

BIG SKY NEWS

Rick Moore, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA

Global Coalition: La Vega Project updates

The Sustainable Global Coalition is bringing fresh water to Guatemala. The Coalition, working in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Mazatenango, representatives from Engineers without Borders (EWB), FundAzucar, and residents of the La Vega community, is making a difference. Coalition members include the following Rotary Clubs:

- Bigfork
- Columbia Falls
- Evergreen
- Kalispell (2)
- Kootenai Valley
- Missoula (2)
- Polson
- Whitefish

Read more about the Sustainable Global Coalition on page 9.

RI President-Elect makes special appearance at PETS



Rotary and Rotaract members from District 5390 and other western Districts attending PETS 2019 in Denver March 1-3 were honored to host Rotary International President-Elect Mark Daniel Mahoney, a member of the

Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama, USA.

“The clubs are where Rotary happens,” says Maloney, an attorney. He plans to support and strengthen clubs at the community level, preserve Rotary’s culture as a service-oriented member organization, and test new regional approaches for growth.

Maloney unveiled his theme for 2019-2020 — *Rotary Connects the World* — and his theme logo featuring people from around the globe linked together.

His constant message to all was to “Grow Rotary.” See page 3 for DG Rick Moore’s story about membership growth. And read more about Rotary International’s president-elect at <https://www.rotary.org/en/2019-20-rotary-president-selected>.



From District Governor Rick Moore

Healthy Mothers and Children make Healthy Communities throughout the world

April brings spring showers and a focus on mothers and children. In Rotary parlance, that means that this month highlights maternal and child health care, one of Rotary International's six areas of focus.

Rotary members understand the importance of healthy mothers and babies. Clubs support various projects to improve access to health care, train health workers in the safe delivery of babies, teach mothers how to breast feed and many other critical programs. The health of our mothers and children is important to the health of our communities around the state and the world.

“If mothers are empowered and healthy, so are their families, leading to an alleviation of poverty and hunger,” says Robert Zinser, co-founder of the Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development and retired president for Asia at chemical giant BASF.

Would it surprise you to know that we may have a Rotary International Global Grant next year here in Montana to serve women on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation? Two Rotary Clubs have submitted a Global Grant application to The Rotary Foundation for a program to provide group prenatal care for indigenous communities in five states, including Montana. Indigenous



women in the five targeted states have higher rates of premature birth and infant and maternal mortality. The goal of the project is to provide better outcomes through group prenatal care.

The project is spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Fargo-Moorhead in North

Dakota, with the Rotary Club of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, as its international partner. Five indigenous health centers, including the St. Vincent Health Center and Satellite Indian Health Services Clinic in Lame Deer, Montana, will participate.

Several of our Rotary Clubs expressed interest in participating in this Global Grant; however, we became aware of it too late in the budget cycle for them to dedicate funds for this year. One of the project proponents has offered to assist Rotary Clubs in our District prepare a Global Grant application if the clubs want to broaden the program to other reservations in Montana.

If your Rotary Club is interested in participating in this opportunity, please let me know.

—DG Rick Moore, Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise

Membership growth key to Rotary success

It was my privilege to serve as Aide to Rotary International President-Elect Mark Maloney at our recent High Country PETS May 1-3 in Denver. As Mark's Aide, I escorted him to each of the five District breakout meetings on Saturday afternoon. And five times, I heard him emphasize his message that We Need to Grow Rotary.

Mark's message is a strong one with many important points. Having just completed our pilot Rev Up Membership Summit, everything I heard Mark say to the assembled Rotary Club Presidents-Elect makes a lot of sense.

Why do we need to grow Rotary? I fall back on the adage of many hands make light work. More members in our Rotary Clubs translates into more hours available for service.

"All of you know what we need to work on," Mark told Rotarians. "We need to grow Rotary. We talk so much about membership; but last year, we set a

Rotary record nobody wanted to set ... in the number of people who left our organization. Some left because Rotary was not the experience they had hoped it would be. They left, taking with them their ability, experience and leadership. But I know we can face this challenge in an organized, strategic way."

Mark reminded us of the importance of family, particularly to younger Rotarians.

"We need to grow Rotary"
– Mark D. Maloney

"We should never expect our members to make a choice between their families and Rotary," he said. "Let's take some practical steps to change the existing culture, be realistic in our expectations and welcome children at all Rotary events."

He also drew laughter when he said that there is nothing in the Rotary Constitution or Bylaws that requires you to have a meal with a Rotary Club meeting. To make our clubs more inviting to everyone, we should think outside the box, and look at different ways of holding our meetings to be more inclusive. Appropriately enough, this is a point emphasized by our own Assistant Governor Dean Boyle when he described an initiative by the Rotary Club of Great Falls that allows members to attend evening meetings instead of the traditional noon meeting. As we attract new, young professionals into our Rotary Clubs, we need to provide them the opportunity to grow by giving them leadership roles.



RI President-Elect Mark D. Maloney with DG Rick Moore. Photo by Gwenna Peters, PE, Rotary Club of Billings West.

–Cont page 4

– MEMBERSHIP from page 3



(l. to r.) Matt Watts, Trevor Hudson, Chance Lee and James D'Amato

STRIVE thrives in Hamilton High School

Three Hamilton High School students benefiting from STRIVE, a new mentor program, were guests at the March 25 meeting of the Rotary Club of Hamilton. Trevor Hudson, Chance Lee and James D'Amato all participate in STRIVE, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hamilton. Mentors give students a boost in their development. Matt Watts from the Hamilton School District was on hand to introduce the students. Carol Holman has been the "spark plug" for getting STRIVE established.. STRIVE was promoted as a new District 5390 project by former DG Joe McBride.

–Gordon Read, Rotary Club of Hamilton

Mark stressed, however, that being a Rotary Club president should not be a full-time job. The job of Rotary Club president should not be too great of a time

Every Rotary Club should have an active membership committee comprised of members with different professional backgrounds, "classifications" in the Rotary world. Mark suggested that we should look to find new

members for our clubs not only based upon who we know, but also based upon what professions are missing from our club. Clubs are healthier when their membership represents diverse professional backgrounds. So look to your community to identify professions represented in your community who are not represented in your club. Seek out the leaders of

those professions and invite them to join Rotary.

In order to implement and sustain any membership program, your club needs a good membership goal and membership plan. Participants in our membership summit learned that the goal should be specific, measurable and attainable. The membership plan should contain a series of tasks to accomplish the goal. Only by doing so and being held accountable for the accomplishment of the tasks associated with the plan will a club grow consistently.

I have asked all clubs that participated in the Membership Summit to review the draft plan with your membership, and then adopt and implement a final plan. Let's all work to Grow Rotary over the next decade and beyond.

—DG Rick Moore, Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise

"Let's all work to grow Rotary over the next decade and beyond." – Rick Moore

Polson Rotary Club offers kids a free movie and homemade breakfast burritos wrapped with care

The Rotary Club of Polson continued its annual support of the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) that took place January 25-27 in Polson.

Fifty-six movies were shown over a three-day period at the 7th annual event. The films included both full-length and short features from all over the world with movies

from China, France, Austria, the UK, Canada, Iran and America. Eight of the movies were made in Montana.

The club sponsored the early Saturday morning movie for children. The free showing featured the

movie "Smallfoot." Prior to the movie, a small group of Polson Rotarians gathered in the early morning darkness and prepared breakfast burritos

for the movie attendees. Around 100 kids from the local area munched on burritos and watched the film. A few of the children had never been to a movie theatre before. Some had never eaten a breakfast burrito.

Our club focuses on benefitting

area youth and this event helps us reach out to a large and diverse group of kids from Polson and surrounding communities.

—Larry Peltz, Rotary Club of Polson



District 5390 Calendar

May 3-5: 2019 District Conference, Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, Helena, MT

June 1-5: Rotary International Convention, Hamburg, Germany

June 1: ChoffeeCon, Missoula

June 10: Montana Rotary Golf Championship, The Ranch Club, Missoula

September 5-8: Rotary Zone Institute 2019, Denver, CO

Special Month

April is Maternal and Child Health Month. How does your club support this RI goal?

Big Sky News

Big Sky News is a monthly publication of Rotary District 5390, Montana, USA.

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Highlights from PETS 2019



Elephant Auction connects community — Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions alike

Glendive community service clubs know how to have a good time. This year, the local Glendive Lions Club resurrected a white elephant auction and invited Rotary and Kiwanis Club members to join them. The Lions turned the event into a more upscale affair which paid off. Lions sold \$5 pulled pork sandwiches for the BYOB event.

It's a fun network opportunity for small town service groups who share the same goal of making their community and the world better.

—Peggy Iba, Rotary Club of Glendive



We Rotarians shared hot cider, Amaretto and microbrews. We don't like to drink alone!

Everyone brings at least one auction item that is tagged for the service club of the donor. The money raised from that item goes to that service club.

Items ranged from a plate of "over my dead body" cookies which sold for \$50, to a signed helmet and football from local NFL player Mike Person with the San Francisco 49ers that sold for \$350.

Ever been to an RI Convention?

The flight was terribly long, as I recall. Getting from the Bay Area of California to Melbourne, Australia, took about 20 hours. It was 1994. My husband and I were going to our very first Rotary International Convention.

Before we touched down, the pilot came on the audio system and welcomed Rotarians to Australia. I was most impressed. But it didn't end there.

That welcome extended throughout our trip. From the life-sized kangaroo greeting us at the airport, to the "Welcome Rotary" signs posted in every storefront, to the Kiwanians who invited us to join them at a local winery while guests sang *Waltzing Mathilda* over our three-hour lunch, everyone was friendly and kind in a way I had not experienced with my travels in the past.

Not only the locals, I met so many Rotarians from places like Russia, England, France, and Japan. We shared Rotary in common, and quickly discovered other commonalities as our conversations progressed. Along with 25,000 other Rotary members from throughout the world, we made friends everywhere.

If you've never attended a Rotary International Convention, consider doing so. This year's convention takes place June 1-5 in Hamburg,

Germany. Information about registration is on the RI website at rotary.org. Germany is a beautiful country with friendly and welcoming people.

If you can't make Hamburg, consider attending a future Rotary International Convention. There are some great locations coming up.

The 2020 convention takes place June 6-10 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Think hula dancing and sandy beaches!

Or the 2021 convention is scheduled for June 12-16 in Taipei, Taiwan. Our own Rotaract Secretary General Nathan Dudden works in Taipei and is excited at the thought of having Montana Rotarians in town.

When you do attend, be prepared for the experience of a lifetime as Rotarians from around the globe gather to celebrate Service Above Self and all the many accomplishments we have made as Rotary members. You deserve to experience that at least once in your life. I am fortunate to have experienced three Rotary International conventions in Melbourne, Nice, and Atlanta. I highly recommend you attend one in the future. Whether it's *Guten Tag* or *Aloha*, you'll be glad you did.

—Victoria Emmons, *Rotary Club of Missoula*

Rotary
District 5390



Global Coalition: La Vega Water Project

Note: We sincerely hope your Club and/or District will consider pledging support to this project by signing the "Donor Commitment Form". We expect to submit the final Global Grant application by June 1, 2019, anticipating construction will take place in 2020.

The Global Coalition continues to thrive. I want to offer everyone a summary of our trip to Guatemala following the Project Fair in Costa Rica.

We had an incredibly productive visit in Guatemala, meeting with our partners and friends from the Rotary Club of Mazatenango, representatives from Engineers without Borders (EWB), FundAzucar, and residents of the La Vega community.

On Monday morning, we met with several key members of the Rotary Club of Mazatenango who are directly involved and responsible for the La Vega project. We reviewed and finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their club, FundAzucar, and the Rotary Club of Kalispell. We agreed on roles and responsibilities. We

discussed requirements for submitting the Global Grant application and assigned responsibility for completing each document with due dates noted. We also further refined the organizational structure for the project.

Two members from EWB drove about an hour from their offices in Quetzaltenango to join us on Monday morning in Mazatenango. Besides providing critical language translation, they offered invaluable information about how to organize and implement a water project in Guatemala. Within their district, they are working with EWB Chapters to implement 18 projects. They will continue to be an incredible resource for us as we move forward with La Vega and future projects.

On Monday afternoon, Terri Smiley, members of the Rotary Club of Mazatenango and I met with Ruben Espinoza, manager of FundAzucar, to review the revised MOU focusing on the role of FundAzucar. Rueben told us that FundAzucar will provide support and training for Governance and Health & Hygiene. He agreed to work closely with the Rotary Club of Mazatenango and the community of La Vega to create a Business Plan, Administration Plan, and an Operations & Maintenance Plan. Additionally, since FundAzucar designed the water system, they will provide construction management services at no cost.

By Monday's end, all major partners had agreed to sign the MOU and work to complete all documents that must accompany the Global Grant application on June 1, 2019. Those documents include:

- 1. Signed MOU*
- 2. Business Plan*

—Cont. on page 10



COALITION from page 9--

3. Administration Plan
4. Operations and Maintenance Plan
5. Health & Hygiene training material and identified instructor
6. Governance training material and identified instructor

On Tuesday, all partners traveled to the community of La Vega. We met with members of the Cocode, the community elected officials, and residents. The turnout was great. Members from each partner organization spoke, including Terri and I. Terri spoke for about five minutes in Spanish about the status of funding and the project schedule. Members of the Rotary Club of Mazatenango and FundAzucar spoke at length about the tasks required to complete the grant application and the participation needed from the community of La Vega to prepare for the construction and operation of the water system. The community has been waiting for 24 years for a secure and safe source of drinking water. Several residents spoke in support of the project and their desire to provide safe drinking water to their community.

On our way back to Mazatenango, we stopped by the community of El Progreso. In November 2018, our Sustainable Global Coalition along with the Rotary Club of Mazatenango and the community of El Progreso completed the construction of a well and water storage tank. The women of El Progreso no longer collect water from a nearby polluted stream several times a day. Now every home has access to safe drinking water. We intend to carry the lessons learned from this project and from the two other successful water projects in Guatemala to ensure that the La Vega water project is constructed correctly, cost effectively, and is sustainable.

The last remaining item is to raise funds. This is your opportunity to participate in a life changing project for the residents of La Vega. Your participation in this project can range from contribution of money to traveling with other Rotarians to Guatemala to monitor the project. We hope you decide to join our team by signing the Donor Commitment Form and returning it to me by May 1, 2019.

Thanks again for your interest in the La Vega Water Project. If you have any questions about the project or how to get involved, please call or email me.

Sincerely,



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La Vega Project Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Montana-Rotary-Coalition-La-Vega-Water-Project-586239401846644/>

