board of Directors: Promoted youth engagement and leadership through sports.
- Board Member, Boys and Girls Clubs of Maine: Supported programs for underprivileged youth.
- President, Gift of Adoption - California Board of Directors (2022-2023): Advocated for adoption funding and support initiatives.

Patrick Dunn's Rotary journey began on April 24, 2017, with the Rotary Club of Augusta (Maine). Since then, he has exemplified Clem Renouf's words by embracing opportunities to serve and lead. His passion for service saw him contribute significantly during his time at the Rotary Clubs of San Mateo (2019-2021) and Windsor (2021-2024) before joining the Rotary Club of Reno in 2024.

Patrick's leadership roles within District

5130 include serving as the District Membership Chair (2022-2024) and District Member Attraction Chair (2023-2024). His initiatives focused on membership growth and retention, strengthening clubs across the district. Currently, he is the incoming Peace Chair for District 5190, aiming to advance peace-building efforts. Additionally, Patrick serves as the Global Partnership Liaison for Roots of Peace, collaborating with 2024 Nobel Peace Nominee Heidi Kuhn to promote global peace and resilience.

Inspired by Rotary's motto "Service Above Self", Patrick believes in the power of community and leadership to create lasting change. His dedication to operational resilience, peacebuilding, and youth development reflects his commitment to making a difference both locally and globally.

Sarah Elliott

As an accomplished researcher, data analyst, and marketing strategist, I possess a unique blend of skills that allow me to drive data-driven decision-making and enhance business performance across various industries. My experience spans both academia and the corporate world, equipping me with a deep understanding of research methodologies, data analysis, and the strategic application of insights to inform business operations and marketing strategies.

I have a robust foundation in research, with a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California, Davis, and substantial experience in both academic and industry settings. Throughout my academic career, I conducted extensive quantitative and qualitative research, published 13 peer-reviewed articles, and presented at numerous national and international conferences. My research experience honed my ability to synthesize complex data and communicate insights effectively to both technical and non-technical audiences. Additionally, I have

successfully managed research teams, ensuring adherence to project timelines and compliance with federal regulations, all while securing funding through competitive grant applications, including a \$190,000 award from the National Institutes of Health.

In my role as Director of Corporate Marketing Analytics, I leveraged my research and analytical skills to enhance the guest experience at the Peppermill Casino Resort. I lead initiatives to optimize market segmentation, reduce costs, and improve customer engagement. Thus far, my work with A/B testing, regression analysis, and sensory optimization have directly contributed to enhancing customer satisfaction and revenue generation. I also build and maintained key dashboards, providing real-time insights to leadership that informed strategic decisions across departments, such as sales, slot operations, and guest services.

In addition to my professional experience, I am also a dedicated mother of two children: a 10-year-old boy, and 6-year-old girl. My role as a parent has fueled my passion for ensuring that children have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive. As a mother, I am deeply invested in finding methods and strategies that promote not only my children's growth but also the development of children in our broader community. This interest is what drives my enthusiasm for being part of Rotary. I am motivated to collaborate with others to identify resources, create programs, and build pathways that ensure every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. As a member of the board, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how Rotary operates within our community, especially as it relates to the health and wellbeing of our children, and look forward to finding new ways to assist with Rotary's goals.



*President-Elect **Mark Growdon** led our meeting last week. Great job, Mark!*

The Rotary Club of Reno works locally and internationally to: promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; grow local economies; and protect the environment.

Our mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Visit us at: **renorotary.org**.

Membership Information

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

