

The

RENOTARIAN

Rotary
Club of Reno



July 6, 2026 | Volume 45, No. 1 | Chartered August 1, 1916

MONDAY'S PROGRAM

JULIE GRIFFITHS Goals for the Year



Julie Griffiths
President 2026-2027

President Julie Griffiths will give a presentation to the club about what to expect in the new Rotary year, including committee updates and goals for the club.

Election on Monday

The Reno Rotary Foundation
Two Trustree Positions Available
Vote for Two Candidates:

Chris Gaub
Phil Mahoney

July is Maternal and Child Health Month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rotary Club of Reno Board Meeting

July 21, 2026 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Dickson Realty Caughlin Ranch Office

Reno Rotary Foundation Board Meeting

July 23, 2026 | 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Dickson Realty Caughlin Ranch Office

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Jerry Hall

July 13, 2026
Recap of Uganda and WASH projects

Diana Hoffman

July 20, 2026
Music With Confidence

Len Stevens

July 27, 2026
Junior Achievement

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

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RENO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

Committee Chairs

Club Administration..... David Spillers
 Community Service TBD
 FinanceKathy Fraser
 FundraisingMark Growdon
 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
 Julie Griffiths Ex-officio RCR President
 Stacy Asteriadis..... Trustee
 Dave Gallagher..... Trustee
 Oliver Grosz..... Trustee
 Charlie Dodson Trustee
 Alex Phillips..... Trustee
 Stefanie Scoppettone Trustee
 Gary Warren Trustee
 John Spears Investments

Club Communication

David Spillers Newsletter Editor
 Brenda Tomburello Webmaster

LAST MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Thought of the Day..... Alejandra Bernardez de Phelps
 Pledge Donna Ruiz
 Scanner Kathy Fraser
 Sergeant At Arms Gary Warren
 Cashier Bob Downing
 Photographer..... Chesa Keane
 Raffle..... Alejandra Bernardez de Phelps

HONOR ROLL

Raul Avilis\$200
 Christine Barnicki.....\$600
 Laurie Leonard.....\$100
 Judy Maruszko.....\$200



Olayinka H. Babalola

Rotary President 2026-2027



Babalola with his wife, Precy Babalola

Image from Rotary International

Shaped by his native land, the 2026-27 president carries the dynamic spirit of Nigeria with him to Rotary leadership

By Diana Schoberg | Rotary International

Babalola's leadership journey began early. The eldest of six children, he was born in Ibadan, one of the largest cities in Nigeria. His mother was a teacher and his father an accountant. "From my part of the world, when you're the first child, that has some leadership responsibilities," he says.

He went to college at what was then called the Federal University of Technology in Bauchi, an ethnically diverse city in the north where Nigeria's savanna woodlands begin to give way to the semiarid Sahel on the edge of the Sahara. The school's public image director, a member of the Rotary Club of Bauchi, asked him during his second year if he'd help organize a Rotaract club. Babalola became the club's charter president.

After earning his degree in electronics engineering, Babalola completed a year in the National Youth Service Corps. Aiming to bridge ethnic and religious divides, members of the corps serve in states other than their own. Babalola was posted to Port Harcourt in Rivers state, where the French tire manufacturer Michelin had requested electronics engineering graduates to help retool its equipment.

Before arriving in Port Harcourt, Babalola joined other newly mobilized corps members at an orientation camp. He figured since they were all fresh out of university, there must be Rotaractors among them. He posted a notice and gathered everybody together. "We started a mini Rotaract fellowship while in camp," he recalls.

Then in Port Harcourt, Babalola joined the Rotaract Club of Trans Amadi, an industrial area of the city where Michelin was located. With other Rotaract corps members, he volunteered at a facility for children with disabilities that was supported by the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt.

When his mandatory service was over, Babalola landed a job with the Nigerian branch of the Shell oil company. Only in his mid-20s, he was beginning to outgrow his Rotaract club; his job gave him the privilege of a better income than others his age. The next logical step, he thought, was to join Rotary, where he could find inspiration from successful older members. "I wanted to be in a place where I could aspire to other things," he says.

But when he went to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi and said he wanted to join, club members were stunned. One Rotarian erupted: "What's wrong with this young man? You think this is how you join Rotary?" But another Rotarian volunteered to be his sponsor, later becoming a mentor. "If that man hadn't spoken up for me, maybe I wouldn't be here," Babalola reflects. "I may have left the place and never considered joining Rotary, and that would have been the end of it."

In Rotary, Babalola found career mentors, including the chief operating officer of Shell Nigeria. "There are some people who when you see their signature on a letter addressed to you, it means only two things: You've been promoted or you've been sacked," he says. "That's the kind of person he was." Another executive in the Nigerian oil industry also took Babalola under his wing when his father died.

Through Rotary, Babalola also met his wife, Precy, the first female president of her university's Rotaract club in Port Harcourt. She pulled back from Rotary when their children were young, rejoining in 2018. Today she is a lawyer and a member of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Passport.

ROTARY FIRSTS

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



**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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