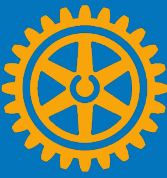


September 2025

Rotary
District 5910



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR Dr. Charles Gilliland

Did you know that Rotary offers opportunities to connect with members around the world who share your professional background or personal passions? Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups that bring together Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends of Rotary who enjoy the same hobbies, vocations, or recreational activities.

These fellowships aren't limited by district or club boundaries, they're truly global. Whether it's horse racing, cycling, hiking, wine appreciation, history, or even chess, fellowships offer a way to build friendships that extend far beyond our own communities. Many fellowships also support service projects tied to their interest. For example, scuba diving groups often organize underwater cleanups, while medical fellowships support international health initiatives.

Joining a fellowship is easy, and membership is open to anyone—not just Rotarians. That makes fellowships a wonderful avenue to introduce friends and colleagues to Rotary in a relaxed, interest-based setting. They also provide a practical way to live out one of Rotary's greatest strengths: combining service with friendship.

Fellowships are a powerful reminder that Rotary is more than meetings and service projects at home—it's about being part of a worldwide family. Exploring fellowships is a great way to deepen your Rotary journey, strengthen cross-club connections, and keep the joy of Rotary fresh.

At the Rotary International Convention in Calgary, League City Rotarian Luanne Newman addressed a plenary session about fellowships. Luanne is a member of the Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists. If you want to know more about Fellowships, please reach out to her.

You can [explore the full list of fellowships](#). Why not check it out and see where your interests might take you?

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected as 2026-27 RI President

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on July 1, 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1984 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi 10 years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20).

[Read more.](#)



Events around the District

9/1-9/30: September is [Basic Education and Literacy Month](#)

9/27: First [Rotary Youth Exchange Information Meeting](#) at Lone Star College – Montgomery

10/3: [Fredonia Rotary screening of "Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot"](#)

10/5: [Pizza for a Purpose sponsored by the Rotary Club of College Station](#)

10/7: ["Tastes of Germany" Polio Fundraiser sponsored by the Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine](#)

10/9: [Wine Down With Rotary sponsored by the Rotary Club of Beaumont](#)

10/10-10/12: [RYE Fall Outing for Inbound Students](#) at Crystal Lake

10/18: [District Leadership Retreat](#)

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](#)

Join us for the 2025 Foundation Celebration!

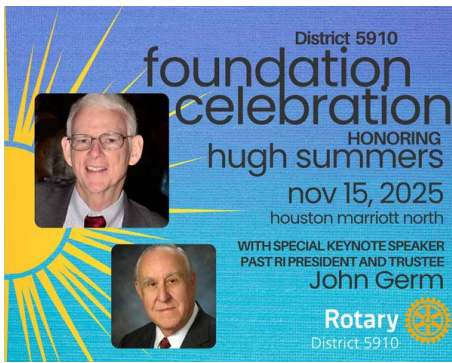
By Bobby Chapman, D5910 Foundation Chair

It's time to honor you for your hard work and dedication to Rotary. Our Foundation Celebration honors each thought, each moment, each dollar you give to Rotary.

We invite you to this year's Rotary Foundation Celebration honoring Hugh Summers of the Palestine Rotary Club, Past District Governor and Arch Klumph Society member, for his outstanding service and dedication to Rotary's mission.

Numerous Rotarians and Clubs will be recognized at this year's event. Please join us as we celebrate our District's achievements.

[Learn more or register for the event.](#)



Spotlight on...An Orange County-area collaboration

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Bridge City-Orangefield, Vidor and Orange collaborated on a meaningful community project in which they assisted Be Blessed Orange County in packing some 1,200 lunches for students in need across Orange County.

The event was held in conjunction with the United Way of Orange County's Day of Caring, with 440 volunteers helping their community with projects on September 12.



Honoring a Rotarian and his family, lost in the Hill Country Floods



The Rotary Club of East Montgomery is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of President-Elect John Burgess IV, his beloved wife Julia and their two young sons, Jack and James, all of whom passed away in the devastating Kerr County floods on July 4. They are survived by their daughter, Jenna, 8.

John was known for his joyful spirit, booming laugh and unwavering compassion. A licensed funeral director and financial advisor in Porter, John dedicated his life to serving others and embodied Service Above Self, offering his time and leadership as he prepared to step into the role of club president.

A trust fund has been established to provide for Jenna and her future. Donations [may be made electronically](#) or by mailing a check to: Jenna Lacy Burgess Trust, 3639 Tartan Lane, Houston, TX 77025.

Recognizing that flood victims still have a long road ahead, donations continue to be accepted by Rotary District 5840, which includes most of the hardest hit areas in Texas, and by [Disaster Aid](#).

Other ways to donate:

Rotary District 5840 - South Central Texas

- By Credit Card: Make a secure [donation via credit card online](#).
- By Check: Make checks payable to Rotary District 5840 Foundation, Memo: Disaster Relief. Mail to: Rotary District 5840 Foundation, PO Box 13, Boerne, TX 78006
- By Zelle Payment: Direct to D5840floodrelief2025@gmail.com

Memo: Disaster Relief

Please add your email address or contact information if you need a tax receipt.



D5890 District Governor Tom Kelchner, DG-Elect Camille Hamilton and DG Nominee Dona Burke visited the Club on August 9, generously making a \$500 donation to the Jenna Burgess Trust in John's honor.

Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine Demonstrating Service Above Self

Since July, members of the Downtown Palestine Club have been busy supporting community projects, ranging from stocking inventory for the Blankets & Bears Foundation's Care Closet, to serving back-to-school donuts at Anderson County schools. Members also donated canned goods to the Hope Station, and refurbished a sign for the Anderson County Humane Society (BARC).



Galveston Rotarians join celebration as world-record is announced

Crowds gathered on the Galveston Seawall on September 6 as Guinness World Records confirmed the island city now holds the title of longest walkway for the 10.3-mile stretch that was constructed after the 1900s storm.

Rotarians from the Galveston Rotary Club joined more than 6,000 residents who lined up along the Seawall, stretching for more than a mile, to also commemorate the 125th anniversary of the storm, which killed more than 8,000 people and remains America's deadliest natural disaster.



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)

D5910 Officers and Directors 2025-2026

Assistant Governor Coordinator: Amy Supak (Aggieland)
Club Visioning: Hannah Wilner (The Woodlands)
District Grants/DEI Chair: Ruth Suhler (Galveston)
District Finance/Membership Chair: Amy Killgore (League City)
District Learning Facilitator: Karen Chapman (Lone Star eClub)
District Peace Committee: Michael Hayes (Conroe)
Empowering Girls Chair: Patricia McKenzie (Angelina)
Endowment/Major Gifts: Sherry Bogus (Lake Conroe)
Global Grants Chair: Real Provencher (Magnolia)
Global Scholar/Public Image Chair: Rebekah Maxwell (Beaumont)
Interact Chair: Bunny Pratt (Bryan)
Lone Star PETS Representative: Rhonda Herrington (Palestine)
Paul Harris Society Coordinator: Barbara Winburn (Galveston)
PolioPlus Chair: Jay Wilson (Beaumont)
Roll of Fame: Glen Brewer (Aggieland)
Rotaract Chair: Birda Gaskin (Lone Star eClub)
Rotaract Representative: Andres Briceño Mendoza (The Woodlands Rotaract)
Rotary Foundation Chair: Bobby Chapman (Lone Star eClub)
RYLA Chair: Michael Perez (Beaumont)
Youth Exchange Chair: Carol Mattingly (Huntsville)
Youth Protection Officer: Chris Turner (Friendswood)

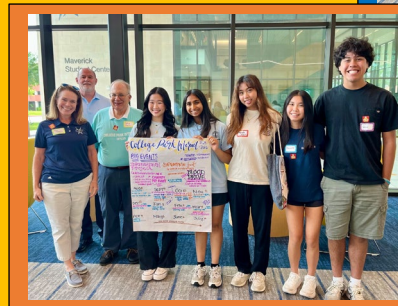
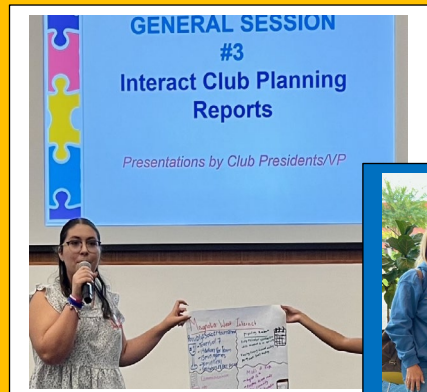
Have an item for the newsletter? Send it to [District Secretary Michelle Lyons](mailto:Michelle.Lyons@rotary5910.org) so we can include it!

Interact Clubs in D5910 Unite for Good by promoting Blood Drives

By Bunny Pratt, D5910 Interact Chair

This year's D5910 Interact Leadership Workshop, held at Lone Star College-Montgomery on Saturday, August 2, 2025, explored "Where do you fit in" to engage the 86 attending students, advisors and Rotary sponsors.

Good luck to the clubs who mapped their goals to kickstart the year of service ahead to complete at least one community service project and bring awareness to one international program. Based on votes at this year's workshop, all Interact Clubs of Rotary D5910 are asked to Unite For Good by participating in or promoting a Blood Drive. This is a great partnership opportunity! [Learn more or find other helpful Interact resources.](#)



Are you interested in learning what happens at the Rotary International Convention?

District Officers Karen and Bobby Chapman will share photos, stories and highlights from this unforgettable global event, held this year in Calgary. They are the featured speakers at the Lone Star eClub's September 18 meeting, which will kick off at 6 pm and is open to all Rotarians via Zoom. Come get inspired to attend next year's convention in Taipei!

Join via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/LoneStarRotary>
 Meeting ID: 566 378 2789 Passcode: 883947