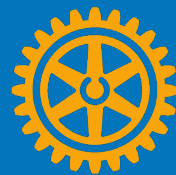


October 2025

Rotary
District 5910



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR Dr. Charles Gilliland

One of Rotary's greatest strengths lies in the friendships it builds—both within our clubs and across the world. Rotary offers many avenues to access this wonderland of connection. One path is accessed through Rotary Friendship Groups. The array of Rotary Friendship Groups takes the spirit of camaraderie one step further, offering members opportunities to connect through shared interests, professions, or passions that reach beyond district and national boundaries.

Rotary Friendship Groups—formally known as **Rotary Fellowships** and **Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs)**—are international communities of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their families who come together around common pursuits. Whether it's horse racing, cycling, travel, photography, wine appreciation, or humanitarian service such as literacy, water, or peacebuilding, there's a group for nearly every interest.

Did I mention horse racing?

Participation is open to any Rotarian or Rotaractor, and joining is easy. These fellowships not only enrich your Rotary experience but also expand your network and deepen your understanding of Rotary's global reach. Many members discover that a shared hobby becomes a bridge to new service projects, lifelong friendships, and international cooperation.

As we continue to build connections across **District 5910**, I encourage every member to explore at least one Rotary Fellowship or Action Group that speaks to your heart. You might find that the world becomes smaller, your Rotary family larger, and your sense of purpose stronger.

Explore [the full list of Rotary Friendship Groups](#).

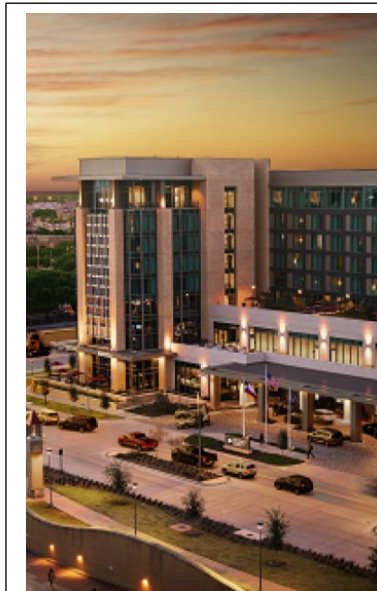
Save the (new) date for District Conference 2026!

Plans for our District Conference are well underway, but we recently encountered a scheduling conflict with the venue that has necessitated moving the date (the Savannah Bananas are coming to town and are expected to draw as many as 100,000 attendees who would be competing with us for hotel space, parking and food)!

We will instead host our District Conference in June. Please mark your calendars for **Friday, June 5 to Sunday, June 7** for the event, which will be held at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center at 177 Joe Routh Boulevard in College Station.

Please be assured that these dates do NOT conflict in any way with the International Convention in Taipei, which kicks off one week later.

We will keep you posted on details, including how to register and make your reservations. We look forward to seeing you there!



Events around the District

10/1-10/31: October is [Economic and Community Development Month](#)

10/18: District Leadership Retreat

10/20: [RYE Long-Term applications \(Part 1\)](#) due for 2026-27

10/23: [Spirits of Texas 'Fun'raiser sponsored by Rotary Club of Conroe](#)

10/24: [World Polio Day](#)

11/1: [Dia de Los Muertos Annual Gala, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Palestine](#)

11/1: [Nature & Outdoor Expo sponsored by the Magnolia Rotary Club](#)

11/1: [Pop Pauly for Polio Eradication sponsored by Angelina County Rotary](#)

11/8: [RYE Long-Term applicant and parent interviews](#)

11/15: [District Foundation Celebration honoring Hugh Summers](#)

rotary youth exchange

Do you know a youth who wants to study abroad?

Now is the time to apply to go on a life-changing Rotary Youth Exchange. We offer two programs: a long-term program (during the school year) or short-term (over the summer). For more information on how to apply, contact D5910 Youth Exchange Chair Carol Mattingly at 5910rye@gmail.com or call 936-661-3997.

Want to Study Abroad?

Go with Rotary Youth Exchange!

Rotary provides:
Host family
Food
School tuition
Monthly allowance



If you are 15 to 18½

You could be in ...
one of these pictures!!!

Participants pay for:
Airline Ticket
Insurance
Preparation Costs

For information

Write to 5910rye@gmail.com
or call 936-661-3997

Rotary District 5910 rotary youth exchange



END POLIO NOW WORLD POLIO DAY IS 24 OCTOBER



One Day, One Focus, Ending Polio.

World Polio Day is a time for Rotarians, public health advocates and all who want a world free from polio to come together, recognize our progress in the fight to end polio, and talk about the actions we need to take in order to end polio for good.

Since 1988, Rotarians have worked to reduce the number of worldwide polio cases by 99.9 percent; only two countries remain endemic. But until we end polio forever, every child is at risk of contracting the disease, for which there is no cure. Unless we eradicate polio, within 10 years, as many as 200,000 new cases could occur around the world each year.

Rotarians are encouraged to visit endpolio.org, where they can register their World Polio Day Action – you can choose to donate your time, your voice or your funds to the fight to eradicate polio. Remember: every dollar Rotary commits to end polio will be tripled thanks to a matching agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, up to \$50 million each year.

As of October 13, 1,236 Rotary Clubs worldwide had registered to undertake one of these three actions. Please join them and we can fight polio together.

Angelina Rotary Club sponsors 'Pop Pauly for Polio Eradication' on Nov. 1

Join the Angelina Rotary Club in helping to eradicate polio with the Popping Pauly the Pumpkin event on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Lufkin Creative Heritage Festival.

By making a donation, you enter a contest to guess how many rubber bands it will take to pop Pauly. The person who comes closest to the number of rubber bands without going over will win a \$100 gift card.

Scan the QR code or visit the [event's donation page](#) to participate.

How many rubber bands will it take to explode PAULY the Pumpkin?



SAVE THE DATE: DISTRICT 5910
foundation celebration
HONORING
hugh summers
nov 15, 2025
houston marriott north
WITH SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PAST RI PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE
John Germ
Rotary District 5910

Join us for the Foundation Celebration on Nov. 15

We have had a great response from D5910 for this year's Foundation Celebration – the word is out about all the fun we had last year! Come join us on November 15 at the Houston Marriott North as we honor Past District Governor Hugh Summers.

If you want to join in on the fun, don't delay as remaining seats are limited. Numerous Rotarians and Clubs will be recognized at this year's event, with Past RI President John Germ presenting some of the awards.

[Learn more or purchase tickets.](#)



Galveston Rotarian is newest member of the Paul Harris Society

D5910 Paul Harris Society Coordinator Barbara Winburn recently recognized Bud Kulesza of the Rotary Club of Galveston as our District's newest member of the Paul Harris Society.

The Society recognizes Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation who elect to contribute \$1,000 or more each year to Rotary causes.

[Learn more](#) on how you can support Rotary and the Paul Harris Society.

Friendswood Rotary Club empowering students

The Friendswood Rotary Foundation is supporting students at Friendswood High School with the donation of an industry-grade laser cutter to the FHS Engineering Department. This state-of-the-art resource will help students design and create their own parts for robotics, rocketry and other engineering projects, giving them hands-on experience and real-world skills.



Rotary Club of Lake Conroe helps provide clothing to 143 Montgomery County kids



Members of the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe recently hosted their 8th annual 'Clothing for Kids' service project, working with Old Navy Conroe and Conroe's Department of Family & Protective Services, to help clothe 143 kids in the Montgomery County area.

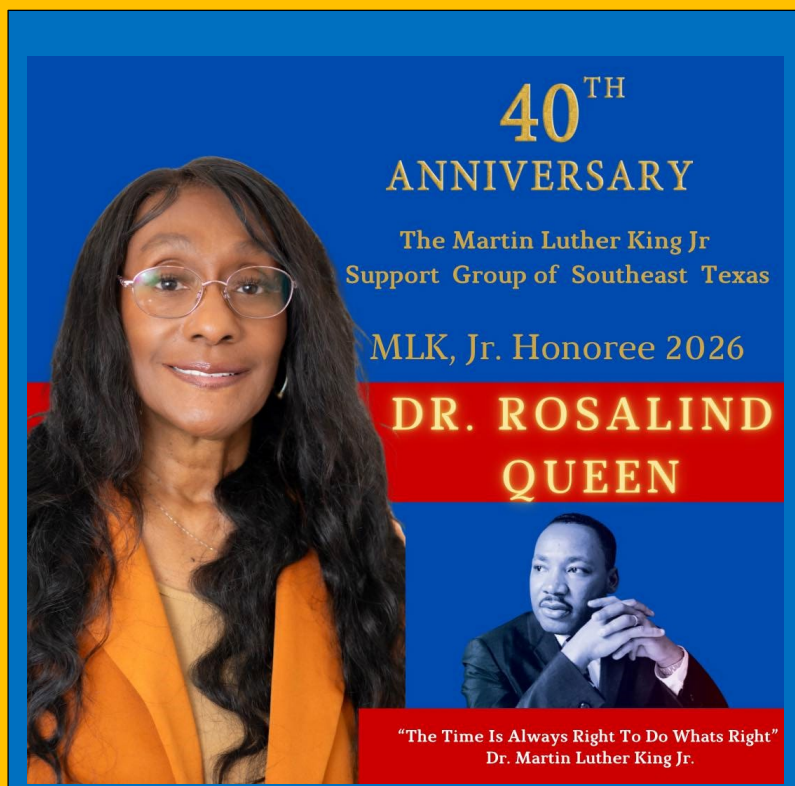
Keeping with the theme of helping children, the Club also has scheduled its annual Christmas Candy Roll service project for 11:30 a.m. on November 4. Gathering at the Montgomery United Methodist Church, Rotarians will help wrap candy rolls for children in Mexico.

District 5910 Executives 2025-2026

District Governor: Charley Gilliland (Bryan)
District Governor Elect: Philip Shackelford (Aggieland)
Immediate Past District Governor: Leon Willhite (Palestine)
Vice Governor: Demetress Harrell (Angelina)
District Treasurer: Sloan Shuffler (Downtown Palestine)
District Secretary: Michelle Lyons (Lone Star eClub)
District Governor Nominee: Dana Espinal (Port Arthur)

Have an item for the newsletter? Send it to [District Secretary Michelle Lyons](#) so we can include it!

Port Arthur Rotarian honored by The Martin Luther King Jr. Support Group of Southeast Texas



Dr. Rosalind Queen, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Port Arthur, [has been selected as a 2026 MLK, Jr. Honoree by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Support Group of Southeast Texas](#). Honorees are chosen who exemplify Dr. King's principles of equality, justice and community service.

The organization was established in 1986 when founder Hargie Faye Savoy sat down with Coretta Scott King in her Port Arthur home and was asked to launch a group inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership and commitment to nonviolent resistance and racial equality. Focusing on civil rights activism in the Southeast Texas region, the organization hosts annual events, including an annual brunch and awards presentation hosted on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Dr. Queen will be recognized at the Jan. 19, 2026 MLK, Jr. Brunch event.

Dr. Queen is a Commissioner for the City of Port Arthur's Planning and Zoning Commission. A US Army veteran who served in Desert Storm, Dr. Queen is also Vice President of the Port Arthur linking Military Sisters (PALMS) group, and a member of the Common Defense Situation Report (SITRIP).

Dr. Queen, who will serve as the Port Arthur Club's President for 2026-27, is also the Club's Past Secretary. She currently serves as a Trustee and Secretary of the Club's Foundation Board.

Why should my club care about Rotary's public image?

Your club can benefit in many ways from a stronger public image of Rotary. Raising awareness and understanding of Rotary helps attract prospective members, instills a sense of pride among members, encourages community members to donate their time and money, and helps your club stand out from other volunteer opportunities.

Promoting Rotary to the general public can be as simple as wearing your Rotary pin or as elaborate as organizing an integrated marketing campaign. Learn more about promoting the Rotary brand, including how you can better promote your Club, by visiting the [Rotary Brand Center](#).