



IN THIS ISSUE

JANUARY 2023

DG Lee Varra-Nelson Message	1-2
Casper Rotary Club	2
Cheyenne Rotary Club	3
Greeley Centennial Rotary Club	4
Greeley Centennial Rotary Club	5
Loveland Thompson Valley Rotary Club	5
Upcoming District Events	6

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful start to the 2023 year. There are so many traditions connected to the start of a new year. I hope you began this year with a favorite tradition or something new that brought you joy.

The Rose Parade is a tradition that many people enjoy on the first day of the new year. This past September the 2022/23 District Governors received a packet with information from Rotary International about the theme and preparations for the 2023 Rose Parade Rotary float. The introduction letter reminded us that "Creating a positive image for Rotary is the responsibility of every Rotarian, both

locally and globally. President Jennifer Jones stated that one of her primary goals is to showcase Rotary to the world." And as she mentioned in the March 2022 Rotary Magazine, "I see this as a way of increasing our membership...When we tell our stories, like-minded people will want to join us." But what you may not know is the idea of getting recognition of Rotary has been a goal of Rotary Presidents since the beginning. Paul Harris said, "In the promotion of Rotary, it is important to reach large numbers and you cannot reach them privately." When the Rotary International directors approved the Committee's first entry over four decades ago, they saw in it an unrivaled opportunity to bring the Rotary name into public view. They reasoned that an eye-catching float would capture the interest of broadcast commentators and remind the world of Rotary's good works.

This Rotary recognition effort via the Rose Parade has a long history. In 1923 the Rotary Rose Parade Float was entered by the Rotary Club of Pasadena. Other floats were entered in the 1927, 1942, 1946, and 1966. The next Rotary Float entry was in 1980 and for 43 consecutive parades, Rotary has entered a float in the Rose Parade and proudly presented the Rotary float to North America and the world. And this year was not an exception. Many Rotarian volunteers arrived at the "float barn" in the early morning and gave their time and talent throughout the day to decorate this year's float. The 2023 Rotary Float titled "Serving with Imagination and Hope" received the Princess Award which recognizes the most outstanding floral presentation among entries 35 feet and under in length.



Princess Award Winner 2023 Rotary Float
"Serving with Imagination and Hope"

Continued on page 2

District Governor Message (continued)

RI President Jennifer Jones and her husband Nick Krayacich helped to decorate the float and were riders on the float. They were joined by thirteen other Rotary members walking or riding on the float. These included six current District Governors and one Assistant Governor from the Big West Zone, together representing districts 5280, 5330, 5500, 5240, 5180, 5320, 5300.



RI President Jennifer Jones and husband Nick



Float Riders and Walkers



Dream Big and Imagine Rotary!



Lee Varra-Nelson

District 5440 Governor 2022--2023

Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast

email DG2223LeeVN@outlook.com

cell phone: 970-215-4949



Rotary Club of Casper

The Rotary Club of Casper Honored 35 Paul Harris Fellows by Miamie Sleep, Club President



On Monday January 9th, the Rotary Club of Casper (RCC) had the honor of acknowledging over 35 individuals for obtaining various levels of Paul Harris Designation. By using club points accumulated over numerous years many of our members were receiving their very first Paul Harris Fellow as a gift from the RCC, as a sign of appreciation for their dedication to the club and the mission of Rotary. Acknowledging the efforts of our members not only highlights individual contributions, but tightens the overall knit of our club membership and we would encourage our fellow clubs in District 5440 to seek out ways to highlight the many accomplishments of our incredible members.



Rotary Club of Cheyenne

Rotary Club of Cheyenne Donates 36 Adaptive Tricycles to Children with Disabilities by Jera E. Likely-Schlotthauer, RC of Cheyenne World Community Service Member

On Tuesday, December 6th, 36 boxes arrived at Cheyenne Fire and Training Station #4 containing adaptive tricycles especially fitted for students with special needs. Rotary Club of Cheyenne Rotarians joined with Cheyenne Firefighters Local 279 and Laramie County School District #1 to put the bikes together which were given away to 36 children on Saturday, December 10th - just in time to bring them a surprise of joy this holiday season!



The bikes are pediatric adaptive tricycles, which allow children with various disabilities to ride and use them for several years. The bikes engage the full body and offer a strap on the pedals as well as a trunk support system and harness. A parking brake and guide bar allow family and friends to guide the bike if needed. The bikes also offer a low transfer step, making it easier for kids to get on and off the bike.

This project has grown exponentially since last year when the Rotary Club of Cheyenne, Cheyenne Firefighters, and school district physical therapists worked together to identify students who would benefit and enjoy riding the adaptive tricycles at home. The Rotary Club then funded the purchase of 4 bikes, which were assembled by Cheyenne firefighters and delivered to students on January 31, 2022.

The Rotary Club of Cheyenne made funding for 32 more adaptive tricycles this year a priority for its 2022 Business Sponsorships funding cycle. However, when the school district physical therapists identified 4 more students for a total of 36 students who would benefit from the bikes, the Rotary Club of Cheyenne amended its original funding recommendation to fully fund 36 bikes using existing funding outside of the business sponsorship program.

It is because of this program that these children get to experience the joy of independently riding a bicycle this year. For many, this was the first time having the experience of riding a bike.



This project was made possible by The Rotary Club of Cheyenne's Business Sponsorship program and Rotary District 5440 grant funding, which collectively donated \$43,000 on the 36 tricycles. And to Cheyenne Firefighters for helping to build, distribute, and house the bikes until the giveaway day.



Rotary Club of Greeley Centennial

Greeley Centennial Rotary Club presents check to the Greeley Model Railroad Museum

Last week's meeting started with our President Susan Koon and our Board presenting the Greeley Model Railroad Museum with a check for \$25,000! Wow! This money will help fund a garden railroad project that the railroad museum plans to do this summer. After the presentation, all were invited to see where the garden will be on the property.



Rotary Club of Greeley Centennial

Greeley Centennial Rotary Club Goodie Bags for Firefighters

By Susan Koon, Club President

Greeley Centennial Rotary was interested in a service project that we could do at our lunch tables in lieu of a weekly program. Someone suggested goodie bags! We bought snacks in bulk, had Greeley Centennial Rotary cards printed and spent our meeting time writing notes and putting together bags. Between the members there, visitors (even our 7 year old granddaughter and her Mom wanted to help), plus the staff at Bank of Colorado in Eaton helping; we made 190 bags. I had notified the Fire Chief for Greeley and received a count for how many bags were needed at each station and then we started the delivery process. We delivered to each Fire Station in Greeley as well as the Fire Station in nearby Kersey and also delivered bags to the volunteers at Community Grief Center in Greeley.



Every Firefighter and administrative staff for the City of Greeley and Kersey plus the volunteers at Community Grief Center received a bag with a granola bar, fruit snack, a pen, candy, crackers and a hand-written note thanking them for their service to our community.

Our members truly enjoyed this project and we plan to do something like this again. Our physically challenged members appreciated being able to do a service project right from the lunch tables!



Rotary Club of Loveland Thompson Valley

Loveland Thompson Valley Rotary Hearts sold out in under 7 hours!

It is that time of year again at Loveland Thompson Valley - time to start thinking about Valentine's Day!! Loveland hearts went on sale at midnight December 1 and sold out in under 7 hours. This is a new record for us, a lot of people stayed up all night to get their heart order in before they were gone!

Painting has already started, the Valentine helpers from Loveland Thompson Valley High School are hard at work painting the custom messages on each heart. Once completed, the hearts will be turned over to the City of Loveland for hanging on the light poles all over town. It is an annual tradition here in the Sweetheart City!

Other activities have been buying coats for Loveland's homeless youth. The coats will be distributed by the Thompson Valley School District McKinney Vento team for Christmas.

LTVR also participated in the Foothills Service League Tree For All with a Beer Tree donation.



Upcoming District Events



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.

- [High Country President Elect Training Seminar-PETS](#)

The Westin Westminster

March 3, 2023, 1:00 PM - March 5, 2023, 12:00 PM

- [Virtual Spring Assembly](#)

April 22, 2023, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 5:00 PM - June 10, 2023, 9:00 PM

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

May 27 – 31, 2023

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



<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Lee Varra-Nelson

