



### THE FOUR-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

1. IS IT THE TRUTH?
2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERN?
3. WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERN?

# The Spoke Newsletter



Club 529 chartered March 16, 1925

**Rotary**  
Club of Grass Valley

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Sergeant at Arms - Ed Pinto  
 - The Spoke Editor - Ryan Sykes  
 - Photographer - Fred Claessens



Spoke Notes were recorded by: Jen Malone

## President of Rotary International

[Stephanie A. Urchick](#)



## Governor of District 5190

[Dennis Geare](#)

January 13th, 2025

[www.gvrotary.org](http://www.gvrotary.org)

Volume 97, Issue 50

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Everyone seemed to be enjoying our beautiful January weather! We did welcome Dr. Derrick Brown of Western Sierra Medical Clinic. Dr. Brown is on a recruitment visit with WSMC and he is from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We were honored to hold the Lyman Gilmore Student of the Month. Congratulations for receiving this award! Your community supports you and wants you to be the best that you can be!



Today's Guest Speaker was [Dr. Scott Neeley](#). He is the President and CEO for Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH).



Dr. Neeley has been the CEO at SNMH since 2022 and the hospital has enjoyed well deserved accolades from many regulatory agencies such as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by where they received an elusive 5 star rating (only 33 given in the US). SNMH is a top-rated hospital for quality and safety, communication and staffing and rated in the Top 10 for California where SNMH was the only rural hospital identified. Dr. Neeley and his team have been able to secure physician residency, recruit a top-notch surgeon and support the growth of a successful OB program.

Dr. Neeley stated that he believes through community that we can improve our health outcomes by striving to match our health span with our life span. He stated that the best way to achieve this is outside the hospital walls and including all healthcare and community wellbeing stakeholders.

SNMH is lucky to have Dr. Neeley and were grateful to have Dr. Neeley speak to our club is lucky to have him.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: DARK	January 20
Club Board Mtg: SNMC Glasson Way @ 12	January 20
<a href="#">Rotary Peace Conference</a>	January 24-26
Club Meeting: Focus on Upcoming Club Events	January 27
<a href="#">Casino Night</a>	February 1
Club Meeting: Presenter is yet TBD	February 3
Area 4 Instrument Donation Day (Lyman Gilmore 9-1)	February 8
Club Meeting: Presenter is yet TBD	February 10
Club Meeting: DARK	February 17
<a href="#">Rotary Presidential Peace Conference</a>	February 20-22
Club Meeting: DARK	February 24
Club Board Mtg: WSMC Glasson Way @ 12	February 24
Area 4 Speech Contest (GVSD Office)	February 25
<a href="#">Club Centennial Celebration</a>	March 28
<a href="#">District 5190 Top Gun Conference</a>	May 2-4
<a href="#">Gold Country Challenge</a>	June 7
<a href="#">Rotary International Convention</a>	June 21-25

## UPCOMING PROJECTS - People of Action

<a href="#">Plastic Recycling Project</a>	Ongoing
Gaga Ball Pit Installation at TLC	TBD
Rotary At Work Day	April 25
Grad Breakfast at Chicago Park Middle School	June

## IMPORTANT MEMBER DATES IN JANUARY

Birthdays		Rotary Anniversaries	
Dennis Burbridge	Jan 3	Tim McCall	25 Yrs
		Andrew Withers	4 Yrs
		Andrew Jackson	4 Yrs

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONFESSIONS

Kelly G and family vacationed the Mayan ruins on the Yucatan Peninsula. She was especially captivated by the Mayan limestone structures and the Howler Monkey.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

- **Winston Churchill**

### Rotary Club of Grass Valley

P.O. Box 1213  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Meets @ the [Wild Eye Pub](#) on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mon at 12:15 pm

### Area 4 Rotary Clubs

[Penn Valley Rotary](#) meets @ [Players Pizza](#) at 12 pm on every other Tues

[Grass Valley South](#) meets @ the [Courtyard Suites](#) at 7 am on Tues

[Nevada City Rotary](#) meets @ [TJ's Roadhouse](#) 2nd and 4th Thurs at 12:15 pm  
Food order RSVP needed the day prior at [nrotary.org](http://nrotary.org). On the 1st and 3rd Thurs, meeting is 5:30 pm at [Round Table Pizza](#)

[49er Rotary Breakfast Club](#) meets @ the [Miners Foundry](#) on Wed at 7 - 8 am



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## Rotary Minute



As you know, the Los Angeles area has been devastated by large fires that are burning out of control in several areas. Many thousands of homes have been destroyed, and tens of thousands of residents have been evacuated. Our Rotary colleagues in the affected Districts - Districts 5280 and 5300 - have activated District Disaster Relief Funds to assist the victims of the fires. District 5280 (Los Angeles) has also created a Resource Directory and online spreadsheet for In-Kind Donations.

To access information and links to **District 5280's Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund** and other resources, please click [HERE!](#)

To access information and a link to **District 5300's Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund**, please click [HERE!](#)



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## Judith "Judy" Ward 1939 - 2024

Judith (Judy) Ward passed away at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital in Grass Valley, CA on December 16, 2024, at the age of 85. She died peacefully in her sleep after complications from pneumonia and Parkinson's Disease. Her husband Pat was constantly at her side in the hospital and their three children, grandchildren, relatives, and close friends were able to visit and spend time with her before she passed.

Judy was born on August 10, 1939, in Manchester, Connecticut to Ruth and Raymond Brunell. She was their only child. The family moved to the Philadelphia, PA area in the early 1950's and in 1955 moved to Levittown, PA.

She met her future husband, Patrick Ward, there in High School, 11th grade. They graduated in 1957 and were married after Pat was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and USAF Navigator in 1959 and Judy graduated from Penn State University in 1962.

After Air Force assignments in Bermuda, Columbus, OH, Okinawa, Omaha, NE, Grand Forks, ND, Little Rock, AR, and Omaha again, Pat retired from the Air Force in 1988, and they moved to Nevada City near family and friends.

In addition to Judy's adventures, challenges, and experiences as an Air Force Wife, she was able to achieve many personal accomplishments. She taught pre-school in Okinawa and Omaha and completed a degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of North Dakota in 1979. She also entered Federal Service employment in Omaha in 1986 and after retiring to Nevada City transferred to the USGS Water Resource Division in Sacramento before retiring in 1997.

Judy's activities after retirement were varied and reflected her wide range of interests and abilities including volunteering for many years with the Nevada County Friends of the Library and the Nevada City Inner Wheel Club (Rotary).

She also travelled extensively with Pat in their RV and had many memorable outdoor experiences with friends and family staying active as long as she could.

Judy was also an accomplished seamstress and quilter, loved art and music, especially classical, jazz, and early rock-and-roll. She additionally sang in several church choirs in several of their Air Force assignments.

She was smart, kind, knew a lot about many things, had a great memory, and a subtle sense of humor. Most important, however, was her love of family, watching her children and grandchildren all grow into responsible adults. It was the most important thing in her life. Even after her health began to fail, she made every effort to recognize and participate in their activities as she could.

She will be warmly remembered and missed by everyone who knew her.

Judy is survived by her husband of 62 years, Patrick Ward, their three children, Kevin, Karin, and Brian, and seven grandchildren: Phinneus, Adrienne, Annalise, Nicholas, Meagan, Cole, and Isabelle.

She was preceded in death by her father Raymond Brunell, her mother Ruth Brunell and her in-laws Joseph and Florence Ward.

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A Memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 10:30 am at:  
Saint Canice Catholic Church, 317 Washington St, Nevada City  
A reception following at the Saint Canice Center at 236 Reward Street, Nevada City

Donations in her memory may be made to:

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation

The Nevada County Friends of the Library

[Please click this link to have a tree dedicated and planted, send flowers, or send a sympathy gift sent!](#)

Memorial trees are planted in a forest with the greatest need, at the best suitable time (typically spring or fall), by a team of certified arborists.

Flower bouquets are arranged by local florists and delivered to a home or service. Same-day delivery is available.



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## Plastic Recycling Project

Commercial Plastic Wrap is picked-up at the following locations:

- ◆ Nevada County Food Bank
- ◆ AJA Electronics
- ◆ Hills Flat Lumber

The plastic is then recycled and made into [TREX Benches](#)

Next bench will be dedicated to Larry Allen at WSMC Glasson!

Please contact [Bob](#) for more info!



3,629 pounds of commercial plastic were collected in 2024! Let's far exceed that amount in 2025!

**GREAT WORK, KEEP IT UP!**



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## Rotarians Unite!

# ROTARY PEACE CONFERENCE

### Unite for a Better World

January 24-26, 2025

Sonoma Wine Country - Rohnert Park

Learn more: [Peace25.org](https://Peace25.org)



# Key Speakers



Jennifer Jones  
Rotary International  
President 2022-2023



Heidi Kühn  
2024 Nobel Peace  
Prize Nominee  
"Roots of Peace"



Vicki Puliz  
Rotary International  
Director 2021-2023



Michael Collins  
Institute for  
Economics  
and Peace



Mitty Chang  
CEO, President  
Candidate



Hollis Belger  
Award Winning  
Philanthropist



Kimberly Weichel  
Rotary Peace Scholar  
Author, Educator



Francesco  
Lecce-Chong  
Santa Rosa  
Symphony  
"Music as Diplomacy"



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**CASINO NIGHT AT THE**  
*Copacabana*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025**  
**6:30PM**

Nevada County Fairgrounds  
Grass Valley, California

Silent Auction ~ Door Prizes ~ Craps  
Blackjack ~ Texas hold 'em ~ Photo Booth  
Prize Wheels ~ Wine & Whiskey Pull

*Live music featuring*  
*Kris & Dominic Stepanian*

\$15 per ticket  
no host bar, food  
21+ and over

**www.GVRotary.org**



Either get tickets by using the QR Code, going to this [site](http://www.GVRotary.org), or buying them from a Rotarian!

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

Ostrofe Financial Consultants  
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Streamline Construction  
Western Sierra Medical Clinic - Grass Valley  
Bill's Chuckwagon  
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Micro Precision Calibration - Jerry Trammell  
Monty East, Gateway Real Estate  
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River Valley Community Bank



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**Rotary** 

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Healing in a Divided World*  
PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

*Istanbul, Turkey • 20-22 February 2025*  
Learn more at [Rotary.org/istanbul25](https://Rotary.org/istanbul25)

Click [HERE](#) for more info



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## *Centennial Celebration Dinner*

5:30 Cocktails ~ 6:30 Dinner

Entertainment ~ Cornish Choir  
Dom Stepanian Guitarist

\$75 per person

**FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2025**

**GOLD MINERS INN ~ 121 BANK ST. GRASS VALLEY CA**

Scan or send check  
to:



Rotary Club of  
Grass Valley

PO Box 1213  
Grass Valley Ca, 95945

Click [HERE](#) for more info





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Rotary District 5190

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

**2025 Top Gun District Conference**

**GET READY FOR TAKE OFF**

**ROTARY DISTRICT 5190 2025 TOP GUN CONFERENCE**

**AVIATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE DESTINATION; IT'S ABOUT THE JOURNEY AND THE EXPERIENCES ALONG THE WAY**

**TAKE OFF DATE: MAY 2-4, 2025**

**DESITNATION: FALLON NV.**

Click [HERE](#) for more info

This year's conference is going to be the don't miss event of the year.

Join us in beautiful Fallon, Nevada, home to the U.S. Navy Top Gun Fighter School.

Come and celebrate all the great moments and memories we made this Rotary year.



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## June 7th

Ride the beautiful and historic back country of Nevada County.

Nevada County was the heart of California's gold rush. Surrounding the charming mining era towns of Grass Valley and Nevada City, you'll ride through some of the most beautiful landscape California has to offer.



**Early Bird Registration is OPEN**  
Use code: EARLYBIRD2025

[Rotary Gold Country Challenge Online Registration](#)

Rides will be fully supported and well-marked

Rides will begin at Gate 1 of the Nevada County Fairgrounds



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## 2025 International Convention

**MAGIC ALL AROUND**  
21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Click the image below!



Register [HERE](#)