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AUGUST 2022

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### Greetings!

The first few months of every new Rotary year is filled with a lot of leadership transition activity at the club and district level. This year is no exception. It may be just my perception, but I would venture to say that there is a little more anticipation in the air for the start of the 22/23 Rotary year. First, I want to introduce the 22/23 District 5440 Leadership Team:

- Vice Governor Barb Redder, who served as District Governor in 2019. She lives in Casper WY with her husband Don and is very active at the Zone level, serving as the Training Director.

- District Governor Elect Steve Sehnert and his wife Carol live in Steamboat Springs.
- District Governor Nominee Julie Haffner Johnson and her husband Gene live in Loveland, CO.

Our Leadership Team is now in its third year working together to update the district Strategic Plan, fill district positions, provide financial oversight and share the responsibility of the annual club visits. We are also available to respond to club requests and we have more opportunities to participate in club celebrations!

The District Leadership team started visiting clubs last month and so far, we have visited a total of eighteen clubs throughout the district. There has been something amazing and inspiring about every club I have visited this year. As we begin this year with the first female Rotary International president in our 117-year history, I would like to share the highlights of my visit to the Cheyenne Rotary club. Nearly a month before I was scheduled to visit the Cheyenne Rotary Club, I received an email from club member Dirk Miller. In his message he pointed out the serendipity of having female leaders at Rotary International, in our District and in the Cheyenne Rotary Club! Currently, the Cheyenne Rotary Club president is Traci Lacock. In addition, for the first time in the 104 year history of the club there will be three female club presidents in a row. Traci is preceded by Anja Bendel, and will be succeeded by Lori Garrison. I was aware the line of female leadership in the 22/23 year from Rotary International to the Cheyenne Rotary Club included another outstanding female link. District 5440 is a member of the Big West Zone and Vicki Puliz is our Zone Rotary International Director, completing the line of female leaders in the 22/23 Rotary year from the Rotary International President to the Cheyenne Club President.

Knowing the significance of the Cheyenne Club female leadership that would be present during my club visit on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, I was inspired to invite RI Director Vicki Puliz and RI President Jennifer Jones to join the meeting. I wasn't sure their calendars would be open. So, I was not surprised to learn that RI President Jennifer could not attend but was delighted to find out RI Director Vicki would be able to attend! At the hybrid meeting, Vicki was able to speak to the club and congratulate all the past, current and future female leaders. Other female past, current and future club presidents who attended included: Robin Sims (currently serving as Assistant Governor), Lucie Osborn, Lori Schoene, Roberta Coates, President Elect Lori Garrison, Cynthia Pomeroy, current president Traci Lacock. Missing from the group was Carol Rookstool, who passed away in 2016. I was so very excited to

Continued on page 2

## District Governor Message (continued)

recognize these female leaders during the meeting. Recognition should also go to these female Cheyenne Rotary leaders:

- Brenda Laird, past and current Cheyenne Sunrise Rotary Club President
- Juliet Daniels, current Cheyenne Rotary After Hours Club President
- Nichole Leibrich, Cheyenne Community Rotaract Club President

I don't need to "IMAGINE" that this Rotary Year for District 5440 will be amazing! Our Leadership Team is talented and very strong. And every club in the district is compassionate, active, reaching out and making a difference in their community, in the district and in the world.

**Dream Big and Imagine Rotary!**



**Lee Varra-Nelson**

**District 5440 Governor 2022--2023**

**Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast**

**email [DG2223LeeVN@outlook.com](mailto:DG2223LeeVN@outlook.com)**

**cell phone: 970-215-4949**

**Rotary**  
District 5440



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

## Rotary Club of Cheyenne

### Rotary Club has a Line of Women Leaders

As DG Lee described in her message, the Cheyenne Rotary Club celebrated its women in leadership at their August 3, 2022 meeting.



#### Women Presidents of the Rotary Club of Cheyenne

Cynthia A. Pomeroy.....	2001-02
Roberta Coates.....	2005-06
Carol Rookstool.....	2008-09
Lucie Osborn.....	2013-14
Lori Schoene.....	2016-17
Robin Sims.....	2019-20
Anja Bendel.....	2021-22
Traci Lacock.....	2022-23
Lori Garrison.....	2023-24

**Standing from left: past presidents Robin Sims and Lucie Osborn, and president-elect Lori Schoene. Seated from left: past presidents Roberta Coates, Lori Garrison, and Cynthia Pomeroy, and current president Traci Lacock.**

# Parachute For Polio



## PARACHUTE FOR POLIO

**WE DID IT!!**

**By Shurie Scheel  
Immediate Past DG**

Our first two attempts were canceled due to weather, but it finally worked out. Phil and I went tandem skydiving on Saturday, July 30th!

We drove down to Fort Morgan, Colorado and jumped with Orange Skies Skydiving (a very professional company that we would highly recommend!)

It was a great experience overall. My adrenaline junkie husband would definitely jump again, and absolutely loved it! My kids now want to go as soon as they turn 18 after watching people land all day. I was a bit less enthusiastic, but still had a great time. Freefall was a bit more intense than I expected. My favorite part was after they pulled the parachute, the peaceful float back down to the ground. I did break and dislocate my tailbone on landing, so that will stay with me for the next 6 weeks. Very painful, but a fluke mishap on landing that is not common.

Both Phil and my videos from the company are below. I hope you enjoy watching Phil have a great time. My main concern was just trying not to pee my pants!



*Shurie skydiving videos*



*Phil skydiving videos*





# Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins



The Fort Collins Peach Festival is back with an incredible lineup of bands and all things peachy!

**August 27, 2022 – Gates Open  
11 am – 6 pm**

**Holiday Twin Drive-in, Fort Collins, CO**

**Admission Tickets: \$10/person;  
children under 12 free**

[fortcollinspeachfestival.com](http://fortcollinspeachfestival.com)

Together, the Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins bring back the Fort Collins Peach Festival for its 11<sup>th</sup> year. Mark your calendars for August 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 6 pm! This is a Rotary event you won't want to miss!

Get your peach craving on with a large scoop of great music and head back to the Holiday Twin Drive-in this year for a day of "Peachy" culinary delights, beer, margaritas, and **LIVE** music. And you'll also be supporting local and world-wide projects to address hunger, health, sanitation, education, peace, and environmental projects funded by the local Rotary Clubs serving Fort Collins.

We have a great line-up of bands and music to satisfy a variety of music lovers. We promise you won't be disappointed. Leave your cares at the gate and enjoy a day of sunshine, music, and peaches. And stay on for a movie night at the drive-in.

Here's the line-up:

11 am: Fort Collins School of Rock House Band

12:30 pm: Mariachi Sol de Mi Tierra with Fiesta Colorado Dance Company

2 pm: Clark Street Station – with Fort Collins Foothills local Rotarians Mark Goldrich and Art Bavoso

**3:30 pm 12 Cents for Marvin as the headliner!**

**Join us for a day of local food, craft beers, and great music. Get your tickets now for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> -**  
[fortcollinspeachfestival.com](http://fortcollinspeachfestival.com)



# Rotary Club of Thermopolis

## DGN Julie Johnson Haffner's Club Visit to Thermopolis Rotary Club

*by Suzanne Samelson*



Twelve members attended our meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> where 2022-2023 District Governor Nominee Julie Johnson Haffner, from Loveland Rotary Club, was our speaker and she was joined by her husband Gene.

Julie met with the Club's executive board prior to the regular meeting and it was a good "get to know you" session.

At the start of the regular Club meeting, President Travis Winger presented immediate Past President Al Braaten with a Paul Harris + 8 pin. Congratulations Al and thank you for your continued support of The Rotary Foundation.

Julie Haffner then delivered a delightful presentation. She has been in Rotary for almost 35 years and was one of the first women to join Rotary in northern Colorado. She has moved around so has been with different clubs and is currently with the Loveland Club, where she had served as President. She has three grown daughters. This was Julie's first club visit and she was heading to Worland Rotary Club today (Wednesday).

She spoke about the need for change and starting small to make changes. She also had high praise for Jennifer Jones, the first woman to hold the office of president of Rotary International. Jennifer has been going on a global listening tour and is setting the stage for future change. Julie recommends listening to Jennifer's presentations - google Jennifer Jones Rotary International youtube 2022 to find her on the web.

Additionally, Julie urged club members to keep the cycle of giving going, along with increasing the ability to adapt. A good example of that is to continue the hybrid option for club meetings. She also encouraged the club to invite the community to help with projects. We should ask ourselves this question: how do we look in the community?

Julie had high praises for the Thermopolis Club and looks forward to being a part of our growth and moving forward.

Several members stayed on after the meeting to chat with Julie and it was a good Rotary day for all of us.



# Rotary Club of Estes Park



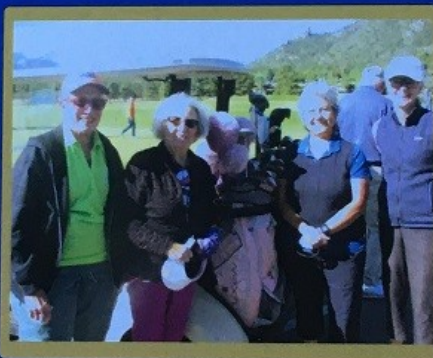
## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Club

Rotary Golf Tournament for Scholarships

Friday, September 16, 2022



**Estes Park 18 hole course 1:30 pm  
Shotgun start.  
\$125 per player or \$75 with annual 7  
day pass.  
Includes: golf, cart, player gift, awards  
ceremony with SMOKIN' DAVE'S BBQ  
MEAL, and drawings  
for merchant  
gift certificates.  
Registration and practice at 12:00 pm.**



**Foursomes  
welcome - or  
register and  
we'll place you  
in a foursome.**

**Beautiful 18-  
hole course**

**Win a prize!**

**Golf for a great  
cause: Support  
scholarships for  
Estes Park High  
School students**

**Prizes for Team Low Net and Gross,  
Accurate Drive, Longest Putt and  
Closest to the Pin.**

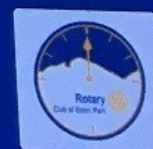
**Special Events and Offers by Dixon  
Golf**

**Entry forms may be picked up at the  
Estes Park Golf Course or online at  
[www.rotaryclubofestespark.org](http://www.rotaryclubofestespark.org).**

**For more information, contact  
Ron Gordon at (970) 586-0370.**



**Sponsored by the  
Rotary Club  
of Estes Park**



# Upcoming District Events

**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](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com).

- [\*\*Rotary Fall Assembly\*\*](#)

Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne  
October 8, 2022, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- [\*\*Rotary District 5440 - District Conference 2023\*\*](#)

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 5:00 PM - June 10, 2023, 9:00 PM  
Ridgeline Hotel and Conference Center, Estes Park, CO.

- [\*\*International Convention - Melbourne, Victoria, Australia\*\*](#)

May 27 – 31, 2023

**You can register now and take advantage of the early bird discounts! .**



***Service Above Self***

[\*\*https://rotary5440.org/\*\*](https://rotary5440.org/)

**District Governor—Lee Varra-Nelson**



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