



The Spoke Newsletter



Club 529 chartered March 16, 1925

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Pinto - President
Heather Thorpe - President Elect
Jennifer Malone - Vice President
Jesse Wilson - Most Recent Past President
Tim McCall - Executive Secretary
Judy Bagley - Executive Treasurer

James Delcour - Director Year 2
Stephanie Fischer - Director Year 2
Sean Jackson - Director Year 2 (Nom)
Tom Stanley - Director Year 1
Cheri Hall - Director Year 1
Debra Plass - Director Year 1

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



Spoke Notes were recorded by: Cheri Hall

[President of Rotary International](#)

[Olayinka Hakeem Babalola](#)



[Governor of District 5190](#)

[Kurt Raffetto](#)

July 20, 2026

www.gvrotary.org

Volume 101, Issue 37

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Last week's meeting was packed full of information. [Hillary Hodge, GV Mayor](#), candidly spoke with us. She also gave us the opportunity to have direct Q & A time. Scott spoke about his involvement at his most recent [Rotary Youth Leadership Awakening \(RYLA\) camp](#).

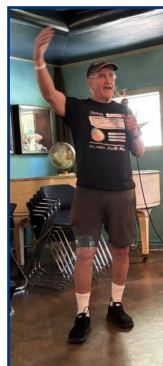
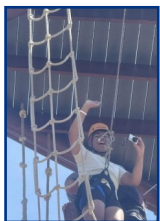
Hillary's family has called the great state of California home since the late 1800's. Since she was a young girl, she had aspirations of working in government leadership. Hillary spent over 8 years as a member of our City Council prior to being elected as our Mayor. Her campaign raised the most funds in our town to date! Hillary highlighted several points about the Grass Valley Spirit. She noted that we have a deep sense of community and we're routinely present to help one another. She did stress several points; [Parking](#) is at a premium in our town! The city is well aware of this fact and is working towards solutions. She also touched on voter issues. Having informed voters in our small town is one way to enhance our quality of life. She also encouraged citizens to speak up. One of the most effective ways to invoke change is to bring an issue to the city's attention.



Take a look at the link to see all of her previous positions. However, all good things must come to an end eventually. Hillary does plan to retire at the end of her term.

We all know how that goes, though. Haha.

Scott, Club Member and RYLA Counselor, spoke about his experiences during the 2026 RYLA Camp in June. The time there was priceless! It was such an honor to be allowed the opportunity to positively impact a person's life! Many of the participants just need help to be pointed the right way in life as they navigate it's ropes and pitfalls (pun intended) and that's exactly what the counselors are there for.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: The Life & Times of Mark Rodda	Aug 3
Club Meeting: Robin Davies - GV Chamber of Commerce	Aug 10
Club Meeting: Update on Hospitality House	Aug 17
Pool Party and BBQ @ Ed's House...RSVP	Aug 27
Club Meeting: Overview of 2026/27 Club Activities	Aug 31

UPCOMING PROJECTS - People of Action

Grange Breakfast: Rough and Ready	4th Saturday
Plastic Recycling Project	Ongoing
Alzheimer's Garden and Litton Trail: Upkeep and Maintenance	Ongoing
Rotary Magazines in Professional and Business Waiting Rooms	Ongoing
Chicago Park Middle School: Goodie Bag Project	Ongoing
Interfaith Food Ministries: Saturdays 2 to 4 times a year	TBD
Kare Crisis Nursery: Help Repairing a Fence	TBD
Grass Valley Charter School: Sign Repair	TBD
Wolf Creek Trail - Glenn Jones Park : Signage and Maintenance	TBD
Highway 49 Gateway Sign Rebuild	TBD
Nevada County Justice Center: Assemble Playground	Aug 1
Volunteer at Fairground Foundation Station	Aug 12-16

IMPORTANT MEMBER DATES IN JULY

Birthdays		Rotary Anniversaries	
Larry Faller	July 11	Larry Faller	65 Yrs
Lisa Swarthout	July 23	Kris Stepanian	36 Yrs
Kathy Thomas	July 27	Sean Jackson	16 Yrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONFESSIONS

Kelly shared about her trip to Switzerland. It sounded beautiful and now we know who to go to for the most recent 411.

Bob is setting up a trip to [AJA Video](#) and [The Center for the Arts](#).

Kathy is looking for help at the Nevada County Fairgrounds Foundation Station. It would be August 12-18. Please [contact](#) her if you can help out. Thank You!

At our meeting last week, Fred was awarded a Paul Harris Award. Congrats and Thank You!



[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 [Litton Bldg, Rm 300](#) at 7am on Tuesday

[Nevada City Rotary](#) meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 5:30pm for our Social meetings
[Contact](#) them for the location that week
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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A Message from District Governor Larry Harvey



Dear Rotary District 5190 Family, A Message of Gratitude

As my year as your District Governor comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you.

This year, I had the privilege of sharing the message, "Make Dreams Come True." Throughout District 5190, I witnessed countless examples of Rotary clubs bringing those words to life through extraordinary service and an unwavering commitment to others.

Whether it was rebuilding bicycles to give to children in need, providing clean water to villages across the globe, supporting students through scholarships, responding to disasters, or helping families facing difficult times, you transformed hope into reality. Through your generosity and dedication, you truly made dreams come true for those who needed it most.

These acts of service remind us that Rotary is much more than an organization—it is a force for good that transforms lives, inspires hope, strengthens communities, and creates lasting change. Every project, every volunteer hour, and every act of kindness reflects the very best of Rotary and demonstrates the power of Service Above Self.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you this year as your District Governor. Thank you for your passion, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to making a difference. Together, we have made dreams come true, and together we will continue creating a brighter future for those we serve.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, I am excited to support incoming District Governor Kurt Raffetto as he begins his year of service with Rotary International's message, "Create Lasting Impact," and his District theme, "Aim High with Rotary." I know District 5190 will continue to thrive under his leadership.

This is not goodbye—it's simply "see you soon." I now begin my role as your Immediate Past District Governor, where I look forward to supporting Kurt, our District leadership team, and the many committees that help make our district successful. As Past District Governor Roberta Pickett often reminds us:

"Joy is in the JOurneY."

2025–2026 Highlights

- Membership: +45 net members; 1 new Rotary Club; 2 new Rotaract Clubs.
- Rotary Foundation: Over \$1 million in giving; 35 Major Donors; 13 Major Gifts.
- Youth: 7 new Interact Clubs; expanded Youth Exchange; continued success of RYLA, REGL, and ABO.
- Far West Fest: Outstanding evaluations and strong support for future multi-district conferences every 3-5 years.

Closing Thoughts

As I reflect on this incredible year, I am filled with gratitude and pride. I have been inspired by your compassion, your leadership, and your willingness to step forward whenever your communities needed you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Governor. It has truly been one of the greatest honors of my Rotary journey.

Together, we made dreams come true.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Larry Harvey



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?

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Rotary
Club of Grass Valley



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When: Saturday, August 22
Where: Ed and Randy Pinto's
Time: 2pm to 5pm
Style: Potluck
Sign up sheet to be distributed next meeting.

- FEATURES HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS; AND WHATEVER ELSE IS BROUGHT TO THE PARTY
- SCINTILLATING DISCUSSION WILL BE ON HAND.
- SWIMMING POOL FOR KIDDOS AND ADULTS.
- IF SANDRA REMEMBERS TO BRING IT, WE WILL HAVE 'CORN HOLE' GAME
- ETC...ETC...ETC...

Hi Everybody:

This will be a potluck, with everybody bringing something to the party. Drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Please indicate if you plan to go and what you will bring. Children welcome.

I'll also have a sign up sheet at meetings.

PLEASE RSVP BY 8/15/26.



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Plastic Recycling Project

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

- ◆ Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Nevada County Food Bank
- ◆ AJA Electronics
- ◆ Hills Flat Lumber

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



We have collected and recycled almost 2,000 pounds of commercial plastic this year.
We are well on our way to a goal of 4,000 lbs. in 2026

Good Luck, Rotarians!

