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Rotary Family,

It is remarkable how the world has changed in the past year. We are coming out of a time of uncertainty and restriction because of the pandemic. I for one would never like to hear the words pandemic, covid-19, pivot or you are muted again, but we are not quite there yet. I am so glad to see the vaccine programs rolling out across our district. I look forward to the time when we all can be fully confident that the pandemic is under control.

But as ever, Rotarians rise to the challenges they find in the world around them. Many clubs find that they can safely meet in person, in small groups, virtually or a combination of these. We have learned to raise funds, complete projects and have fun throughout this last year. Let’s keep it up moving ahead!

I have had the honor and privilege to serve this year as DG with a powerhouse team on the DG Line. Shurie Sheel as DGE, Lee Varra-Nelson as DGN, Steve Sehnert as DGND and Barb Redder as Vice Governor are the best group of people

anyone could wish to work with. PDG Chuck Rutenburg has now joined this team also. There are great plans in place going forward that will benefit each of the clubs and our members.

We had a very successful virtual President Elect Training Seminar. Many thanks to our District Trainer Brenda Laird for all of her hard work on that project.

We also have an outstanding group of Assistant Governors that continue to provide support to their respective clubs. They bring great knowledge, caring and encouragement. Thank you AGs!

My real message is that the table is set for great things to happen in the coming years in our District. I am looking forward to a very bright Rotary future.

Once again we will hold a virtual District Conference on Friday evening May 21 and Saturday morning May 22. Watch for additional information very soon!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District Governor.

I am honored to be part of this family.

Chris Woodruff, District Governor (2019-2021)
 Rotary District 5440
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 Greeley Centennial Rotary



Rotary Club of Cheyenne Sunrise

The **Cheyenne Sunrise Rotary Club's March service project** was a collection to help our local Safe House. We collected \$530 in cash, \$300 in gift cards, and a truck load of towels, sheets, comforters, pillows and detergent. As with all service projects our success was strongly aided by other Rotary Clubs in our community. Our friends in Rotary were so generous and kind. The Safe House in Cheyenne benefitted by Rotary spirit.



Rotary Club of Fort Collins

For our **Club Centennial celebration in 2018**, we had a multi-year campaign to build our [Legacy Fund \(Endowment Fund\)](#). The hard work on that centennial campaign is now paying dividends to our local community as our endowment fund is making distributions for our local charitable work. To help address the impact of COVID-19 and recent wildfires, we recently did a special distribution from our Legacy Fund of \$33,000 for the following charities. Thanks to all for their work in the community!

[Rotary Gives \\$7,750 For Food Relief](#)

[Rotary Gives \\$2,000 To Support Search & Rescue](#)

[Rotary Gives \\$7,750 To Fund Family Services](#)

[Rotary Gives \\$7,750 To Help Alleviate Hunger](#)

[Rotary Gives \\$7,750 To Support Rescue Mission](#)

Loveland Rotary Satellite Club

Loveland Rotary Satellite Club Foster Youth Basket Project

by Dixie Schmatz, Loveland Satellite Club

The **Loveland Rotary Satellite Club** made 12 baskets of items to give to local youth who are moving into their first apartment after foster care. To fill the baskets, the Satellite Club collected numerous in-kind and cash donations, plus getting a District 5440 grant. For distribution, the club partnered with **The Matthews House** which specializes in helping foster kids and families at risk. The additional good news is that because of this project, **The Matthews House** has gotten \$50,000 in cash donations. One of the Loveland Satellite members contacted Kyle Clark with Channel 9 about all that **The Matthews House** is doing, and out of the hundreds of requests he gets, he chose to feature them on his program. This money for **Matthews House** has come from people all over the state and even further. One staff member emailed Lynn, "I can't believe it and am so thankful to you and Loveland Rotary."

Rotary Club of Lander

Incoming TRF Trustee Speaks at Lander Club; Encouraged by Giving During Pandemic

Despite the impact of the worldwide Covid pandemic, overall giving to The Rotary Foundation for the last six months of 2020 decreased just 2% from a year earlier. Directed giving, much of it for projects focused on Covid-related issues, was up 41%, **Larry Lunsford**, an incoming member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, told the Lander Rotary Club at its March 10 meeting.

Lunsford, a member of the Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club in D6040, said he was encouraged by the level of giving in the face of the pandemic. Thanks to continued strong giving and higher investment earnings, the Foundation was able to fund more than \$32 million in Covid-related projects, Lunsford told the club.

Lunsford also was encouraged by recent “very strong momentum” in Rotary’s polio eradication campaign, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the only two remaining polio-endemic countries. [Thus far in 2021, only two cases have been reported there.]

The Rotary Foundation has achieved a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, a premier evaluator of charitable organizations, for 13 consecutive years, a feat matched by just 1% of all ranked organizations, he said.

Lunsford was D6040 District Governor in 2001-02. He served as a Rotary International Director in 2013-15 and will begin a four-year term on the TRF Board of Trustees on July 1. He is a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar (Australia 1982) and is a recipient of the Service Above Self Award.



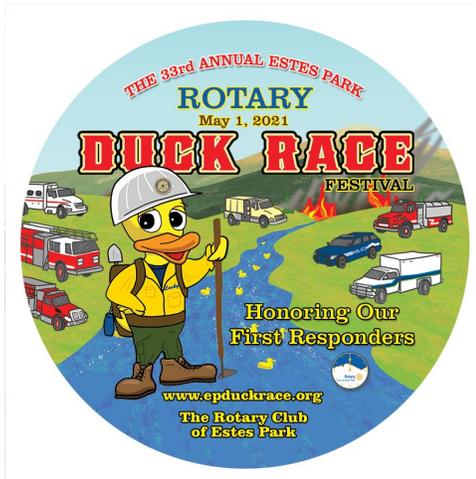
Navajo Water Grant

District 5440 Contributes to Navajo Water Grant

The **Navajo Nation** has once again received much needed help from Rotary District 5440. As you remember, during the 2019-2020 Rotary year, District 5440 Rotarians and Clubs committed over \$37,000 to a Global Grant intended to provide safe water to Navajo households who didn’t have easy access to water for drinking, cooking or washing. District 5440 contributed \$20,000 to the 2020 grant, doubling our original goal. The **Navajo Water project** had to be put on hold because of the massive impact of the COVID pandemic on the Navajo Nation, but Rotary and our partners with **DigDeep** are hoping to be able to resume installation – knowing how important clean water is to family health and safety. While installation has been on hold, engineers with **DigDeep** have been working to develop more efficient methods so they can get water systems installed quickly when the work begins again.

Now, the next global grant has been approved and, once again, District 5440 has contributed. The \$17,294 retained after funding of last year’s grant has been sent to the Rotary Foundation, designated for the 2021 Navajo Water Global Grant. Once again, thanks go to all the generous Rotarians and Clubs from D5440 who answered the call to help our Navajo neighbors.

Estes Park Duck Race to be live-streamed May 1 The Rocky Mountain Channel to air race for fans



The 33rd Annual Estes Park Rotary Duck Race is set for Saturday, May 1, and duck adoption sales are underway at <https://www.epduckrace.org/>. The event will be live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook and TDS Channel 8/108 - The Rocky Mountain Channel. Links to view the *proDUCKtion* will be posted on the event website, epduckrace.org.

The broadcast will begin at noon with a *Pre-Flight Show* featuring interviews, clips from historic footage, entertainment, and appearances by mascot Lucky Duck and 'Big Duck' Bill Solms, the leader of the 2021 flock. At 1 p.m., duck adoption sales will end, and at 1:10 p.m. thousands of little yellow rubber ducks will drop into the Lazy River at the Estes Valley Community Center. To ensure the safety of the community and the race volunteers, no in-person attendance will be permitted.

Top prizes for 2021 are:

- \$5,000 cash
- \$2,500 cash
- \$1,000 cash
- Three-night stay for two in a suite at The Pine Lodge on Whitefish River, Whitefish, Montana, located near Glacier National Park. The package includes access to all amenities: continental breakfast, stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, bicycles and a guided trip to Glacier National Park.
- Three-night stay for two in a one-bedroom, one-bath Old Faithful cabin at West Yellowstone, Montana. The package includes an all-day guided snow coach tour to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park; park fees and box lunches; dinner at the Branch Restaurant; and tickets to the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center and IMAX Theater in West Yellowstone.

The vacation packages, donated by Delaware North Parks and Resorts, will be redeemable through Sept. 30, 2022. Reservations are subject to availability and must be arranged through Delaware North.

Duck Adopters also will have the chance to win hundreds of prizes donated by Estes Valley merchants. Most importantly, adopting ducks helps to support the adopter's choice of 65 non-profit charities and other organizations in the Estes Valley.

To adopt a duck (\$20 plus a \$2 handling fee) or a Quack Pack (\$110 for five duck adoptions benefitting one Participating Organization, plus a free duck in the race), visit epduckrace.org/adopt-ducks/. For each adoption, the adopter's chosen Participating Organization will receive \$19 to help carry on its important work.

Questions? Email DuckCentral@EPDuckRace.org or call 970-235-1721.



Lucky

Upcoming District Events

We look forward to the days when we can fill this page again with lots of great Rotary District events **in person**. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

Kick that virus!



District 5440 is using Zoom for our video conference meetings. Some clubs are now meeting in person and some are having hybrid meetings, in person and virtual. There is a list of clubs that are doing virtual meetings on the [District website](#). If your club is not listed and wish to be listed, you can email Kellie at rotary5440@yahoo.com.

- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2021](#)

A virtual event on May 21-22, 2021. Stay tuned for details very soon.

- [2021 Rotary Convention Will Be Virtual](#)

June 12-16, 2021. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Don't forget "Coffee With Chris" our DG, every other Saturday.

Apr 17, 2021 09:00 AM
May 1, 2021 09:00 AM
May 15, 2021 09:00 AM
May 29, 2021 09:00 AM
Jun 12, 2021 09:00 AM
Jun 26, 2021 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92120223908?>

Meeting ID: 921 2022 3908

Passcode: 940031

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chris Woodruff



Service Above Self

