

CONFERENCE SESSIONS



Session Schedule
Presenter Bios
Session Descriptions



D5580 2022 District Conference Rotary-Centric Sessions

April 21 - Thursday

Welcome and Introductions - 11:00 am

Session 1 - 11:30 am

How to Take On Goliath By Being Your Best
Dick Beardsley

Session 2 - 12:00 pm

Positive Peace, Kyle Haugen

Session 3 - 12:30 pm

Youth Exchange & RYLA Updates
Blake Carlson, Beth Althoff

Session 4 - 1:00 pm

Grants, Molly Herrington

Session 5 - 4:00 pm

Club Leadership Transition Playbook Using ClubRunner
Mark Leutgeb, Kris Lee

Session 6 - 4:30 pm

WASH, Julio Grazioso

Session 7 - 5:00 pm

Rotary Ends Human Trafficking Music Festival
Mary Kay Verkennes, Susan Bricker, Linda Marrin

April 22 - Friday

Session 8 - 11:30 am

End Polio Now, Tim Mulcrone, Bob McLean

Session 9 - 12:00 pm

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Laura Lobo

Session 10 - 12:30 pm

End Human Trafficking
Stacy Schaffer, Nikki Blowers

Session 11 - 1:00 pm

Foundation & Annual Fund

Tim LeClair, Herb Schmidt, Tricia Buntin

Session 12 - 4:00 pm

Public Image, Club Websites, Stephen Margarit

Session 13 - 4:30 pm

Visioning, Blaine Johnson

Session 14 - 5:00 pm

District Awards/Recognition
Rozanne Casey

Session 15 - 5:30 pm

Closing Comments

Keith Brokke, D5580 District Governor 2021-22
Kay Biga, D5580 District Governor 2022-23

THURSDAY 11:00 AM

WELCOME!

KEITH BROKKE
D5580 DISTRICT
GOVERNOR 2021-22



CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Rotary 
Impact
VIRTUAL DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE
2022 APRIL 21-22, 2022

Help us make an IMPACT in our communities and beyond!

HOW TO TAKE ON GOLIATH BY BEING YOUR BEST

SESSION 1
THURSDAY 11:30 AM

DICK BEARDSLEY



Have you or your organization struggled against circumstances far beyond your control? Many of us are weary from an onslaught of challenges, such as pandemics, economic hardships and global political unrest. In the 1982 Boston Marathon Dick Beardsley was tasked with taking on the world record holder and never before challenged, the “King” Alberto Salazar. From the start of training to the unbelievable finish, Dick shares deep insights about how to take on the “Goliaths” in life. Each of us will learn how to reach for excellence and make it a reality.

Dick is a compelling motivational and inspirational speaker living in Bemidji, MN. He's overcome many tremendous obstacles in his lifetime and now shares his stories with audiences of all types and sizes, ranging from 5 to 15,000 people. The response is always the same. By teaching us how to overcome adversity, Dick Beardsley has made a difference in the lives of people from all walks of life.

Dick has written an international best-selling autobiography *Staying the Course, A Runner's Toughest Race*. He is also one of the subjects in the best-selling book *Duel in the Sun: The Story of Alberto Salazar, Dick Beardsley, and America's Greatest Marathon*.



POSITIVE PEACE

SESSION 2
THURSDAY 12:00 PM

KYLE HAUGEN



PDG Kyle Haugen, Rotary Zones 25B & 29 Public Image Coordinator, will share how The Rotary Foundation allows us to maximize the impact we make in our communities and around the world.

Hear about how we make a difference through the Seven Areas of Focus and the concept of Positive Peace!

Kyle has been a member of the Rotary Club of Prior Lake, MN since 2003, and has served many roles in the club and beyond. As District 5960 Governor, he was 2017-18's youngest governor in the world. Now as the Rotary Public Image Coordinator for Zones 25B and 29, he is leveraging the knowledge he gained as District Rotary Foundation Team Leader (2019-21). Kyle's extensive worldwide travel for Rotary projects led to his recognition in 2021-22 as one of eight recipients of Rotary's International Service Award for a Polio Free World.

Kyle is an agent and registered representative with Haugen Insurance and Financial Solutions, which he co-owns with his father, Jack, who is also a Rotarian.



YOUTH EXCHANGE & RYLA UPDATES

SESSION 3
THURSDAY 12:30 PM

BLAKE CARLSON



Blake Carlson has been a member of the Crookston Rotary Club for 24 years. He presently serves as the District Inbound Coordinator for youth exchange. Past Rotary positions include Crookston club President and District Chair for youth exchange.

BETH ALTHOFF



Beth Althoff loves solving new problems every day as an Abbott product manager. She completed an MBA degree at Minnesota State University Moorhead, not far from her hometown in SE North Dakota. She currently directs District 5580 RYLA, a high school leadership program in Northern Minnesota. Beth lives in Kansas City with her rambunctious cat, Annabelle.

GRANTS

SESSION 4
THURSDAY 1:00 PM

MOLLY HERRINGTON



D5580 Grant Types
D5580 Grant Requirements
Grant Management Seminar
MOU & Addendum
Grant Application

D5580 Foundation - Grants Chair
Bismarck Rotary Club

As a trained MG Rush Facilitator, Molly's focus is on building consensus and producing tangible, measurable results. She is also certified in federal grant writing and review through the Grantsmanship Center.

Molly's clients across the US benefit from her leadership development coaching, and her skillful training in facilitated strategy, program development, and stakeholder engagement.



CLUB LEADERSHIP TRANSITION PLAYBOOK USING CLUBRUNNER

SESSION 5
THURSDAY 4:00 PM

MARK LEUTGEB



Mark is a 30 year Rotarian and PP of Skyline in 1999 - 2000. He was a 30 year owner of an engineering firm before retiring in 2018.

KRIS LEE



Kris is a Skyline member and the Media and Technology Coordinator for the Lake Superior School District. She developed and maintains her club's website and social media.

Annual Club leadership transition time is a great time to start or to expand using the benefits of Clubrunner to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Club administration.

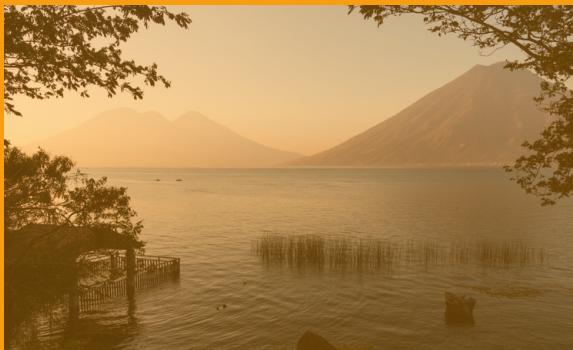
AG Mark Leutgeb and Kris Lee will share how developing a "Transition Playbook" will help get your club's leadership off to a good start!

ClubRunner was developed specifically for administration of Rotary Clubs and Districts. Information input at the Club level is automatically shared with the District and Rotary International. Benefits include website and bulletin design, communications to members and groups, document management, dues billing, and Club calendar management.

WASH

SESSION 6
THURSDAY 4:30 PM

JULIO GRAZIOSO



Learn more about how District 5580 contributes District Designated Funds (DDF) toward the WASH project in Guatemala – adding water & sanitation to 14 schools within a 65 mile radius of Guatemala City.

Born and raised in Guatemala City, Julio Grazioso is a retired Civil Engineer and has been a Rotarian since 2006. He is a member of Club Rotario Guatemala Vista Hermosa, and was District Governor of District 4250 (Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize).

Julio served in the Water and Sanitation in Schools committee of The Rotary Foundation, President of the Committee for Reconstruction after the eruption of Volcano Fuego, Board of Engineers without Borders, advisor of the Guatemala Literacy Project, and peace ambassador for the Government of Guatemala.

When Julio is not working in service projects, he spends most of his time hiking and considers himself a pilgrim.



REHT MUSIC FESTIVAL

SESSION 7
THURSDAY 5:00 PM

MARY KAY VERKENNES



SUSAN BRICKER



LINDA MARRIN



Mary Kay is a Retired Licensed Psychologist and a member of the Rotary Club of Central Lakes in MN. During her influential career running a private practice in Nisswa, MN, she also helped start and operate numerous rehabilitation, crisis intervention and family support programs that spanned multiple counties. Having joined Rotary in 2019 she now serves as the Chair of the Rotary Ends Human Trafficking (REHT) Music Festival.

Susan is an active member of the Rotary Club of Central Lakes in Pequot Lakes, and serves as the promotion chairperson on the Rotary Ends Human Trafficking (REHT) Music Festival committee. She was recently the First Lady of Rotary District 5580 Governor for 2019 - 2020. Susan is Co-Owner and Chief Financial Officer of Crystal Cleaners located in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Linda belongs to the Rotary Club of Central Lakes and has held numerous leadership positions since joining in 2014. She served as our D5580 Trainer for 3 years, then moved into projects beyond district such as the OneRotarySummit development team, the Region 36 Phoenix 223 New Club Development team, and now serves as Volunteer Assistant to 2020-2022 RI Director Suzi Howe, for Zones 25A, 25B, 29.

August 12-14, 2022 at Lakes Music and Events Park in Pine River, MN

<https://www.rehtmusicfestival.com/>

Music Festival Speakers: Stacy Schaffer & Dawn Heith-Fiedler

Entertainment Lineup: 32 Below, Kent Dudley & Bended Knee, Remedy Drive, Tim Eggebraaten

END POLIO NOW

SESSION 8
FRIDAY 11:30 PM

Learn how our 30+ years of work on PolioPlus has made us more relevant than ever, how donations to The Rotary Foundation four years ago make us relevant in the current pandemic, and how being a Rotarian today makes one relevant tomorrow. Also, get both background and the newest updates on the End Polio Now initiative.

TIM MULCRONE



Tim Mulcrone is the last remaining charter member of Chanhassen Rotary in Minnesota which was founded in 1987. He has served three times as President, and on many Club and District committees. Since 2012, he has been District 5950's Polio Chair. Tim has the latest info on Rotary's flagship initiative, the worldwide eradication of polio.

Tim retired from a career in law enforcement and has a passion for singing songs from the Great American Songbook. He resides with his wife Ginger in Savage where they have been building a home on the Credit River.

BOB MCLEAN



Bob McLean, District Rotarian of the Year in 2006, has had perfect attendance for over 20 years. He currently serves as the interim Region 36/Zone 29 End Polio Now Co-Coordinator. He was formerly District Governor 2020-2021, Asst District Governor, Chair of Water and Sanitation/Hygiene, Chair of Strategic Planning, and Chair of Awards, was a member of District Executive/Finance, Technology Task Force, End Human Trafficking Task Force, Governor Nominating Committee, Lake Atitlan WASH Project, Grants Sub Committee, Paul Harris Society, Polio Plus Society and has held a variety of roles for Central Lakes Club. .

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

SESSION 9
FRIDAY 12:00 PM

LAURA LOBO



At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Creating such a culture is not always easy to do, because each of our lives contain experiences that can lead to biases, both conscious and unconscious. This session provides 3 Essential Steps to get the DEI ball rolling and continue the conversation at the club level and beyond.

Laura Lobo (Moorhead, MN) is a fairly new member of Park Rapids Rotary Club. She loves working with people to create outrageously fun events and experiences that result in both learning and meaningfulness.

Through her business Voice Pizazz, Laura provides individuals and groups with vocal impact training, coaching for executive presence, relevant business skills workshops, and team building experiences.

She welcomes adventure and has traveled throughout most of the United States and to more than 15 countries.



END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SESSION 10
FRIDAY 12:30 PM

Join us for a conversation with a survivor of human trafficking.

STACY SCHAFFER



Stacy Schaffer is the Founder and Executive Director of 31:8 Project. She has based her work in advocacy on the ideal that no one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. Stacy is the coordinator for the Demand Reduction Program and an adjunct professor at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND.

Stacy currently serves as Rotary District 5580 Human Trafficking Committee Chair. She is a member of the Bismarck Farwest Rotary Club, and a board member of the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations. She's a regular contributor to organizations such as the ND Human Trafficking Task Force and Tipi Wakan Ministries.

NIKKI BLOWERS



Nikki Blowers (Bismarck, ND) is a daughter, a wife, a mother, and a survivor of human trafficking. Nikki believes the best way to fight shame and stigma is to tell her story. In doing so, she creates awareness, empowers other survivors, and teaches individuals how to advocate for themselves.

Nikki finds strength in her family: her two children, her husband, and her mom (who also happens to be her best friend). It is their support which has helped her to bring her story forward and to remain drug-free for eleven years.

FOUNDATION & ANNUAL FUND

SESSION 11
FRIDAY 1:00 PM

TIM LECLAIR

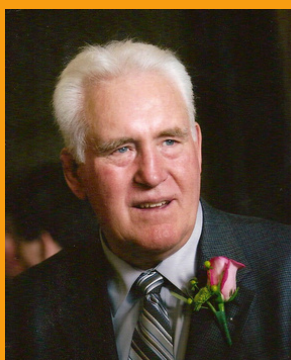


Rotary is a passion for Tim LeClair, and he will serve as our District 5580 Foundation Chair for 2022-23. An active member of the Fargo Moorhead AM Rotary, Tim has served in various capacities at the club level.

Tim's past involvement with District 5580 includes extensive leadership on the Grants Subcommittee. He recently became the International Service Chair and joined the Stewardship Subcommittee for the district.

Tim began working at Eide Bailly in 1980 and is looking forward to his retirement as of 4/30/2022!

HERB SCHMIDT



Herb Schmidt is a 26 year Rotarian and a member of the Fargo-Moorhead AM club since 1996.

He has served as Assistant Governor, Chair of the Grants Committee, District 5580 Governor in 2016-17 and is currently serving as chair of the District 5580 Foundation Committee.

Herb currently lives in Fargo, ND with his wife Bonnie of 53 years and has two sons and four grandson's. He is retired from a 33 year career in agriculture research.

TRICIA BUNTEN



Tricia Bunten is a 20 plus year member of the Duluth Rotary Club #25 serving as President in 2017/2018.

She is Assistant Governor for Area 14 and now chairs D5580 Foundation's Annual Fund.

Tricia is Chief Development Officer at the University of Minnesota Duluth and has worked in development for her entire career. Tricia is a past chair of the Minnesota Gift Planning Association and presents regularly on estate giving, major gift and annual giving fundraising.

PUBLIC IMAGE, CLUB WEBSITES

SESSION 12
FRIDAY 4:00 PM

STEPHEN MARGARIT



Is your club the hidden gem of your community? Having trouble promoting your events and fundraiser? It is easy for any organization to be left behind in today's fast-paced and always connected environment.

District 5580 Public Image Co-Chair Stephen will be discussing strategies and best practices for promoting your club. Whether it's through traditional or social media, your club should have a strategy for marketing and promotion. Have no fear, many strategies and tools are free or low-cost!

In 2007, after joining the Thunder Bay Interact Club, Stephen went on a Rotary Youth Exchange to Southern Germany where he was hosted by RC Reutlingen-Tübingen-Nord. While studying Political Science and History at Lakehead University, Stephen was treasurer of the Thunder Bay Rotaract Club.

Stephen joined the Fort William Rotary Club in 2014 at the age of 24 and soon became the youngest President in the club's 105-year history during the 2019-20 year.

Aside from Rotary, Stephen volunteers on various boards in his community. He also enjoys cooking and hiking the Lake Superior area.



VISIONING

SESSION 13
FRIDAY 4:30 PM

BLAINE JOHNSON



We can connect our intentions to our best outcomes with planning and diligence.

Past District Governor Blaine Johnson joined Rotary in 2004 at the age of 27. He was a member of the Janesville, Minnesota Rotary Club in District 5960 for seven years and served as their club president twice. He then joined the Bismarck, North Dakota Rotary Club in 2011 and served as their club president in 2014-15. He now serves as Bylaws Chair for District 5580.

Blaine obtained his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Dakota and his juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School. He is a partner with the law firm of Crowley Fleck PLLP where he practices extensively in the areas of banking, real estate, oil and gas.

Blaine and his wife, Jessie, have five children: Wynter, Brianna, Isaiah, Aiden and Keira.



SESSION 14
FRIDAY 5:00 PM

DISTRICT AWARDS /RECOGNITION



ROZANNE CASEY



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VIRTUAL DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE
APRIL 21-22, 2022

Help us make an IMPACT in our communities and beyond!

SESSION 15
FRIDAY 5:30 PM

CLOSING COMMENTS

KEITH BROKKE
D5580 DISTRICT
GOVERNOR 2021-22



KAY BIGA
D5580 DISTRICT
GOVERNOR 2022-23



**THANKS TO “RETIRING” DISTRICT
OFFICERS/TEAM LEADS & WELCOME TO
NEW DISTRICT OFFICERS/TEAM LEADS**