




**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

Jesse Wilson - President  
Ed Pinto - President Elect  
Heather Thorpe - Vice President  
Sean Jackson - Immediate Past President  
Tim McCall - Executive Secretary  
Judy Bagley - Executive Treasurer

P. Scott Brown - Director Year 2  
Judy Bagley - Director Year 2  
Gina Will - Director Year 2  
James Delcour - Director Year 1  
Stephanie Fischer - Director Year 1  
Jennifer Malone - Director Year 1

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



Spoke Notes were recorded by: Lizzie Sykes

### President of Rotary International

[Francesco Arezzo](#)



### Governor of District 5190

[Larry Harvey](#)

May 4, 2026

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

Volume 101, Issue 30

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Heather Thorpe served as president for this meeting . Thank You!

Reverend Karen Hoida joined us as a guest of Rod and Susan.

Visiting Rotarian and Area 4 Officer, Mark Rodda, joined us today. He is also a Rotary Club Counsellor and Youth Exchange Officer. Mark introduced us to Lea Filippa Fagerberg of Denmark and Gavin McElhannon, her host and a Nevada Union High School student. They gave a lovely presentation on the Rotary Exchange Program and the great need for host families! If you are interested, contact your local Rotary Club!



We were also joined by Dr. Jean Creasey DDS and Dr. Scott Kellerman MD who both shared many updates from Bwindi, Uganda. They were also joined by visiting Rotarians Kirsten Bardwell, Nancy Chandler, Mimi Simmons and Julie Houser of 49er Rotary Club. This amazing group had all joined the trip upon completion of the Dental and Vision clinic, to serve alongside Doctors Creasey and Kellerman.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Pope Francis emphasizes empathy as a vital moral attitude for building a fraternal society, defining it as the ability to authentically listen to, welcome, and understand others' sufferings and hopes. He advocates for "imaginative empathy" to overcome indifferences, urging people to put themselves in others' shoes and cultivate tenderness in relationships.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<a href="#">Pickleball Palooza – Rotary Club of Penn Valley</a>	May 9
<a href="#">Boots, Brews, and BBQ - Area 4 Social</a>	May 14
<b>Club Meeting - DARK</b>	May 25
<a href="#">Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling</a>	May 30
<b>Chicago Park 8th Grade Grad Breakfast</b>	June 4
<a href="#">Gold Country Challenge</a>	June 6
<a href="#">Rotary International Convention</a>	June 13-17
<b>Club President Demotion Event</b>	June 15
<b>Club Meeting - DARK</b>	June 22+29

## UPCOMING PROJECTS - People of Action

<a href="#">Plastic Recycling Project</a>	Ongoing
<b>Alzheimer's Garden and Litton Trail: Upkeep and Maintenance</b>	Ongoing
<b>Rotary Magazines in Professional and Business Waiting Rooms</b>	Ongoing
<b>Chicago Park Middle School: Goodie Bag Project</b>	Ongoing
<b>Interfaith Food Ministries: Saturdays 2 to 4 times a year</b>	TBD
<b>Kare Crisis Nursery: Help Repairing a Fence</b>	TBD
<b>Grass Valley Charter School: Sign Repair</b>	TBD
<b>Wolf Creek Trail - Glenn Jones Park : Signage and Maintenance</b>	TBD
<b>Salvation Army: Build Planter Boxes and Chicken Coop</b>	Spring '26
<b>Western Sierra Medical Clinic: Planter Boxes</b>	Spring '26

## IMPORTANT MEMBER DATES IN MAY

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Rotary Anniversaries</u>	
Andrew Withers	May 2	Jon Peek	44 Yrs
Seth Leishman	May 2	Scott P Browne	30 Yrs
Jennifer Malone	May 3	Carol Elizondo	24 Yrs
Anita Daniels	May 7	John Voter	24 Yrs
Tim McCall	May 9	Tom Stanley	19 Yrs
Fred Claessens	May 13	John Peplowski	18 Yrs
Bob Long	May 14	Marcia Salter	18 Yrs
Sean Jackson	May 19	Ryan Sykes	13 Yrs
Kris Stepanian	May 20	Seth Leishman	10 Yrs
Jon Peek	May 31	Jesse McKenna	2 Yrs

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONFESSIONS

Pat presented our newest member, Dave Zucca, with his Blue Badge!



### 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

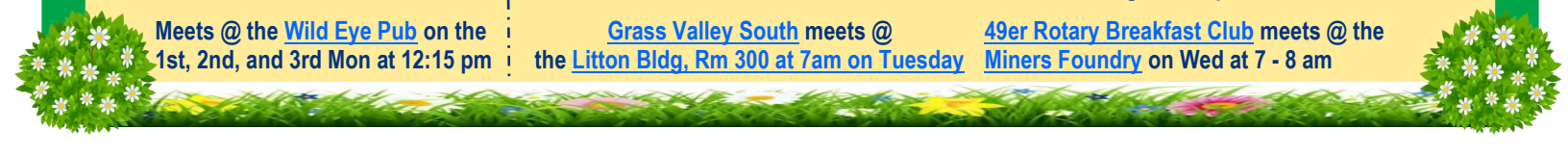
### Area 4 Rotary Clubs

[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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## 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!



Last year we collected just over 3,000 lbs of plastic. Let's exceed that number this year!

## Good Luck, Rotarians!





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Club of Grass Valley



**Rotary**  
Club of Penn Valley



## Pickleball Palooza

### Charity Tournament

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**Western Gateway Park Pickleball Courts**

**18560 Penn Valley Road, Penn Valley**

**Check-in & Warm-up**

**begins 8:15 AM**

**Tournament play**

**begins 9:00 AM**

**Rotary listens & responds to its community**  
**Fee Reduced to \$50 per player**  
**Come for the fun, the friends & to help your community**

**Round Robin - Mixer format**

**Bring your own paddle — Court shoes required**

**Non-sanctioned, Self-scoring games**

**(11 points +1 to win)**

**Beginning-Intermediate-Advanced brackets**

**Prize to top player in each bracket**

**Food trucks**

**50/50 raffle**

**REGISTER ONLINE USING QR CODE**

**Or sign-up @**

**www.PENNVALLEYROTARY.ORG**



Proceeds support local youth and families, Penn Valley schools, Thrive Store at Ready Springs School, local student scholarships & Western Gateway Park



# SignUpGenius



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# BOOTS, BREWS & BARBECUE

Rotary



Area 4 Rotary Social

Thursday May 14th

5:30pm to 8pm

Line Dancing at 6pm

Zalt & Co BBQ Food Truck

Free to attend, Line dancing \$15\*, no host food truck

Fun for the whole family!

  
**GOLD  
VIBE**  
HARD KOMBUCHA

Gold Vibe Kombuchary  
12615 Charles Drive,  
Grass Valley

\*Line dancing fee paid directly to the instructor  
cash or Venmo at the event



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## Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling

### Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling

**Saturday May 30, 2026**  
**9am-12noon**

Peace Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
828 West Main St, Grass Valley

[MAP](#)

Eligible items include cell phones, tablets, laptops, electric toothbrush handles, e-shavers, vapes, wireless headphones and earbuds, Bluetooth speakers, power tool batteries, e-bike batteries, video game controllers, etc.

Peace Lutheran does a regular CRV bottles/cans collection event, on Saturday May 30. The public can make it a one-stop recycling day at the church to drop off your CRV bottles and cans (along with plastic #1, 2, and 5) then leave all your Lithium Ion (rechargeable) devices and batteries with the Nevada City Rotary team.

### Lithium-Ion batteries & devices

Do you have old rechargeable devices or lithium-ion batteries you no longer use? Less than 5% of these devices are recycled today. Bring them in to recycle with Redwood Materials.



Rotary  
Club of Nevada City











Rotary



ESRAG  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP



REDWOOD  
MATERIALS

 RECHARGEABLE TOOLS	 LOOSE LI-ION OR NICKEL METAL HYDRIDE BATTERIES	 ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSHES	 WIRELESS HEADPHONES
 BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS	 SMARTWATCHES	 TABLETS	 CELLPHONES

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## June 6th

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.

Discover why the [Amgen](#) has selected to ride through Nevada County on multiple occasions.

Benefits youth programs supported in part by the [Rotary Club of Grass Valley](#) and [Bright Futures for Youth](#).

Train here for the [Death Ride](#) on July 11th.

Visit [www.rotarygoldcountrychallenge.com](http://www.rotarygoldcountrychallenge.com)

Rides will be supported and well-marked

Rides will begin/end at Gate 1 of the Nevada County Fairgrounds





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## Program Overview

- General Sessions will take place Sunday-Wednesday, 14-17 June 2026
- Breakout Sessions will take place Monday-Wednesday, 15-17 June 2026
- The House of Friendship will be open Saturday-Wednesday, 13-17 June 2026



Click [HERE](#) for more info