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JUNE - JULY 2022

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Rotarians!

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I write this letter., It has been such a great experience, one that I would highly recommend to anyone who is interested. We had a great time at the Rotary International Convention in Houston, where RI President Shekhar Mehta encouraged us to explore new horizons. There were about 12,000 Rotarians at the event in Houston, with many great speakers and events. A highlight for me was the Zone Breakfast, where I got to see friends from our Rotary region, and the BREW Roundup which served as our District gathering. It was fun to see so many of you. Thank you for making the trip!

The culmination of this Rotary year was our District Conference in Lander, June 9-11th. We had a great turnout. The food was excellent, with many Lander restaurants and caterers bringing us great meals. We were inspired to dedicate ourselves to member retention and engagement by Kelly Adkinson, from the Utah district. And, we got timely insights into our economy and learned about the Federal Reserve from Laurel Graefe. All of the breakouts were fantastically put together as well. The service projects on the Wind River Indian Reservation made us all feel like a part of the action. Overall, it was very successful!

As I wrap-up this year, one goal is looming large! We as a District have worked very hard this year to raise funds for Polio Plus. We have donated more this year than in recent years, but we are still about \$15,000 short of the \$150,000 goal. I have decided to "Parachute for Polio" anyway, because so many of you so graciously donated above and beyond to help.

Thank you for sharing your clubs with the DG line this year, and making us all feel so welcome. That has been a highlight of this journey. It has been great to get to know so many Rotarians, and see the great projects that you are doing all over our District and the world.

I know that with Lee Varra-Nelson as District Governor, and Julie Johnson-Haffner and Steve Sehnert helping out, the District is in great hands for the foreseeable future! I wish you all the very best!



Shurie Scheel

Shurie Scheel, District Governor 2021-2022
Rotary District 5440
Email: shuriescheel@gmail.com
Thermopolis Rotary Club



The Scheel family: L to R, Alayna, Phillip, Kaden, Shurie

District Governor Message

I'd like to thank past district governor Shurie Scheel for her superb leadership this past year as our District Governor. She continues to support the concept of the district leadership team. She saw the benefit of having more voices at the table that bring synergy and continuity to our goals and direction. Each of us gained foundational knowledge and strength from being a member of the leadership team as we progressed through the stages of the governor line. Shurie led a review and update of the district vision and strategic plan that started us off in the right direction so we could continue strong throughout the year. Her insight, compassion and humor will be missed. Thank you, Shurie, so much for what you did for the district this past year.

Members of the leadership team started our club visits the week of July 11. DGE Steve Sehnert, DGN Julie Johnson Haffner and I will complete our club visits the week of October 24. We're looking forward to spending time with the club leaders and members learning about your club's activities and projects. We will also be sharing the year's district goals with you. So, enjoy the summer, spend time with your family and friends, **Imagine Rotary** and **Dream Big!**



Lee Varra-Nelson

District 5440 Governor 2022--2023

Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast

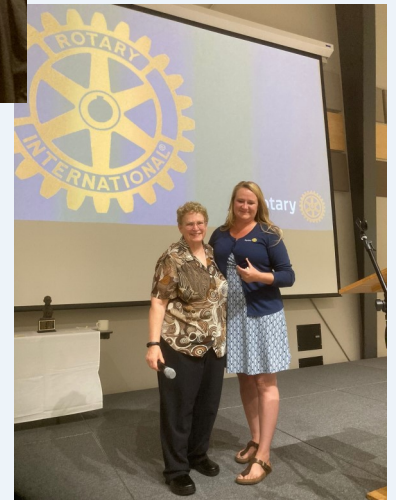
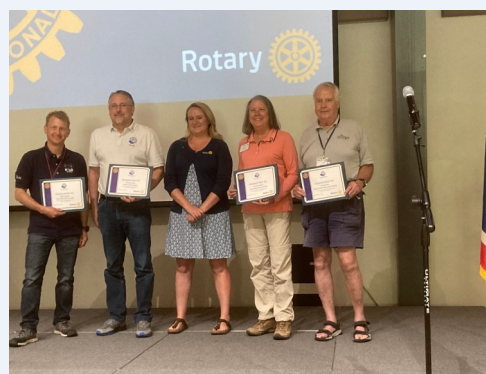
email DG2223LeeVN@outlook.com

cell phone: 970-215-4949



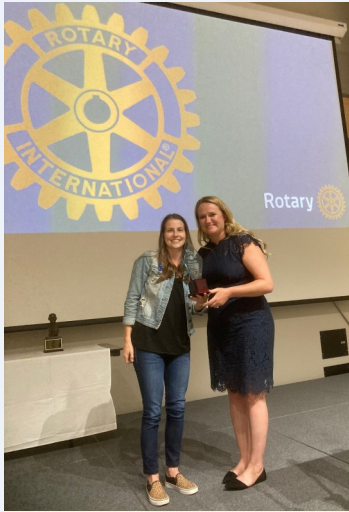
Rotary 5440 District Conference

Enjoy some pictures of our District Conference on June 9-11, 2022 in Lander, WY.



Rotary 5440 District Conference

Enjoy more pictures of our District Conference on June 9-11, 2022 in Lander, WY.



Rotary Club of Cheyenne

Rotary Club of Cheyenne Partners to Rebuild Deck for Veterans

Rotary Club of Cheyenne, Community Action of Laramie County, Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County

Rotary Club of Cheyenne recently partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County to reconstruct the deck around the John J. Edmunds Veterans Home in Cheyenne. The four-plex unit with eight beds for homeless US military veterans is administered by Community Action of Laramie County (CALC). Access to the upper units is provided by a wheelchair accessible deck that had reached the end of its 15-year life. The deck had become a safety hazard and was shortly to be condemned by federal inspectors were it not soon repaired. Initial bids for the project were approximately \$16,700. Rotary Club of Cheyenne supported this project by donating \$10,900 from the Club's business sponsorship program.

The Veterans Housing Services Project works in partnership with the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and provides short-term housing (up to 90 days) for homeless veterans as they work with case managers in Cheyenne to secure more permanent housing. The Veterans Home is one of the self-sufficiency programs offered by CALC and housed 43 veterans last year.

Due to logistics and timing, the project was not able to start as early as hoped, back in Fall of 2021. When the group looked to replace the deck again this Spring, the cost nearly tripled due to inflation, supply chain issues, and the rising costs of labor and materials. Fortunately, Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County stepped in to provide the much-needed manpower. Habitat for Humanity also has a great partnership with the Lowe's store in Cheyenne, which extended their deep discounts for purchasing of the materials to keep the project within budget.

"I think the biggest thing to note is that had Habitat for Humanity not stepped up to provide the project management in terms of actually building, I'm not sure this would have happened," said Tom Lacock, Rotary Club of Cheyenne member who help lead the project on behalf of Cheyenne Rotary. "It takes a community," Traci Lacock, President-Elect said. "Rotary is excited to help."

Yours in Service,

Jera Likely-Schlotthauer
Board Member, Public Relations
World Community Service Committee Member
Rotary Club of Cheyenne



Cheyenne Rotaract Club

2022 Rotaract Club of LCCC Spike Out Stress Spikeball Tournament

The Rotaract Club of Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne, Wyoming wanted to get creative in serving the campus student body and raising funds for future service projects and travel to the upcoming Rotary International Rotaract Pre Convention in Houston. As final exams were approaching, the students combined ideas and played on their fall fundraising event with LCCC Athletics, Spike Out Polio, and went to work on putting together a campus and community stress relief event and Spikeball Tournament.

The eight student Club members worked with the LCCC Counseling and Wellness Center to provide stress relief information as well as a stress ball for every participant and spectator attending the event. The Club coordinated a yoga instructor to lead warm-up yoga as well as teach stress relieving poses to participants. They gathered donations to provide each participant with a commemorative t-shirt and worked with local businesses for food and drink donations for participants and attendees.

On Thursday, April 28th, 24 teams of two players gathered on the LCCC campus for the Spikeball Tournament. The double elimination tournament resulted in “The Empire Spikes Back” team of Dan Garcia and Lauren Lacey winning the coveted gold championship t-shirts!

In addition to the generosity of product donations from local business sponsors, monetary donations for the event totaled \$1350. It was a great event for everyone who attended and a wonderful start to what is quickly looking like a new tradition at LCCC for the Rotaract Club. The Club members look forward to collaborating with the Campus Counseling and Wellness Office to assist students in “spiking out stress” with a Spikeball tournament before finals week each year!



Members of the LCCC Rotaract Club gather with their advisor for a photo before welcoming the tournament competitors at the 2022 LCCC Rotaract Club Spike Out Stress Spikeball Event. Pictured left to right: (back row) Denney Jackson (President), Lauren Lacey (Vice-President and Tournament Coordinator), Carole Boughton (Advisor), Brain Joelson (Member), Dasha Kasymova (Secretary) – (seated, front row) Matt Millin (Treasurer) and Jace Keppeler (President-Elect).



Douglas Interact Club

Some Douglas High School Interact students, sponsors, Rotarians & Rotary Satellite Group members partner together with tools in hand to clean up the second public access entrance to the North Platte River, where many kayakers & tubers exit after a ride. This represents the true idea of collaboration & Service Above Self, Rotary's motto!



Rotary Club of Fort Collins

Exhibit Showcases Work of Local Rotarians in Guatemala



The Hall Gallery exhibit will highlight community development projects by the Fort Collins Rotary Club (FCRC) in collaboration with Rotarians in Guatemala. The projects involve the Los Limones School in Gualan, Guatemala, a clean water project in Quebrada Seca, and Dengue Fever prevention in the Gualan area. The exhibit is curated by members of the FCRC under the direction of Rotarian Martin Limbird, also a long-time Museum Board member.

In conjunction with the exhibit, ***Rotary in Guatemala – Impacting the Lives of People*** will be presented virtually on Thursday, June 16, from 6-7:30 pm by Claude Piche. Piche, a former FCRC member, will share interesting stories from the projects that helped improve the health, education, and access to clean water for thousands of Guatemalans.

Tickets for the program are \$5 per Zoom connection, with reservations available at globalvillagemuseum.org. Registrants will receive the Zoom invitation on the day before the program.

The exhibition runs through Sept. 24, 2022. The Global Village Museum is located at 200 W. Mountain Avenue, and Museum hours are 11 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit globalvillagemuseum.org or call 970-221-4600.



200 West Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970-221-4600

www.globalvillagemuseum.org
info@globalvillagemuseum.org

The Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to foster and celebrate international connections between Northern Colorado and the world through exhibits of folk art, fine arts, and artifacts from around the globe; and to provide international resources and educational opportunities.

Rotary Club of Estes Valley Sunrise

AUTUMN GOLD: A FESTIVAL OF BEER, BRATS & BANDS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24 & 25

Estes Valley Sunrise Rotary Club's family-fun, FREE admission festival is set for the weekend of September 24 & 25 in Bond Park in Estes Park, Colorado. (That weekend is also has free-day in RMNP). No doubt Autumn Gold's band line-up will draw large crowds of avid band followers from all over the state and across the country. So, make your plans now.

Saturday, September 24, 2022:

11:00-1:00 - Wendy Woo Band

1:30-3:30 – Seven Nations Celtic Rock Band

4:00-6:00 - Last Men on Earth

*3:30: Saturday's Classic Car Show Trophy Presentation

Sunday, September 25, 2022:

11:00-12:00 – Sugar Mountain

12:30-2:30 - Seven Nations Celtic Rock Band

3:00-5:00 - The Long Run, "Colorado's Tribute to The Eagles"

*2:30: Sunday's Classic Car Show Trophy Presentation

** 2:35: \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING



Ferrari 2021

Here's how to prepare for Autumn Gold 2022:

Reserve accommodations for your visiting friends and family.

Buy a \$100 Raffle ticket for a chance to win the \$10,000 Grand Prize, \$2,500 second prize or one of seven \$500 cash prizes. (Each raffle ticket provides complimentary food and drinks!). Just go to our website or buy a raffle from a Sunrise Rotarian.

Tell the kids and grandkids that there will be new games this year with prizes.

This year's Classic Car Show will have a judge to select the winner; however, there will be a people's choice opportunity.

Be a sponsor! If you have attended Autumn Gold over the years and want to support this endeavor, email Leslie Glover (Les_glo@msn.com). We would love to recognize you for your kind contribution.

Proceeds go to college/vocational school scholarships for promising EPHS graduates, community grants for local non-profits and other Rotary projects.

Visit our website: www.estesparkautumngold.com. Like us on Facebook.



Wendy Woo Band



Raffle Buyers

Rotary Club of Jackson Hole Lunch

Rotary Club of Jackson Hole Announces Students of the Season

The Jackson Hole Rotary Lunch Club presented its "Students of the Season" awards on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at The Wort Hotel. These awards recognize outstanding high school students from Jackson Hole High School, Summit Innovations High School, Jackson Hole Classical Academy, JH Community School and Mountain Academy.

Kate Schelbe, Dean of Students at JH Community School, kicked off our Students of the Season recognitions by introducing us to Clare Eddy. Schelbe remarked how Clare "sets a tone of inclusivity" throughout the school and highlighted how she has given over 200 hours to Off Square Theatre locally.

Clare shared how theatre has influenced her life. She recently gave her time and leadership talent as Student Director of *Matilda Jr.* Through her time as Student Director, she was responsible for kids ages 8 through 18 and experienced what collaboration can bring to a project. Eddy hopes to continue to pursue education and inspire the next generation.



During the program, Dr. Scott Crisp, Principal of Jackson Hole High School, honored Student of the Season Fort Everson. Dr. Crisp remarked that Fort is a productive and generous person who recognizes that human skills are necessary as academics.

Fort, who lived in Mexico until he was eight years old, described the challenges of growing up as a minority. He moved to Teton County in 2012 and remarked on how welcoming the community was to him. He began to "change for the better" through sports and academics and attributes outdoor activities to providing "an appreciation for the valley." Everson hopes to return to JHHS as a history teacher to give back to the mentors and community who have given so much to him.

David Porter introduced Cameryn Cross from the Mountain Academy as a student who takes hold of new concepts and brings enthusiasm to learning. Cameryn is a member of the Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy program, where local high school students discuss, debate and decide how to leverage philanthropy for maximum community impact.

Cameryn shared how although usually shy; he has pushed himself to engage more and bring his worth ethic to projects and conversation. He serves on the Student Leadership Council and volunteers at the Learning Academy.

Brenna Dickerson from Summit Innovations High School was honored as the Student of the Season by Pier Trudelle, who highlighted her insightfulness and compassion.

Dickerson shared how she had "lost hope in her future and herself early in her high school years." After struggling with whether she could be successful in school, she moved to Wyoming on her aunt's invitation and re-enrolled in high school at Summit Innovations. Brenna is thriving thanks to a school she called more of a "community" and is now grasping at every opportunity possible.

Jackson Hole Classical Academy instructor Monica Vitale introduced us to freshmen Oscar Andersen whom she described as "an asset to the school."

Oscar spoke about how "you do not have to start the best at something, to achieve something." He began running last spring on a whim and, in the fall of 2021, completed his first half marathon in Jackson. He has set a goal to finish a half marathon in every state by high school graduation.

"We are honored to have students throughout the valley who share their stories and achievements with us," says JH Rotary Lunch Club President Jim Waldrop. "Our students honored today and throughout the valley have shown strength, vulnerability, and determination this year, and we recognize all of them and their achievements."



2022 Rotary Club of
Steamboat Springs

LOBSTERFEST

Sponsored by



YampaValleyBank
Genuine Hometown Banking

Raising Funds for
Yampa Valley RISE

**SATURDAY AUGUST 13, 2022
6-10PM**

**BOB ADAMS AIRPORT
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
TICKETS - \$150**

to purchase tickets email gillilandmorris@gmail.com

FRESH MAINE LOBSTER DINNER
OPEN BAR
LIVE MUSIC BY CONSTANT CHANGE
AUCTION

Rotary License Plate in Colorado

Profiles in Perseverance: Rotary License Plate in Colorado to finally become a reality

Rotary License Plates Will Be Available for Order in January 2023!

It started in 2019 at Governor Nominee training in Denver when Becky Smith and colleague Ray Anderson from District 5450 hatched their plan to have a Rotary license plate. The intent was to expand the awareness of Rotary in Colorado. The state of Colorado has a process outlined for any non-profit to follow that is quite detailed and nonnegotiable.

Ray and Becky secured the services of a graphic designer. Once a prototype was developed they contacted Rotary International (RI) as the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles requires a release letter from RI approving the use of the Rotary Wheel brand. The RI License Plate Approval Department rejected six submissions based on the wheel's size, location, font color, and the size and type of the font. Each rejection sent Ray and Becky back to the graphic designer for adjustments. Eighteen months later, Becky received the approval letter via email.

Becky met with Rep. Barbara McLachlan, who agreed to sponsor the bill. The two outlined the purpose of having a Rotary license plate in Colorado and an explanation of what Rotary and Rotarians do for Colorado communities and citizens. The draft bill then went to the official bill writer at the capitol building in Denver. Rep. Donald Valdez and Sen. Don Coram agreed to co-sponsor and after several months of edits and explanations, a final bill was ready to be submitted.

This started the petition process. Prior to a bill's consideration, 3,000 citizens must sign a petition of support. Ray and Becky initiated a signature collection process that non-Rotarians and Rotarians were asked to sign and, in the end, more than 4,000 signatures were submitted to the DMV.

On March 8, 2022 the bill was presented to the House Transportation Committee. The committee passed the bill, but not before requiring the Rotarians to stand and recite the 4 Way Test. The committee chair commented that perhaps all legislators should recite the 4 Way Test prior to each meeting! On April 26, the bill was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee. As of this writing, the bill is on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed.

The license plates will be manufactured soon in the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility in Florence. Then, all Rotarians in good standing will be able to purchase the license plates.



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.

- [**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.



Service Above Self

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Lee Varra-Nelson



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**