

THE Renotarian

Rotary
Club of Reno



Chartered August 1, 1916 || Volume 43, No. 40 || May 19, 2025

We Meet on Monday's at noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort

Monday's Program

**George Combs, Cheree Boteler
McKinna Jackson**

Reno Rodeo

Since he came to his position in 2015, **George Combs** has dedicated himself to the year-round role as the General Manager of the fourth largest rodeo in North America. His job involves coordinating countless moving pieces to ensure the success of this historic ten-day event.

The Reno Rodeo Foundation

Cheree Boteler is a native Nevadan and graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, and brings a wealth of experience in leadership, community advocacy, and nonprofit management to her role as Executive Director of the Reno Rodeo Foundation. In this position, Cheree spearheads initiatives that positively impact children and families across 14 counties in Northern Nevada, with a focus on those facing extraordinary challenges.

With a strong background in marketing, public relations, and event management, Cheree leads the Foundation's efforts in expanding its reach, developing innovative programs, and fostering relationships that strengthen the organization's mission. Her

Continued on Page 3



Upcoming Events

Rotary Club of Reno Board Meeting

May 20, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Dickson Commercial Group

Reno Rotary Foundation Board Meeting

May 22, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Dickson Commercial Group

President Laurie's Demotion Party

June 19, 2025 | 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Coney Island Bar

Sign Up Here!

Upcoming Speakers

No Meeting

May 26, 2025

Memorial Day Holiday

Darcy Phillips

June 2, 2025

KTMB

Vicki Van Buren & Jackie Bryant

June 9, 2025

Reno Finances

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 Mazeres, 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:	Andrea Cantlon
Pledge:	Elena Castor
Scanner	Ron Aryel
Sergeant At Arms	Christine Barnicki
Cashier	Stacy Asteriadis
Photographer	Chesa Keane
Raffle	Chuck Lutz
Set Up/Take Down	Stacey Knobler

Honor Roll

Ron Aryel	\$200
Elena Castor	\$100
Bill Creekbaum	\$100
Rew Goodenow	\$100
Paul Havas	\$500
Chesa Keane	\$100
Bob Moore	\$100
Stefanie Scoppettone	\$100
Brenda Tomburello	\$100



President Laurie (left) presents a Blue Badge to **Brenda Tomburello!** Congratulations, Brenda!

Reno Rodeo

Continued from Page 1

commitment to operational excellence, financial stewardship, and strategic planning has propelled the Foundation to new heights in service and impact.

The Reno Rodeo Foundation was established in 1986 as a private foundation to ensure that proceeds from the annual Reno Rodeo—a historic and widely celebrated community event produced by volunteers since 1919—would directly benefit the residents of Northern Nevada. While this structure allowed the Foundation to distribute funds effectively, its classification as a private foundation limited its ability to expand fundraising efforts beyond the Reno Rodeo Association's direct contributions. To increase financial sustainability, diversify funding sources, and enhance its ability to receive grants, corporate sponsorships, and tax-deductible donations from the public, the Foundation transitioned to a 501(c)(3) public charity in 2004. This reclassification provided significant legal and financial advantages, including eligibility for broader philanthropic support, tax-exempt status for donors, and compliance with federal guidelines that prioritize public benefit organizations. As a result, the Foundation has been able to expand its reach, increase financial transparency, and better serve Northern Nevada's children and families.

Current Programs & Impact

Today, the Reno Rodeo Foundation serves abused, neglected, and at-risk children across 14 Northern Nevada counties through impactful programs, including:

- **Scholarships** for undergraduate students at accredited local colleges and universities
- The **Reno Rodeo Wish** program, granting life-changing experiences to children in need
- The annual **Denim Drive**, providing purchase cards to social workers for foster children's essentials (clothing, coats, shoes, hygiene items)

- **Reading Rooms**, offering new books and teddy bears to children navigating family court

With the dedication of nearly 1,000 Reno Rodeo volunteers, the Reno Rodeo Foundation continues to maximize community partnerships, financial impact, and long-term support for Northern Nevada's children. While the Foundation has expanded far beyond its original role as the charitable arm of the Reno Rodeo, the Reno Rodeo Association remains our largest donor, ensuring that proceeds from the area's biggest and longest-running annual professional sports event directly benefit children in need. Through its growing scope, the Reno Rodeo Foundation has solidified its identity as a trusted leader in children's services, leveraging its resources to create lasting, meaningful change.

McKinna Jackson, 2025 Miss Reno Rodeo

McKinna Jackson is a 23-year-old native Nevada. McKinna was raised in Gardnerville, NV, where she graduated from Douglas High School. Following graduation, she then went on to earn her certificate from Texas Horse-shoeing School, located in Scurry, TX. After refining her farrier skills, McKinna realized that home truly means Nevada and returned to Gardnerville. At only 19, alongside her mother and biggest supporter, Kim, McKinna launched a new business, the Mad Dog Cafe.

In addition to her enthusiasm for outdoor activities, McKinna is passionate about being involved in her community. She contributes her time on the Board of Directors for the Carson Valley Roping Club as the Vice President and she is able to pour into her passion for team roping. Outside of the saddle, McKinna enjoys volunteering with her local Fire Department and to her favorite philanthropy, Between Horses and Humans; a local non-profit program dedicated to supporting youth in developing life skills through horsemanship.



The Renotarian

Pictures from **Dave Gallagher** of the dedication of our project, which was a Rotary Global Grant project done in partnership with the Rotary Foundation. There were 16 Rotary clubs from eight different rotary districts and five different countries who partnered with us and the Rotary Foundation to complete this project.

There were Rotarians from the five different countries who were able to attend the dedication ceremony. Those countries were Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and the United States. The main portion of the project was to provide an endoscopy lab to the hospital, as well as several other pieces of equipment. This project will save lives.



From Bihor Online Newspaper, Stei, Romania, May 11, 2025

A gesture that saves lives: Rotary brings hope and state-of-the-art medicine to the Hospital in Stei
By Sorin Martin Veres

In an impressive gesture of international solidarity, 16 Rotary clubs from Romania, Europe, and the United States have donated a state-of-the-art medical device to the Stei City Hospital, intended for digestive investigations. The high-resolution endoscopy equipment, valued at 126,000 dollars, will fundamentally change the way gastrointestinal conditions are diagnosed and treated in the area.



The equipment handover event took place in the presence of numerous delegations of Rotarians from the Rotary clubs of Oradea, Beius, Cluj-Napoca, Satu Mare, Budapest, and not least, from the United States of America. The moment was filled with emotion, generosity, and gratitude, especially since the donation was made in honor of an outstanding Rotarian – Bob Pagett. Although he could not be present, his daughter, Michelle, proudly represented the family and the spirit of her father.

With the help of the new equipment, doctors in Stei will be able to perform vital investigations such as gastroscopies and colonoscopies, without patients having to travel to other cities. Thus, tens of thousands of residents in the area will directly benefit from this life-saving investment.

David Gallagher, the representative of the clubs in the USA, spoke emotionally about the involvement of partners: *"The project in Stei is the 112th completed worldwide by Rotary International. It is a clear proof that when Rotarians join forces, regardless of the continent, they can change lives. Here, in Stei, I felt what it means to be part of a global community with a soul."*



President Laurie (left) exchanges Club Banners with **Irma Victoria Solís Coronado**, President-elect for the 2025-2026 term of the Rotary Club Cobija in Bolivia District 4690!

Membership Information

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

Notes

the 4 way test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities.



[Rotary Club
of Reno](#)



Rotary
Club of Reno



The Renotarian

Published by

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RENO

P.O. Box 1750

Reno, NV 89505

info@renorotary.org

David Spillers, Editor,

DigiPrint Corporation

(775) 786-4464

david@digiprintcorporation.com