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?
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The Spoke Newsletter

Rotary Club of Grass Valley



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
Tom Stanley - Director Year 1
Cheri Hall - Director Year 1
Debra Plass - Director Year 1

- Sergeant at Arms -
Don Daniels
- The Spoke Editor -
Ryan Sykes
- Photographer -
Fred Claessens

The Heart of the Gold Country

Spoke Notes were recorded by:
Kathy Egenes

President of Rotary International
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

CREATE LASTING IMPACT
AIM HIGH WITH Rotary

Governor of District 5190
Kurt Raffetto

November 9, 2026 www.gvrotary.org Volume 101, Issue 46

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

President Ed was at the helm, presiding over another lively Rotary meeting.

Teresa Conger welcomed everyone at the door, Kris Stepanian led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pat Ward shared a Snoopy-inspired Thought for the Day.

With Don Daniels off enjoying a well-deserved vacation, it apparently took **THREE Rotarians**—Monty East, Bob Long, and Tim McCall—to fill his shoes as Sergeant-at-Arms! Judy Bagley reported no visiting Rotarians or guests, Fred Claessens was busy capturing the day's activities in photos, and Ryan and Pat handled the audio/visual setup.

A Holiday Break for the Grange The Rough and Ready Grange is taking November and December off from its popular fourth-Saturday breakfasts. Mark your calendars for their return on **January 23, 2027, from 8:30–10:30 a.m.**

Ring Those Bells! Monty East reminded everyone that it's nearly time to don our Santa hats and ring bells for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive! Our club will be stationed at **Raley's on December 12 and 19**, so keep an eye out for the volunteer sign-up sheet making its rounds.

The official Kettle Kick-Off takes place **November 18 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Grass Valley Salvation Army headquarters, and everyone is invited.

And in a clever fundraising strategy, Ryan plans to bring along his adorable new puppy. After all, who can resist dropping a few dollars into the kettle when greeted by an irresistible furry face? We're counting on the "cute factor" to work its magic!

Helping Feed Our Community Our club will lend a hand at the Holiday Food Distribution on **December 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Highway 174. If you can spare a few hours to help brighten the holidays for local families, please email James Delcour.

Bon Voyage, Bob! Bob Long is trading our chilly foothill weather for sunshine, sea breezes, and a journey through the Panama Canal. Safe travels, Bob, and bring back some sunshine!

Scott's Excellent Adventure Scott Browne earned himself a bell-ringing opportunity after sharing highlights of his recent travels to Jordan and Egypt. His adventure included cruising the Nile River, exploring ancient pyramids and temples, and seeing gold—lots and lots of gold! Scott enthusiastically recommends visiting this fascinating part of the world if you ever have the opportunity.

25 Years of Perfect Attendance! A big round of applause for Judy Bagley, who received her **25-year Perfect Attendance Pin!** That's a quarter-century of showing up, pitching in, and demonstrating what Rotary commitment is all about.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting—Foundation Drive Nevada County Media 5:30	Nov 16
Movie Night: Miners Foundry @ 6:30 - Supports WSMC	Nov 21
MAMA MIA!	
Club Meeting Dark	Nov 23
Club Board of Directors Meeting WSMC Glasson 12pm	Nov 23
Cornish Christmas	Nov 27
Serving at the Chamber of Commerce Wine Booth 4 nights	
Club Meeting Dark	Nov 30
Evening Social 5:00 pm Pete's Pizza 114 W. Main St	Nov 30

UPCOMING PROJECTS - People of Action

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
Assist NU Choir – Madrigal Event(s) @ Mt. St. Mary's	Dec 3-5
Club Christmas Party @ Scott Browne's home 5:30 pm	Dec 12
Assist with Food Distribution – 9-1 7th Day Adventist Church	Dec 17
Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Raley's	Dec 12 & 19
Wreaths Across America St Patrick's Cemetery 12 noon	Dec 19
Club Meeting Dark for the Holidays	Dec 21
Club Meeting Dark for the Holidays	Dec 28
Casino Night	Feb 27 2027
Rotary District 5190 Conference in Tahoe	May 14-16 2027
Gold Country Challenge	Jun 5 2027
Rotary International Convention in Spain	Jun 26-30 2027
Viking River Cruise	Aug 18-25 2027

IMPORTANT MEMBER DATES IN OCTOBER

Birthdays		Rotary Anniversaries	
Heather Thorpe	Nov 23	Pat Ward	34 Yrs
Monty East	Nov 30	Kelly Quinn	33 Yrs
		Wyn Spiller	32 Yrs
		Anita Daniels	31 Yrs
		Fred Claessens	16 Yrs
		Stephanie Fischer	3 Yrs



Holiday Decorations for a Good Cause A festive Christmas greenery arrangement, generously donated by Randy Pinto, brought in **$75 for PolioPlus**, with Monty East placing the winning bid. In a wonderful example of giving twice, Monty plans to donate his holiday prize to the Salvation Army Kettle Kick-Off event. Now that's the spirit of the season!

November Is Rotary Foundation Month It's time for a little Foundation housekeeping! Members can expect a call from the Foundation Committee to review and update their Foundation giving status for the year.

Rotary Club of Grass Valley

Meets @ the Elks Event Center on the 1st and 2nd Mon at 12:15 pm
AND
Nevada County Media on 3rd Mon at 5:30

P.O. Box 1213
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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 Thursday at 5:30pm for our Social meeting
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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Featured Speaker: Pat Ward — A Lifetime of Service Above and Beyond

Our own Pat Ward took center stage to share the remarkable story of his distinguished career in the United States Air Force.

Pat's journey began in 1959, when, as a 20-year-old young man from the Philadelphia area, he embarked on what would become nearly three decades of dedicated military service.

By the time he retired in 1988 at the age of 49, Pat had compiled a truly extraordinary record:

- **29½ years** of active-duty service
- **10 duty assignments**
- **8,300 hours** of flying time
- **252 combat missions**
- **60 missions over North Vietnam**

His impressive list of military decorations reflects both exceptional service and extraordinary courage. Among his many honors are the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 10 Clusters and the "V" for Valor.

After retiring from the Air Force, Pat and his wife, Judy, settled in Nevada City, where he traded military service for public service, embarking on a second career in county government.

From the skies over Vietnam to serving his local community, Pat's life has been one of remarkable dedication and service.

Thank you, Pat, for sharing your story—and, more importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

Rotary

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MAMMA MIA!

Movie Night

Give, Dance & Celebrate

with

Western Sierra Medical Clinic

Better Health Together

Saturday
NOVEMBER 21, 2026

THE MINERS FOUNDRY CULTURAL CENTER
325 Spring St
Nevada City, CA 95959

DOORS OPEN *6:30pm*
Light Greek Bites and No-Host Bar
Please dine before the movie - no dinner will be served.
Raffle and Silent Auction

7:30pm
Welcome, Raffle Drawings and Feature Film MAMMA MIA!

Best MAMMA MIA! Costume Wins!

Limited Seating!
Pre-purchase required by November 20th.
No tickets sold at the door.

GENERAL ADMISSION - Adults 18+ Event
$30.00 for theatre style seating

VIP EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:
$250.00

- Premium bistro table seating for four
- Includes 4 drink tickets (1) per guest, redeemable for a glass of house wine, beer or signature cocktail
- 20 raffle tickets to share with your table
- Assorted Mini Greek Treats served during movie

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS.

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER SUPPORTING WESTERN SIERRA MEDICAL CENTER
Funds raised will support the purchase of a new Panoramic x-ray machine bringing this advanced imaging technology to our clinic for the first time.

QUESTIONS? CALL 530-292-3478 x 229 or EMAIL Donate@wsmcmed.org

Western Sierra Medical Clinic
Better Health Together

Buy Tickets HERE

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REGISTRATION

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REGISTRATION OPENS 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

REGISTER HERE

SPECIAL DISCOUNT UP TO US$300 OFF! 17-21 SEPTEMBER 2026 ONLY

From **17-21 September**, register for the 2027 Rotary International Convention at the **lowest available registration rate.**

Imagine thousands of Rotary members from around the world gathering in one extraordinary city—sharing ideas, building friendships, finding inspiration, and experiencing the energy that happens when Rotary comes together.

Your invitation to be a part of it is here: convention.rotary.org.

Registration opens **17 September at 12:01 a.m. (Chicago time) at convention.rotary.org.** Be sure to secure your place by **11:59 p.m. on 21 September (Chicago time)** to take advantage of the **special five-day rate.**

Barcelona. Rotary. The world together. Your convention starts here.

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Come cruise with us

PARIS TO NORMANDY

Aug. 18–25, 2027

VIKING
Exploring the World in Comfort®



Set sail with your Rotary friends on a memorable Viking River Cruise, our third such adventure! We had a wonderful time in November 2025 with 36 Rotarians and their families and friends, so we've scheduled an 8-day Viking River cruise from Paris to the Heart of Normandy aboard a small longship with a 190-passenger capacity. If you've never sailed on a river cruise, you must give it a try. It's so different from ocean cruising, and there are no rough seas! **Please consider joining us, August 18–25, 2027.**



This fabulous adventure includes:

- an 8-day cruise with a river-view stateroom;
- 6 guided tours;
- a visit to one UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- all onboard meals, including regional specialties;
- a Culture Curriculum (lectures on Joan of Arc and French Impressionists, learn to say a few words en français, learn how to make tarte au citron);
- beer, wine, and soft drinks with onboard lunches and dinners;
- free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary); and
- port taxes and fees.

Pre- and post-tour options mean more days to explore and discover. Choose from three nights in Paris with a choice of three tour options or three nights in the English countryside exploring Oxford and Highclere Castle. *Some restrictions may apply.*

Average temperatures during our cruise:
Paris 77 high / 56 low
Rouen 72 high / 54 low

PARIS & THE HEART OF NORMANDY
8 DAYS • ROUNDTRIP PARIS

ENJOY PARIS & NORMAN TREASURES. Dock in the heart of Paris, admiring views of the Eiffel Tower and a replica of the Statue of Liberty from your ship. Experience history firsthand at the Normandy beaches and delight in Rouen's Gothic architecture. Explore Giverny and the charming house and gardens where Claude Monet lived and worked, the setting inspiring many of his masterpieces. This voyage celebrates history, art, food and customs in France's most alluring urban and pastoral settings.

DAY	LOCATION	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	INCLUDED TOUR
1	Paris	Embark	Overnight	
2	Paris		Evening	Panoramic Paris
3	La Roche Guyon	Morning	Afternoon	
4	Vernon Seine River	Afternoon	Overnight	Monet Foundation Scenic Cruising
	Rouen	Afternoon	Overnight	Rouen Walking Tour
5	Rouen		Overnight	Normandy Beaches
6	Les Andelys	Morning	Afternoon	Château Gaillard Walk
7	Le Pecq	Morning	Afternoon	Napoleon's Château Malmaison
	Paris	Evening	Overnight	
8	Paris		Disembark	

Call PDG Anita Daniels at 530.272.6036 for more details or to reserve your cabin.