

# BIG SKY NEWS




**Sandy Wong, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA**

## Tintinnabulation for The Salvation Army



Rotarians are always ready to help! During the holiday season, members from the Rotary Clubs of Kalispell Noon, Missoula Noon, Missoula Sunrise and Missoula Rotaract rang the bell to raise funds for The Salvation Army. When Wendy Ostrom Price (pictured far left) of the Rotary Club of Kalispell Noon found herself ringing solo on her shift, Frank Garner and Lucy Smith showed up so she wouldn't be alone. That's teamwork!



Missoula clubs held a Bell Challenge to see which club could raise the most. The Missoula Noon Club won the challenge, but Sunrise members vow they'll take the honors next year. Pictured left: Bob Homer & Mike Peissig, Holli Rankin & Scott Johnson, all of Missoula Noon. Above right: Kyra Cronin & Natalie Hofstad, Missoula Rotaract. Thank you to the many Rotarians from clubs all over Montana who were out there ringing the bell and living Service Above Self this season. Yay, Rotarians!

## Rotary Club of Polson distributes 400 dictionaries to local third graders



Dave Fansher knows the value of geography. As coordinator of the 2019 dictionary distribution project at the Rotary Club of Polson, Dave and his volunteer helpers navigated last fall an area 45 miles wide and 65 miles long to deliver dictionaries to third graders. Their goal? To educate Polson area schoolchildren not only

Dave and his helpers distributed 388 dictionaries from mid-October to mid-November in ten public schools and five private schools. From the largest school with five classes totaling 118 students to the smallest with only two students, Polson Rotarians handed out dictionaries to all third graders, including 20

copies for the Lake County School Superintendent to distribute to home school students. Rotarians gave an additional twelve dictionaries to teachers and administrators making a grand total of 400 dictionaries distributed.

Based on feedback from teachers, students and administrators, Polson Rotary members



about word meanings and spellings, but also about geography.

The book presented to each student is more than a dictionary, says Dave. It includes a mini-atlas with maps, world facts and a potpourri of miscellaneous information.

Teachers told Rotary members that for many students, the dictionaries represent the first book the students have ever owned. Some teachers said they incorporate the dictionary into the daily school routine by giving assignments to look up words or facts.

concluded that donating dictionaries provides a great service to the youth of their community. While the dictionary distribution project may not be the highest profile activity for the club, it might be the one with the greatest community impact.

—Larry Peltz, Rotary Club of Polson

*Photo by James Oates. Pictured with third graders are: (l. to r.) Dave Abell, Roxanne Duckworth, Jeff Tuttle and Dave Fansher.*

## Billings Club promotes Vocational Service through "Ignite Talks"

Ever asked a fellow Rotarian about his or her career? One way that members of the Rotary Club of Billings learn about one another's professions is through "Ignite Talks" — social networking events that take place six times throughout the year. The events represent one of the ways the club promotes vocational service.

As a service organization, Rotary's purpose is to "encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise." Rotary's commitment

to Service Above Self is channeled through five Avenues of Service: Club, Vocational, Community, International and New Generations.

To support Vocational Service, Rotarians in Billings meet several times a year at 5:30 pm, mingle and enjoy hosted hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants. During the hour spent together, selected Rotary members present 5-minute "Ignite Talks" to help everyone get to know more about their fellow members. The club successfully combines fellowship and vocational services to meet its goals.

—Sandy Wong, DG, Rotary Club of Billings

**JANUARY IS**

**VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

*"Vocational service gives Rotarians the opportunity to help others escape poverty and gain a measure of self-respect. As business and professional leaders, we have a duty to lead and encourage good ethics through vocation."*

Carlos Frum, PDG D6440

Rotary  

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



## Townsend Interact offers leadership training

Thanks to some proactive Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp alumni, Broadwater High School (BHS) freshmen in Townsend, MT, are getting a head start on how to be leaders.

Townsend Interact Club hosted its third annual Freshman Leadership Training January 22 for BHS's Class of 2023. The event was held at The Lodge of

Townsend, thanks to a generous donation from Tina Homann. Interact members worked with BHS administration to provide the peer-led training.

Interact is a Rotary-sponsored youth organization for students 12-18 years of age. Through service activities, Interactors learn the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, and advancing international understanding and goodwill. Townsend Interact Club, sponsored by Rotary Club of Townsend, was launched in 2018 by an exceptional group of students in the Townsend community.

The idea for the Freshman Leadership Training came from Interact members who attended RYLA camp. Every year the Rotary Club of Townsend selects four or five incoming sophomores to attend the week-long camp outside of Livingston. Rotary District 5390 organizes the intensive leadership camp each

year and gives young Montanans the opportunity to develop their skills as leaders while having fun and making connections with other youth from across the state.



The Townsend Interact members like to think of their Freshman Leadership Training as a “mini-RYLA” camp. The training focuses on developing leadership skills and fostering a

team environment for the Freshman Class. Interact members believe that learning these important skills will help reduce school bullying, identify future leaders, and encourage students to complete high school.

Jen Lane, Interact Club advisor, served as event leader while Interact members led the activities.

“I love the peer-to-peer mentoring that this training provides,” said Lane. “Our Interactors really shine at this event and really bring out the best in all the students.”

Interact members met the freshmen students at noon at their school and walked with them to The Lodge. Once there, they enjoyed lunch together and heard from Daniel Wyse, Interact’s president, and Jeff Langlinais, immediate past president of Townsend Rotary club. With the help of a few Rotarians, Interact members spent three and a half hours working with the Class of 2023.

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From District Governor Sandy Wong



# 2020: A New Year, A New Decade, and New Opportunities to network, learn and serve



Welcome to January – a new year – a new decade, and new opportunities to network, learn and serve while building goodwill and better friendships!

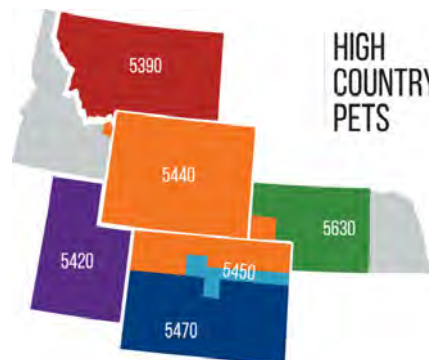
Two exciting events are coming up very soon!

First, club presidents-elect and presidents-elect nominees should be registering for training at High Country PETS held at the Denver Renaissance Stapleton Hotel on Quebec Street in Denver, CO, set for Feb 28-March 1. Here is the best news – your district budget covers the cost of registration for each club president to attend and reimburses your club half the cost of the hotel room fee.

Your District Governor-Elect Sandy Carlson (Kalispell Daybreak Club) and the District Training Team have been working to plan district-based information and resources through three district sessions. This is the place to make connections with others from your district and get to know the person who will be in the district governor role during your year in club leadership. This is also where presidents-

elect review, discuss and vote on our district’s budget for the next Rotary year.

With six districts participating in High Country PETS, we bring in great speakers to encourage and motivate you, including RI President-Elect Holger Knaack (Germany) and RI Director Johrita Solari (Orange County, CA). Check out the schedule and speakers at the [HighCountryPETS.org](http://HighCountryPETS.org) website and come back to see updates in the coming weeks.



Bring your Rotary enthusiasm and be ready to both learn and teach as we share with each other in Denver!

Secondly, mark your calendars for the Annual District Conference April 17-18, set for Fairmont Hot Springs! It’s family-friendly and we will have some top notch speakers, a service project, opportunity to visit nearby landmarks, and have some fun with Rotarians from across our state! Watch for registration details soon!

## TRAINING from page 4

After lunch, students were divided into teams and took turns rotating to various leadership and team-building activities. They participated in an egg-drop challenge, obstacle course, a puzzle race, and even tried their hand at negotiations.

“This year was the best training yet,” Lane said. “I was really impressed with the freshman class. They were enthusiastic and left in high spirits. I hope they can carry that positive energy with them for the rest of the school year and throughout their time at BHS.”

—Patrick Plantenberg, chair, District 5390 Public Image Committee, Rotary Club of Townsend

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## Montana Clubs Connect

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As District Governor Sandy Wong makes her way across the state from one Rotary Club to another, from rural communities to bigger cities, she’s creating connections and she’s happy about that.

At mid-year of her term, Sandy says she has visited more than half of the nearly 60 Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs within District 5390.

At each stop along the well-traveled roads of the state, Sandy arrives bearing gifts. As part of her program to “Pay it Forward,” she asked each club to offer a meaningful gift she could share with the next club that she was to visit. Clubs could then auction or raffle the gift, as they chose, and the proceeds would benefit a favorite charity of the club.

Clubs have been very creative, according to Sandy, with some designing gifts that reflect their local communities and others crafting exciting evenings of fun.

The Rotary Club of Lewiston offered a train ride on the Charlie Russell choo-choo together with a meal gift certificate and a hotel stay.

Sandy said the Rotary Club of Deer Lodge donated an original painting, while the Rotary Club of Polson conjured up a basket filled with Cinco de Mayo themed items, including Cuervo, margarita mix, glassware, chocolates and yummy snacks. The Polson Club’s basket was auctioned at the Rotary Club of Missoula where it earned \$100 in proceeds. Missoula sent a basket of champagne and chocolates on to the next club visited by the District Governor.

True to its history, the Rotary Club of Butte donated some valuable pieces of copper, according to Sandy, while the Rotary Club of Laurel combined a host of gardening supplies, thanks to one of its members who co-owns Ace Hardware. Gifts included gardening tools, knee pads, gloves and Miracle Grow, among other things. The Rotary Club of Livingston, fly fishing capital of the world, donated custom fly ties, a gas card, and a Rotary baseball cap. The Rotary Club of Helena Sunrise wrote a check for \$100 for the next club to spend as it likes.

Sandy says she is happy that clubs are connecting in a new way this year by paying it forward.

—Victoria Emmons, Rotary Club of Missoula

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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“We are obliged to respect, defend and maintain the common bonds of union and fellowship that exist among all members of the human race.”

*Cicero (106 B.C. - 43 B.C.)*

## Missoula Rotaract members visit Missoula Rotary Clubs



As any great leader should, Kyra Cronin stands with her troops. Newly-elected president of the Missoula Rotaract Club, Kyra accompanies and encourages fellow Rotaract members to attend breakfast, lunch or dinner meetings at one of the three Rotary clubs in Missoula. She believes it is important for Rotaract members to attend Rotary meetings to network with Rotarians and to better understand the mission of Rotary International.

Missoula-area Rotary clubs all support Rotaract's efforts to date to enhance its membership, service in the community, and fellowship. The clubs always welcome the young Rotaract visitors with a smile.

Kyra took on the job of reviving a club that had gone dormant for more than a year following the departure of most of its members. The club was previously a University of Montana

campus-based club and, thus, members eventually graduated from college and returned to their hometowns or to new jobs elsewhere. The new Rotaract in Missoula is community based and its members represent young professionals working in Missoula.

The club is planning a special fundraiser in February to support Australian firefighters. Australia suffered one of

the worst fire seasons in its history this year.

The group has also gotten together regularly for meetings and fellowship.

Kyra and Natalie Hofstad, vice-president of Missoula Rotaract, both work at UM's Mansfield Center.

Nathan Dudden, past president of the Missoula Rotaract, Secretary-General of Rotaract, Western Division, and a member of E4 Montana's First E-Club, was in town this month. Nathan resides in Taipei, Taiwan, where he teaches English.

*Pictured above: Visiting Missoula Rotary on January 22 were Nathan Dudden, Rotaract Secretary-General, Western Region, E4 Montana's First E-Club; Kyra Cronin, president, Missoula Rotaract; Natalie Hofstad, vice-president, Missoula Rotaract.*

—Victoria Emmons, Rotary Club of Missoula



## District 5390 Calendar

Feb. 1: Rotary Club of Kalispell  
100-Year Anniversary

Feb. 28-March 1: High Country  
PETS, Renaissance Denver  
Stapleton Hotel

April 17-18, District  
Conference, Fairmont Hot  
Springs, MT. RI Director-Elect  
Virpi Honkala, from Finland,  
will join us.

June 6-10, 2020: Rotary Intl.  
Conference, Honolulu, HI

## Special Month

January is Vocational Service  
Month. Share your profession!

## Big Sky News

*Big Sky News* is published monthly  
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## Come Celebrate! Rotary Club of Kalispell is turning 100 years old and we're throwing a party!

### When

Saturday, February 1, 2020  
5 pm - 9 pm MST

### Where

Snowline Acres Event Center  
3315 U.S. Hwy. 93 S  
Kalispell, MT 59901

### Cost

Tickets are \$50 per person at  
eventbrite.com (search for Rotary

Club of Kalispell's 100-Year  
Anniversary Party).

The public is invited to celebrate  
everything our club has done to  
change lives for the better in the  
Flathead Valley and beyond.

Dinner, no-host bar, a live band,  
dancing and a lot of your favorite  
people! We hope to see fellow  
Rotarians from all over the state!



## EXTRA EXTRA!

### Read all about it!

ROTARY CLUB NEWS EDITORS:

The next DEADLINE for stories in BIG SKY NEWS is **February 5, 2020**, for the February issue. Send photos in .jpg format and stories in Word or Text to: Big Sky Editor at [district5390.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district5390.newsletter@gmail.com). Please rename each photo submitted to indicate club name and subject, for example: Kalispell100. If possible, include names of those in the photo. Please also include the name and Rotary Club of your story's author. Thank you!