



IN THIS ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2021

District Governor Message	1
Lander Rotary Club	2
Loveland Rotary Club	3
PDG Stuart Palmer Award	4
Courage for Today Video	4
Upcoming District Events	5

Rotary Friends,

We hope that you all are staying warm as winter progresses. We had a couple of warm days last week. We are back to gray and breezy. We hope for some moisture here on the eastern slope of Colorado and certainly in the mountains. Snow has been scarce this winter, so we worry about water for the summer. Come on jet stream!

I had the pleasure of speaking with the Rotarians in Ft Collins at their Purple Pins for Polio Bowling Fundraiser in which they raised over \$30,000 (with the Gates match) to eradicate polio. They had virtual bowling and a great deal of fun.

I am so proud of everything you all are doing in our Rotary District. You all are making such a difference in your communities and around the world. Never think that your efforts are not noticed or appreciated. They are and the world is a better place for it.

We are also looking forward to seeing the President Elects and Nominees at the President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Denver on March 19-20. This will be in a new virtual format. I am looking forward to being one of the facilitators. Facilitating is one of my favorite Rotary activities. The district is picking up the fees, so we hope to see all of you at PETS!

We have made the decision to move the District Conference to virtual for 2021. I know it is not ideal, but we will work hard to make it a good event for all of us. More to come.

Finally, I want to celebrate PDG Stuart Palmer being named a recipient of the Service Above Self award from RI. This is the highest award given by Rotary. It is a great and well-deserved honor for Stuart as well as the Jackson Rotary Club and District 5440. Please watch for an announcement as to when the award will be presented in March.

I also want to thank the governor team again for making this such a special year for me. I am so honored to be able to work closely with PDG Barb Redder, DGE Shurie Scheel, DGN Lee Varra-Nelson and DGND Steve Sehnert. They are simply the best.

Thank you all, our Rotary family, for making this such an outstanding time for us. We are truly grateful and honored to be in your company.

Chris Woodruff, District Governor (2019-2021)
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Lander Rotary Club Contributes to Local Organizations That Help Those In Need

By John Brown, Lander Club President

Lander Rotary Contributes \$3500 To Three Local Organizations

The Rotary Club of Lander, Wyoming has donated \$3500 to support the Lander Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels program, the First Stop Help Center, and to the Good Samaritan Community Meal program which is sponsored by the Lander United Methodist Church.

“Lander Rotarians are committed to serving those in need in our community and we are pleased to provide support to these essential local programs. In this difficult time, we will do whatever we can to make sure our fellow residents who need a helping hand or a hot meal are able to get that help.” said Lander Rotary Club president, John Brown.

The Lander Rotary club raised the funds for these contributions through donations from club members and other members of the community as well as from grants awarded by Rotary District 5440.

Brown presented the checks to **Jane Nolde**, Executive Director of the Lander Senior Citizens Center; **Deanna Trumble**, Executive Director of the First Stop Help Center; and **Deanna Trumble** and **Lucy Cone** representing the Good Samaritan Community Meal on December, 31st, 2020.





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NEWS RELEASE

February 5, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Success Breeds Success: Loveland Rotary Fundraiser Ready to Pivot Again During Uncertain COVID Situation in 2021

Loveland, Colorado, USA – The Loveland Rotary Club has announced it is forging ahead, in 2021, with its plans for another successful Duck Race event—*come COVID or high water!* Buoyed by their 2020 success in pulling off a viable though largely virtual fundraising event, possible only because of the loyal support of many Loveland business sponsors and residents, the team is now poised and eager to repeat that feat, if need be.



“We’re approaching our plans for this second COVID year much more optimistically than we started out last year,” said Duck Race spokesperson Rick Parker. “With 2020 behind us, we now know what’s possible when everyone pulls together—even in very uncertain times. We do all of this, of course, for our great Loveland community, but it wouldn’t happen without the help of the great people who live and work here.”

Although the revenue from the 2020 Rubber Duck Race was lower than in previous years, the more than \$25,000 raised exceeded the team’s expectations and provided additional funding—through the Loveland Rotary Club Foundation, the 501(c)3 nonprofit arm of the club—for a number of Loveland Rotary’s programs that help needy and at-risk groups in the community. These programs included **college scholarships** for Loveland high school seniors, the club’s **2020 literacy projects** (free books for hundreds of kids eligible for free lunches, as well as Ozobot teaching robots and state-of-the-art learning technology for several elementary schools), and a **special COVID-19 fund** that boosted the efforts of 15 different local nonprofits that came to the aid of individuals and families under severe COVID-19 hardship.

The team is simultaneously positioning itself to either pivot to online ticket sales and a virtual, podcast-style race, as it did in 2020, or revert back if possible to its pre-pandemic, traditional techniques of conducting ticket sales at local farmers markets and summertime festivals, as well as holding the big race—before a *live* audience—on the banks of the Big Thompson River.

Anyone interested in a quick glance at Rubber Duck Race history and the winners of last year’s decorated duck contest should go to the official website: <http://lovelandduckrace.com/>.

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of 1.2 million Rotarians dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Historically, the 100-year-old Loveland Rotary Club has partnered with individuals and groups to complete projects such as Hammond Amphitheater, Riverwalk Trail, and Loveland Public Library’s remodeled Business Center.

PDG Stuart Palmer Receives Rotary International's Service Above Self Award



PDG Stuart Palmer of the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole was selected to receive the 2020-21 Service Above Self Award by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. This award is considered Rotary International's highest honor to bestow on a Rotarian and is only awarded to no more than 150 recipients per year worldwide. This award recognizes Rotarians who demonstrate Rotary's motto, **Service Above Self**, by volunteering their time and talents to help others.

Stuart has been a Rotarian for over 34 years. He served as District Governor for Rotary District 5440 in 2008-2009. He has worked on many local and international projects, including two medical clinics in Briguei, Sao Paulo, Brazil, water projects in three schools in Grahamstown, South Africa, a van for cancer detection on Tlaxcala, Mexico, and two clean water projects at the Center of the Secret of Peace in Rwanda, among others.

Locally, Stuart continues as an active member of his church, working on reading projects in local schools, cooking for the homeless shelter, and as a volunteer assisting patients at the hospital.

Stuart is a tireless fundraiser who has successfully raised money for the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole (CGJH) where he served as Chairman of the Board. He is also a Major donor and enthusiastic supporter of the Rotary Foundation (TRF), which is committed to doing good in the world, including the eradication of polio.

Stuart and his wife Susie make their home in Jackson Hole and have three daughters. Stuart has a true heart for service and continues to give to his Rotary Club, the Jackson Hole community and the world by his generous giving of himself. He actively helps others through Rotary, and truly exemplifies Service Above Self. He is a shining light and inspires everyone around him to do their best.

COURAGE FOR TODAY Video

The Rotary Clubs of Casper, Casper Five Trails, Fort Collins, Jackson Hole, Lander, Laramie & Thermopolis sponsored a virtual meeting featuring keynote speaker, Jennifer Jones, the first Rotary International President-Nominee on January 21, 2021.

In case you missed this great event, click on this link to view the event and Jennifer's presentation. <https://youtu.be/zV-CV0SUduc>



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.

- [President Elect Training Seminar \(PETS\)](#)

Mar. 19, 2021, 12:00 PM - Mar. 20, 2021, 1:30 PM

PETS 2021 will be a virtual event. To register, click [HERE](#). Please visit the [High Country PETS website](#) for more information.

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

Also a virtual event. Stay tuned for details.

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chris Woodruff



Service Above Self

