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Rotary Friends,

It is amazing how quickly this year is passing. We just finished an outstanding weekend at High Country PETS (president elect training seminar) in Denver with over 400 Rotarians from Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado. We were pleased to welcome Rotary International Director Johrita Solari, Rotary International President-Elect Holger Knaack from Germany, and Rotary International Director-Elect Vicki Puliz. Each of them, along with our excellent group of keynote speakers and training facilitators provided insight, expertise and inspirational stories about Rotary and the difference we are making in the world.

I am so impressed with our incoming Rotary leaders in District 5440. We have an outstanding District Governor line in Bill Schilling, Shurie Scheel and Lee Varra-Nelson. I was especially pleased to work with our current and incoming Assistant Governors, all of whom are passionate about Rotary and being of service to their clubs.

But the true stars of the weekend are our incoming President Elects and President Elect Nominees. This is an outstanding class of leaders. I commend all of you for selecting such talented, committed Rotarians as your incoming leaders. They will be the perfect people to receive the baton of leadership from our current class of phenomenal presidents and will carry on the critical work we are doing. I am honored to be in your company.

One important take away for me from the weekend was the realization that while each of our clubs are different, our projects and goals are unique, and our way of expressing Rotary varies from place to place, we are all bound together by three non-negotiable Rotary truths. These are:

Our Vision (Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.)

Our Core Values (Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, Leadership)

Our Motto (Service Above Self)

Wherever we go, these three Rotary Truths bind us together and allow us to make a positive difference in people’s lives. These truths describe our collective Rotary why and are a powerful message of hope in a world that needs light in the darkness.

I ask each of you to think about how our Rotary truths are impacting your life. I know they are, because each of you is a Rotarian, supporting your club and the things your club does. You are a partner with 1.2 million other Rotarians who are working towards the same objective of a better world.

Thank you for your care, your energy and your friendship. You are the best people in the world!

Chris Woodruff, District Governor (2019-2020)  
 Rotary District 5440  
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 2103 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., Greeley, CO 80631



## Craig MacFarlane to Keynote 2020 District Conference



Often referred to as the World's Most Celebrated Totally Blind Athlete, Craig MacFarlane has led an incredible life. His list of athletic accomplishments is impressive. He has won more than 100 gold medals, the majority against sighted competition. He has won multiple national championships and has represented two countries internationally, too. He has even performed as a professional athlete, being the only totally blind person to ever achieve such success.

More amazing, in his post-athletic career MacFarlane has built a remarkable family life, an impressive business career, and has become an internationally renowned Keynote Inspirational Speaker and business advocate. He has also accumulated an astounding list of "friends in high places" including President George H.W. Bush, actors Paul Newman and Tim Allen, sports figures Wayne Gretzky, Mario Andretti, and Gordie Howe, as well as business leaders across the US and Canada.

Treating his total loss of eyesight as nothing more than a minor inconvenience, Craig has demonstrated what can be achieved through perseverance, focus, desire and discipline.

Craig MacFarlane has the unique ability to inspire all audiences. From local business associations to amateur sports teams to professional sports teams to regional and national conferences of all types to multimillion viewer television audiences to Executive Boardrooms to high school assemblies to virtually every individual he has ever met. Craig MacFarlane brings a powerful, life changing message that connects on all levels. He will entertain you, he will engage you and he will challenge you. He will give you the tools you need to overcome any obstacles you perceive to be in your way. Most of all, he will inspire you to raise the bar in your own life to make success reality, on your own terms.

Craig has been a Rotarian and been a presenter at the International Convention. We are thrilled that Craig will be with us at the District Conference in Greeley in May 2020. To register visit [www.rotary5440.org](http://www.rotary5440.org) and click on the home page under "Upcoming Events". We look forward to seeing you in Greeley!

## Another Great Conference Speaker Lined Up

One of our great conference speakers will be Kiran Singh Sirah – and does he have a story to tell you!

Kiran grew up in England. As part of a Sikh refugee family from Uganda, he experienced racial prejudice and bullying as a child. His parents encouraged him to pursue education and he became a teacher in Scotland, using storytelling to help young people escape their feelings of isolation. While in Scotland, he met Rotarians who helped him experience his global citizenship through a cultural exchange and then encouraged him to apply for the Rotary Peace Centers program. Through this program, he completed his master's degree in folklore, peace and conflict resolution at UNC-Chapel Hill.



As he began his fellowship, he made a commitment to dedicate his life to promoting peace. Kiran currently focuses on building peace through storytelling as the Executive Director at the International Storytelling Center, in Jonesborough, Tennessee. While fostering peace through storytelling might seem unexpected, he says, "When we engage in storytelling, we experience new worlds, and draw closer to others, who are traveling similar paths to our own. These are the roots that build peace."

In Greeley, Kiran will encourage us to examine our own stories and build connections with others by sharing them. Through his infectious personality and humor, he will illustrate how our stories can be one of the best gifts we can give each other.

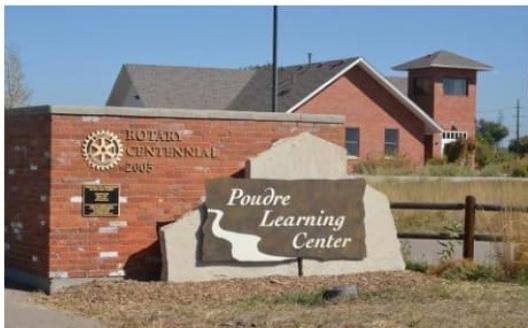
***Kiran Sirah is just one of the great speakers planned for the 2020 District 5440 Conference in Greeley.***

***A short, intense Rotary blast, the conference will start at dinner on Friday, May 29 and end after the banquet on Saturday evening. Early registration, just \$135, runs through the end of February. Register now and don't forget your room at the beautiful DoubleTree on Lincoln Park (conference block rooms will go fast!) Check back for pre-conference activities for Rotarians and families!***

# District Foundation Banquet

## District 5440 Rotary Foundation Banquet

Please join us May 28, 2020 at 5:30 PM for the District 5440 Foundation Dinner, to honor generous Foundation donors across the district. You will enjoy a great event in a Rotary Foundation Project, the in-STEM Building at the Poudre Learning Center (8313 W F St, Greeley)



You will enjoy:

- Cocktails on the patio and a gourmet dinner
- Guest speaker, Emma Robbins, Navajo Water Project Director for Dig Deep, sharing personal insight into the global grant project.
- Special recognition for Foundation Donors - We look forward to honoring generous District 5440 Rotarians as Major Donors, Benefactors, Paul Harris Society Members and Paul Harris Fellows.



**Rotary**  
District 5440



To register, visit [www.rotary5440.org](http://www.rotary5440.org) and click on the link on the home page under “Events.” Registration fee of \$60 covers dinner and 2 tickets for wine and beer.

# Giving to The Rotary Foundation



**PDG Chuck Rutenberg, D5440**  
**Rotary Foundation, District Chair**

## How Much should you give to The Rotary Foundation?

The answer to this question is rather simple: **It Depends!**

When I first joined my Rotary club in 2001, I was told I was expected to contribute \$100 per year to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) each year and it is included in my annual dues. Now at the time, I knew very little about Rotary and absolutely nothing about the Foundation, so \$100 dollars seemed like a lot of money to me, but since it was expected, I paid my dues each quarter, including my “gift” to TRF.

It wasn't until a few years later that I made my first trip to Guatemala to work on a Rotary project that I realized, regardless of how difficult I thought my life had been at times, that I was incredibly blessed. As I saw how people were struggling with all the things we take for granted in the U.S. like clean water, decent housing, and access to good healthcare, I knew that \$100 a year was not a lot of money, and in fact, was not nearly enough, **based on my own situation.**

Those last five words, “based on my own situation” are the point of this whole article. You see, we talk a lot about “Every Rotarian Every Year” (\$100/year), and Paul Harris Society (\$1,000/year), and Major Donors (\$10,000+), but that is a decision each individual member must make for themselves, based on their own situation. We all have ups and downs in our lives that may change what we can afford to give to TRF.

Right now, we are around 70% of our District Goal of \$400,000 with four months to go. What I want every Rotarian to think about when they're making this most important decision is, whether you give \$1,000, \$100 or \$10 dollars to TRF, every dollar you give will help someone in need live a better life, and in fact, may save someone's life. What I ask everyone to do is look at your situation, open your hearts and give what you can to make this a better world.

# Applications Open for Global Grant Scholarships

## District 5440 Rotarians: Here's your Clubs opportunity to nominate a candidate for a Global Grant scholarship!

**What it is:** a \$30,000 scholarship for graduate level study in another country. Your club will not have to raise any money for this, it is a district and global matching grant.

**Who:** a graduate student studying one of the following six areas of focus: Water and sanitation, Disease prevention and treatment, Peace and conflict resolution, Economic and community development, Education and literacy, or Maternal and child health.

**How:** Each club may nominate one candidate, that either attends school, lives in, or works in the District 5440 geographic area. This year's recipient is not limited to any specific school.

**When:** applications are due **April first** and the application form may be downloaded at <https://rotary5440.org/sitepage/rotary-district-5440-scholarships>. Please submit completed applications to Joe Aschenbrenner at the email below and copy District Secretary, Kellie Kegerreis, at [rotary5440@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com). The selection committee will review the applications received, then select the finalists to be interviewed by the committee on or before May ninth, at which time the scholarship will be awarded.

For further information, please go to the [scholarship page on our District 5440 website](#).

Joe Aschenbrenner  
2019-2020 Global Grant Scholarship Committee Chair  
[Jaschenbrenner@mac.com](mailto:Jaschenbrenner@mac.com)  
714-401-4085

# Joint Loveland Rotary Satellite Clubs Meet

The two Satellite Clubs sponsored by the Loveland Rotary Club had a joint meeting on February 5, 2020 at the Methodist Church in Loveland. The special guests were District Governor, Chris Woodruff and his wife, Karoline.

Members of the Loveland Rotary Club, Rotary Satellite Club of Berthoud and the Loveland Satellite Club enjoyed a potluck dinner and lots of fellowship and fun.

Governor Chris discussed the values of Rotary and inducted four new members into the Loveland Satellite Club and one new member into the Satellite Club of Berthoud.



# Douglas High School Interact - Making a Difference in Their School & Community

The young dynamic Interactors had a bake sale for the high school and community, and made about \$422. They also made hand-made, dipped strawberries for Valentine's Day, packaged them in neat little boxes, and sold them at DHS on Feb. 14, for \$5.00 apiece, along with stickers saying "Be Kind, Love, Happiness, etc." that can be stuck on a water bottle. This netted about \$250. They donated \$250 to our Jackalope Jump (into cold water) as a fundraiser for Special Olympics. They didn't jump, though!



# Upcoming District Events

- [Rotary District 5440 - Spring Assembly in Casper](#)

Mar. 28, 2020, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Ramkota Hotel

- [Rotary District 5440 - Spring Assembly in Windsor](#)

Apr. 4, 2020, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Poudre Valley REA

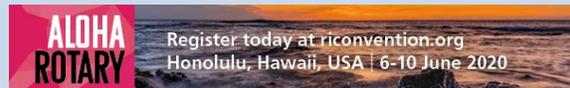
- [Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2020](#)

## A Rotary Unexpected Blast on May 29-30, 2020

This will be one day conference at the new Doubletree Conference Hotel at Lincoln Park in Greeley. Plans include national speakers, fun, preconference activities awards, and an exchange student reunion. Much more to come!

May 28, 2020 : Rotary Foundation Recognition Dinner at the Poudre Learning Center in Greeley. This will be held in conjunction with, but is separate from the District Conference. More to follow.

- [RI Convention - June 6-10, 2020](#)



Aloha, Rotary! Discover the true spirit of aloha and Rotary with your family, friends, and fellow Rotarians in Honolulu. It's the perfect setting for the entire family of Rotary to celebrate, collaborate, and connect while experiencing the warmth and welcome of Honolulu. The convention is one of the only times when people of action from around the world gather in one place to celebrate Rotary. Our engaging speakers will boost your passion for service and provide new perspectives on our work in the world. Make new friends and connect with old ones while you explore all that Honolulu and the convention has to offer. You'll return from our convention refreshed and inspired to continue your service and community leadership. Don't miss your chance to find and share aloha at the 2020 Rotary Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 6-10 June. Register now and save To take advantage of early registration savings, register before 15 December at [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org).

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

May 20, 2021 5:00 PM – May 22, 2021 9:00 PM

[RYLA - 1](#) July 5, 2020 - July 10, 2020      [RYLA - 2](#) July 12, 2020 - July 17, 2020

[Young RYLA - 1](#) July 19, 2020 - July 24, 2020      [Young RYLA - 2](#) July 26, 2020 - July 31, 2020

[RYLA Plus](#) August 2, 2020 - August 7, 2020

- [Fall District 5440 Assembly](#)

October 10, 2020, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Laramie County Community College

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chris Woodruff



*Service Above Self*

