

Feb 23 2026

Volume 68 Issue 18

The Highlander

Rotary



Club of Foothill-Highlands

Chartered March 12, 1959
serving the Greater Sacramento Area
communities of Antelope, Elverta, Foothill
Farms, McClellan, North Highlands and
Rio Linda

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



2025-2026 R.I. Leadership

President

Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo

*Rotary Club of Santo Andre,
San Paule, Brazil*

DISTRICT 5180

District Governor

Megan Ellinghouse

Rotary Passport One

AG Area 2

Roland Wright

Rotary Club of Foothill Highlands

CLUB OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President

Patrick Magnani

President Elect.

Miguel Benitez

Immediate Past President

Dominic Mecklenburg

Treasurer

Dominic Mecklenburg

Secretary

Miguel Benitez

Club Service

Roland Wright

Community Service

Christian Dumlao

International Service

Lee Wiggins/Teresa Ferrer

Membership

Patrick Magnani

Vocational Service

Open

Rotary Foundation

Bob Spears

Sergeant-at-Arms

Joe Kaiser

Communications/Public Image

Dominic Mecklenburg

**Together, we see a world where people
unite and take action to create lasting
change — across the globe, in our
communities, and in ourselves.**



Today was the Contest of the Speeches!!

5 brilliant young minds from Rio Linda High School

Next: District Level Semi-Finals, 4/1 @ 6pm / Lion's Gate Hotel

CALL TO ORDER

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris had met for the 1st time with three other business professionals in the local community of Chicago. They continued to meet regularly “rotating” from one office to another, and that is how Rotary began. Today, over 1.2 million members in over 200+ countries across 34,000 clubs meet regularly to do good in the world!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today February 23, 2026, 121 years later to the day, the Foothill Highlands Rotary Club decided to host their annual club level speech contest that has a rich history of over 40 years and running! How cool is that to have a club meeting on such an historic date!!

Today's meeting started off with IPP Dominic Mecklenburg greeting all our members, guests and the future leaders of the community (the students). PEN Christian Dumlao led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, and President Pat gave an inspirational invocation.

We started the meeting off with 5 secret speakers, only known as speakers A, B, C, D and E. Student speakers must remain anonymous until after the speech contest is complete and judges have

**We meet on Mondays at 12:15 p.m.
Lions Gate Hotel and Suites
McClellan Business Park
3410 Westover Street**

Calendar

03/02 Beth Barde, Empyreal Logistics Co
03/09 Savannah Robinson, Anthem Blue Cross
03/16 Chris Boyler, Retired Military
03/23 Regular Meeting, Program TBA
03/30 DARK, Fellowship Activity Planned TBD

04/01 6pm District Speech Contest—Lion's Gate
04/04 New Board Retreat (Truckee/Cabin)
04/10 9am Freedom Park, District Grant Project
04/11 9am Freedom Park, District Grant Project

06/05 Demo GOLF (Roseville)
06/29 Demotion Dinner TBA (save the date)

Join Zoom Meeting
Occurs Monday from 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86245299428?pwd=TWFTUmRrK3ZxckpuaVh6ZHhyb3JDZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 4529 9428
Passcode: 399637

Club Communications - Richard Hansen
rch6242@gmail.com (916)949-0410
P.O. Box 6 North Highlands, CA 95660-0006

CLUB WEBSITE: www.foothillhighlandsrotary.org/ (Club Runner)

DISTRICT 5180 WEBSITE: <http://rotary5180.com>

DONATE TO HELP OUR ROTARY CLUB SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITABLE AND NONPROFIT CAUSES.

Foothill-Highlands Rotary Club Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

EIN 68-0392810, PayPal link on Club Website: <http://www.foothillhighlandsrotary.org/>

submitted their scores. PP Bob Spears reviewed the rules associated with the speech contest: time minimums and maximums, applause are allowed after each speaker and identities, schools, age and really everything else remains confidential until after all the speakers are finished. Each speaker was notified of the topic (spoiler alert, it's our annual Rotary International theme every year) which is "**Unite For Good**" This is where the fun begins because speeches are derived from each student's interpretation of that topic or theme. The presentations are always interesting, exciting and sometimes fascinating. Today was no different.



After the first speaker, Bob gave us an update on some history for Polio and our campaign towards its eradication in the world. This is Rotary International's main global mission. ADG Roland Wright had some up-to-date numbers and proudly stated that there has been ZERO cases of Polio worldwide so far this year!!!! Bob even had some great humor for the breaks in between other student speeches, i.e. his jokes weren't that bad this year!

The contestants continued to give some great speeches and after speaker E was finished, we were able to personally congratulate each speaker, and they stood up individually and told us their name, school and grade. We had 3 freshmen, so they're eligible to come back for 3 more years of this competition, and 2 seniors, one of which may be headed to Georgetown University next year! All of our speakers were from Rio Linda High School, and in no particular order included: Sherman Drawsand, Andres Alvarez Murga, Janessa Herndandez, Haylee Rae Swim and Mary Victoria Anaeke.

Next we introduced the judges, Honorary member, Jan Fazekas, Honorary member Dave Lopez, and Program Development Specialist w/ TRUSD and newest club member, Julian Love.

We also had the legend of Scott Rauschkolb, retired educator from Rio Linda HS, in attendance along with our new school site contact for the annual club speech contest, Daniel Kaplan, also an educator at Rio Linda HS.

Ok, time for the results. First, every student that participated in today's event was truly a winner. We all witnessed a myriad of emotions. There was courage, bravery and confidence

with each speaker bringing something unique to the table. At the end of the day, the judges voted on this order for the podium:

The 3rd place winner was Janessa Hernandez, and she received a cash prize of \$50. The 2nd place winner was Mary Victoria Anaeke, and she scored \$100 cash. The 1st place winner was Sherman Drawsand, and he got to collect \$200 and pass GO to the district level semi-finals which will be held on April 1st (no joke) at 6pm at the Lion's Gate Hotel. Save the Date! Come out and support Foothill Highland's winner, Sherman Drawsand, at the next level of competition for District 5180. The winner that evening will advance to the FINALS for our speech contest in South Lake Tahoe on May 2nd. At each level, the cash prize amounts go up, so these students have an opportunity to earn some serious money towards their future higher education.



Lastly, the media component kicked in; we took some pictures and shared applause for these future leaders of America, giving all of them a final acknowledgment one more time for stepping out of their comfort zone and doing a fantastic job! Most of us agreed, we could never have done what they are doing (RE: public speaking) when we were that age. Tremendous!!



President Pat then raised his glass and led us all in a toast to ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD!! And the meeting was adjourned.



Thank you Judy for the delicious cookies. We all gobbled them up, especially the kiddos!!

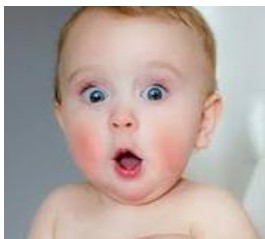


We're back on the countdown clock, 35 days left until 3/30, the due date for Dominic & Mary's 1st grandchild!



Although, word on the street is the baby is already above average in size and length, so predictions are swirling for the estimate now to be a good 2 weeks ahead of schedule!! (Dominic said he checked the Amazon tracking and it also says the same).

Here's another fun reminder! We have a Car Donation Program. Actually, they'll take any type of vehicle, pink slip or not, keys or not. The Vehicle Donation Program is easy!! Call them at 1-855-550-4483, tell them you donating to the Rotary Club of Foothill Highlands and they'll take care of the rest! Drive it in, or have it picked up (towed)—they can do it all. Side note, they take more than vehicles. Yes, boats, planes, generators, and more!!



Yes, Baby Olivia will be here in no-time!!!

The RV Fellowship Rally is still a GO! It will be from 5/17 to 5/22, location: Boulder Creek campground in Redding.



Demotion Golf will be in Roseville this year, June 5th. We have 5 signed up, contact Dominic if you're interested! We're shooting for a mid-morning tee time...



Our Polio Plus carafe collection today was \$10



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?

Ink and Toner Cartridges Mini Fundraiser



PP Dominic is continuing to collect spent ink and toner cartridges as a mini-fundraiser for the club.

IT'S SO EASY TO DO!

Keep a plastic or paper bag by your printer. As you replace the ink or toner cartridges, put the old ones in the bag and bring them to Rotary.

END POLIO NOW



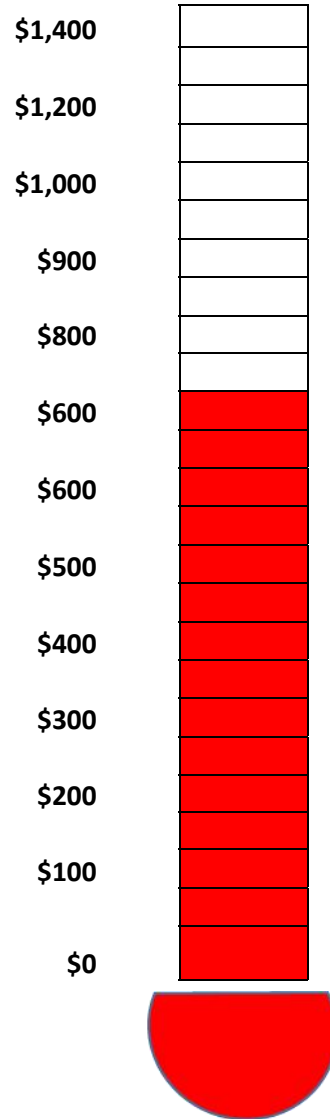
CAMPAIGN

EVERYONE BRING YOUR POCKET CHANGE — TO AFFECT CHANGE BY ENDING POLIO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

The **END POLIO NOW** campaign is still one of Rotary's top priorities. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have extended their partnership with Rotary during the critical endgame phase of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



Polio Plus



ROTARY FOUNDATION BENEFACTORS

NAME

Kaiser, Joe
 Magnani, Patrick
 Mecklenburg, Dominic
 Morgan, Cheryl (Sam)
 Spears, Robert B.
 Wiggins, Lee N.
 Wright, Roland

A Benefactor is someone who has contributed \$1,000 to the Permanent Fund or made provisions in their will of at least \$1,000 benefiting The RI Foundation.



**BELL RINGERS, GONG BONGERS
 PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS**

Miguel Benitez	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+3
Christian Dumlao	(P)(B)(GRIF)	PHF
Teresa Ferrer		PHF+1
Robert Hale	(B)	PHF+1
Richard Hansen	(GRIF)	PHF+ 8
Crystal Harding-Jenkins		PHF
Joe Kaiser	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 8
Patrick Magnani	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 3
Dr. Steven Martinez		PHF
Dominic Mecklenburg	(P)(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 8
Sam Morgan	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 8
Brent Seizer	(P)(GRIF)	PHF
Bob Spears	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 5
Lee Wiggins	(B)(GRIF)	PHF+ 7
Roland Wright	(B)(B) (GRIF) x3	PHF+ 8

Bell Ringer & Gong Codes:

(B) = Bell Ringer, \$100 donation to our Club

(GFHF) = Gong Bonger, \$100 donation to Club Fdtn

(GRIF) = Gong Bonger, \$100 donation to R/I Fdtn

(JH) = A \$100 donation to the:
 John Hallsten Vocational Scholarship Fund

(P)= A \$100 donation to Polio Plus



In Loving Memory
JOHN HALLSTEN
 1924 - 2019

In honor of the life and memory of John Hallsten, this fund will be used specifically to further Vocational Education. Students in our Rotary service area may apply.

Donate to the Foothill-Highlands Rotary Club, "John Hallsten Vocational Service Fund"

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
 EIN 68-0392810



Mail checks to:
 Foothill-Highlands Rotary Club
 P. O. Box 6
 North Highlands, CA 95660-0006

Paul Harris Fellow is an individual who contributes \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation Annual Programs Fund or other approved program. Each additional \$1,000 contribution is recognized with a plus and the number.

Rotary Club of Foothill-Highlands



FOOTHILL FARMS - ANTELOPE - MCCLELLAN PARK - RIO LINDA - ELVERTA - NORTH HIGHLANDS

Rotary Club **Vocational Scholarship Award** Application 2026

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email _____

Current School: _____

Current Class Level: _____ Target Graduation Date: _____

GPA: _____ Student related to a Rotarian: Yes ___ No ___ Explain: _____

Minimum one page essay is required on what Community Service means to you. Please reference our Rotary Theme "Service Above Self" please attach essay to this application when submitted.

Intended college, university or trade school: _____

Intended Vocation and career goal: _____

List any Community Service hours: _____

Have you been an active member in one of the following? Check any that may apply:

RYLA: Interact: Rotaract: RYE:

Have you volunteered and worked at Community Service Events? _____

If Yes, Please Explain: _____

Would you attend our Rotary Club weekly lunch meeting as a guest speaker? _____

Intangibles, e.g. this student has overcome a hardship: _____

Note: Award recipients will be contacted and notified
Return to: Roland Wright @ Rwright@hallsten.com (916) 417-1426