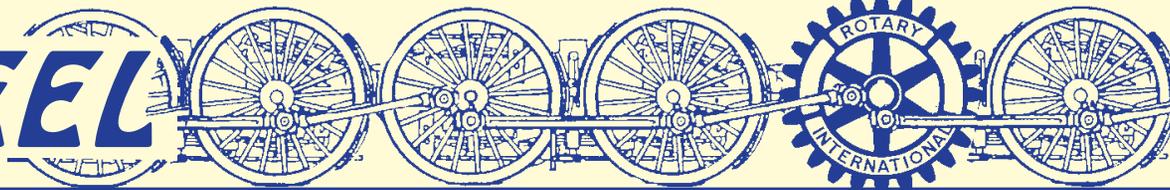


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



August 29, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 9
Editor:
Adam N. Eve (Dean H)

Pledge

Past Prez Tom Rickey led us in da pledge.

Thought for the Day

Past Prez Larry Harrison gave the thought: "I have no hesitation in saying that world peace could be achieved and made permanent if reared on Rotary's firm foundation of friendliness, tolerance and usefulness.", *Paul Harris, 1940 R.I. Convention*

Visiting Rotarians

Our new, District Governor Mitone Griffiths, was here from her home club of Half Moon Bay. Our old friend Erik Scheller, Paul and Edna Scheller's nephew, who is also an Assistant Governor, was here from Fisherman's Wharf – S.F. Also with us was Assistant Governor Judy Johnson of Novato Sunrise Rotary Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Past Prez Dean Heffelfinger introduced his granddaughter, Hannah Simon, who wants to join our Club! Shelayna Levo introduced her Grandmother, Edna Scheller, widow of the late Past Prez Paul Scheller. Past Prez & P.D.G. Russ Ketron brought his lovely spouse, Kathy. Prez Lynn brought her guest, Edgar Mendoza and finally, Mike Morrissey brought Evan Blacksea.

Announcements

Community Information

Past Prez Marty announced that Don Violin is quite ill. Don is a great guy and please send him a card and keep him in your thoughts.

Picnic Meeting

Prez Lynn reminded us that our meeting on Friday, September 12th is a picnic at Miwok Park. Bring an appetizer, or salad (Potato? Pasta? Green?), or dessert. The picnic is the same time as our Friday meetings (Noon). John Cutrufelli will be BBQing chicken, burgers and dogs (Hot Dogs, that is).

Music at Trek Winery

P.P. Marty told us that Past Prez Dennis Hagerty will be playing music at Trek Winery on Friday September 5th.

Silent Auction

Prez Elect Peter Pelavin asked us to get involved in our Italian Dinner Fundraiser Silent Auction. He's looking for donations and help. Also, since Peter our President Elect, don't call him "Pete".

Let's Throw the Bull

Past Prez Jorg Puhr Westerheide (let's just use his first name) is getting rid of his wooden bull... make an offer.

Join the Search

P.P. Jim Spilman is looking for the "Creature From the Black Lagoon" by cleaning out the Bahia Lagoon on Saturday, September 27th.

Featured Rotarian

Elizabeth "Beth" Rowett is who we were pleased to learn more about today. Beth told

us that primarily she spent 45 years in the healthcare field. Much of her service was in the hospitals as an administrator. One of Beth's objectives was to make long-time criminals turn their lives around. Beth was married for 37 years, but sadly, her husband passed away. Beth serves on the World Community Service Committee with Holly Axtell. Beth became world famous with a photo of herself and the president of Rotary International.

Speaker

Today, District Governor Mitone Griffiths visited our club. She was introduced by Assistant Governor Judy Johnson who is a member of the Novato Sunrise Rotary Club.

Again, D.G. Mitone is a member of the Half Moon Bay Rotary Club. She told what we already knew, we are a great club. She told us that Rotary is the top charitable organization, in the State, the Country, the World. And we are working for peace. Every project we do means peace. As members we are Rotary's most important asset.

Mitone told us, she is of Philippine descent. After the meeting I told her about our Mactan, Philippines project of covering all of the water wells on the island of Mactan. She told me her parents have vacation home on Mactan!

Raffle

Visiting Rotarian, A.G. Erik Scheller won the twenty-five bucks!

The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

The Four-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Mike Robbins

Embracing Change: Thriving Through Uncertainty

Thurs., October 23, 2025
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Mike Robbins, sought after keynote speaker and bestselling author, for a thoughtful, engaging, and interactive talk on how to navigate change and achieve deeper trust, better collaboration, and greater results.

With decades of experience from pro baseball to Silicon Valley, and an expert in teamwork, leadership, and emotional intelligence, Mike's clients include Google, Microsoft, Genentech, eBay, the NBA, Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, GAP, and the San Francisco Giants

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com



Upcoming Programs & Events

September

- Sept. 5 **Pickle Ball** - Krishna Raichura
Sept. 12 **Miwok Park** - Picnic Meeting
Sept. 19 **Intelligent Justice** - Rick Grossman
Sept. 26 **TGIF Social** - At Home Care Givers

October

- Oct. 3 **Community Service Report**- Jim & Marcus
Oct. 10 **Homeward Bound** - Off-Site Meeting
Oct. 17 **World Photography** - Jim Codington
Oct. 23 **Novato Speaker Series** - Mike Robbins
Oct. 24 **No Meeting**

November

- Nov. 7 **Guide Dogs for the Blind** -

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Dawson
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Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
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Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

The Rotary Club of Novato's Monthly Board and Committee Meetings

Membership

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
Contact Patty Dougherty at pattydou97@gmail.com for meeting location.

World Community Service

First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
Contact chair Holly Axtell axtell@aol.com for meeting location.

Youth Service

First Thursday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
Contact chair Eliza Roesler at elizaamackenzie@gmail.com for meeting location.

Environmental Sustainability

Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.
Contact chair Gloria Dunn-Violin at gloriaviolin@yahoo.com for meeting location.

RCN Board

Second Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
Contact President Lynn Dawson for assistance and/or location.

Community Service

Second Thursday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
Contact chair Peter Pelavin at peter@empathyestateplanning.com for meeting location.

Nova-Ro Board

Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.
Contact chair Dean Heffelfinger at deanheff@comcast.net for meeting location.

PR/Communications Committee

Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
Contact chair Phil Dougherty for meeting location.

Novato Rotary Endowment

Fourth Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.
Contact chair Peter Oser at peter@properlyinsured.com for meeting location.

Miwok Picnic Meeting! Friday, September 12th, at Noon

Bring an appetizer, side salad or dessert.
John Cutrufelli will BBQ chicken, burgers and hot dogs.



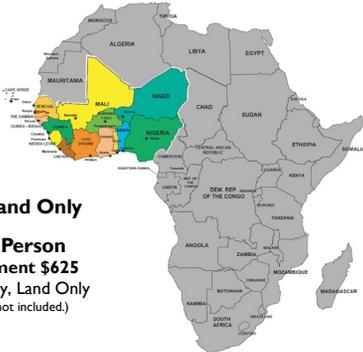
Rotary   WEST AFRICA PROJECT FAIR

Districts 9101, 9103, 9104, 9111, 9112, 9126, 9127, 9141, 9142

November 4-13, 2025
Lomé, Togo

Includes polio immunization activities!

8 Days • Land Only
\$1,899 Per Person
Single Supplement \$625
Double Occupancy, Land Only
(Round trip airfare not included.)



This week-long trip is a hands-on experience in working with the local Rotary clubs to participate in community service project, project site visits, friendships and learning how to support the Rotary projects of West Africa.

We spend two days in the field connecting with the local communities.

We attend **The West Africa Project Fair**, which showcases Rotary projects from 15 West African nations. It will be a time to learn, experience and see how you and your club can Unite for the Good of Africa.

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Jim Spilman needs volunteers for Bahia Lagoon clean-up.



A.D.G. Judy Johnson introduces D.G. Mitone Griffiths.



D.G. Mitone Griffiths talks about R.I. leadership.



D.G. Mitone Griffiths recognized Peter Oser for his generous contributions.



Jorg's favorite bull is up for auction.



President Lynn gets ready to present speaker gifts.