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SEPTEMBER 2022

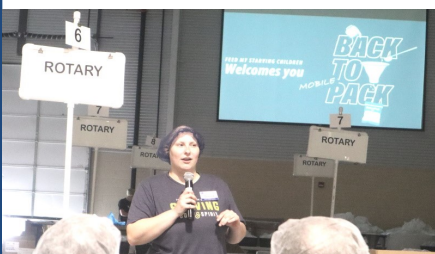
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## Greetings!

The District Leadership team started visiting clubs in July and we are rapidly approaching completing all of the club visits. I believe there are several benefits to each member of the leadership team participating in club visits. One that really stands out in my mind is the opportunity for the club leaders to know what goals the district leadership team would like to accomplish early enough for the clubs to have time to take action. At the risk of repeating what I stated last month, there has been something amazing and inspiring about every club I have visited this year. Steve and I are very pleased that DGN Julie and her husband Gene have returned after helping with a family emergency. Our thoughts and best wishes

were with them, and we are so glad that the situation is so much better.

Friday, September 16, several Rotarians from Northern Colorado had the opportunity to volunteer their time to help feed starving children at a food packing event host by the "Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC) organization. A great mix of community



members volunteered, including primary and secondary school-age kids, Rotarians from several Fort Collins clubs and many more enthusiastic and caring community members! The volunteer coordinators were well organized and very proficient at setting up the materials and equipment for us to package these meals and help feed starving children around the world. After two hours of creating these meal packages and cheering every time we filled a box with them, we had packaged 37,368 individual meals into 178 boxes which will feed 102 kids for a year! I want to thank Janet Peterson from the Fort Collins Foothills Rotary Club for a unique and uplifting experience and I'm looking forward to the next event! If you want to know more about the group and the children they help, here is their website: <https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer-info>



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## District Governor Message (continued)

Be sure to include the District Fall Assembly at the Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne WY on October 8<sup>th</sup> in your calendar! We have great breakout sessions on the agenda and an interactive main session! Club presidents, this is a great opportunity for your new club members to attend, network with other Rotarians and attend a Rotary Learning Session.

LCCC address is: 1400 E College Dr., Cheyenne WY.

District 5470 Governor Sam Kevan and I worked together with the Colorado State University Agriculture Department to host the 2022 People of Action Healthy Soil Summit on September 10<sup>th</sup>. This summit was one of four summits presented throughout the Big West Zone. The summit agenda covered important information that helped home gardeners and farmers improve their soil to grow healthier food with less erosion and improved water conservation. Topics presented included: cover crops and cover mulch for gardeners, tillage pros and cons, soil biology for soil health and a panel discussion on soil health.

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**



## SERVICE CLUBS JOIN TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**By Brenda Laird – President, Cheyenne Sunrise Rotary Club**

What difference can a service organization make to a community? Could several service organizations coming together make a bigger difference in the community? ***You bet they can!***

On August 27 and 28 in Cheyenne, eight service organizations joined together at local grocery store doors to collect food and monetary donations to help three local food pantries fill their empty shelves. Twenty pick-up loads of non-perishable food and \$1,500 in cash were collected and distributed to Needs Inc., Veterans' Rock and Western States Bank LCCC Student Food Pantry.

Volunteers from Sunrise Rotary Club, Zonta Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club of Cheyenne, Cheyenne Frontier Lions Club, LCCC Rotaract Club, Cheyenne Rotary After Hours Club, Cheyenne Noon Lions Club, and Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club stood side by side and asked the Cheyenne community to join in and provide food for those in need. EVERYONE exceeded expectations.



What the day proved to all of us, when you join hands and partner for a good cause - Everyone wins. Because of the success, future food drive days are currently being planned.

# World Polio Day 2022

## October 24 is World Polio Day!



As World Polio Day approaches, we're getting ready to amplify our message about eradicating polio to protect the world's children from this devastating disease.

We've made tremendous progress so far, and now's the time to intensify our fight to make polio the second human disease ever to be eradicated. In 2020, the World Health Organization's African region was certified free of wild poliovirus, showing that eradication is possible even in very difficult circumstances.

The wild poliovirus remains endemic in just two countries — Afghanistan and Pakistan— but as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere. So let's use World Polio Day to advocate for the support we need to end polio in countries where children are still at risk.

### Get involved

**Take action** this World Polio Day by hosting virtual and community events, creating fundraisers, and sharing posts about the importance of polio eradication on social media.

**Use the [World Polio Day Toolkit](#)** to find resources and tips for planning activities and promoting a polio-free world.

**[Register your club's participation](#)** in World Polio Day to show how your club is taking action to eradicate polio. If you register your events, fundraisers, and promotions by 13 October, you'll get early access to Rotary's World Polio Day Global Update, one week before the program airs on 24 October on Rotary's Facebook page and [endpolio.org](https://endpolio.org).

**Use [Raise for Rotary](#)** to start a World Polio Day online fundraiser. All contributions will go to the PolioPlus Fund. The top Raise for Rotary World Polio Day 2022 fundraisers will be featured on My Rotary.

## See what some of the Wyoming Rotary Clubs are doing for World Polio Day.

### Golf Marathon, Cornhole Tournament Highlight Wyoming Clubs' October Events for World Polio Day

What do a golf marathon, a cornhole tournament, pizza coupons, and a purple Rotary shirt have in common? Well, this year they will be raising money for PolioPlus as a part of World Polio Day on October 24 in the Lander, Riverton, and Thermopolis Rotary clubs.

Last year, the Lander and Riverton clubs raised more than \$1,700 in a friendly, last-minute "Purple Pinkie Donut" competition for World Polio Day. This year, the Thermopolis club was invited and has agreed to join the fray. Each club will be setting its own fundraising goal with all proceeds going to PolioPlus, of course. The "winner" will be the children receiving polio shots around the world.

A golf marathon isn't real golf...it's a race to see how many holes of golf a couple of players can play in a single day. The players solicit pledges of so much per hole played, say, 50 cents or \$1 per hole. Rumor has it that the golfers plan to play at least 72 holes. They will not be keeping score...

The cornhole tournament will be held on October 1 in Riverton City Park. Lots of non-Rotarians — as well as teams from the Lander, Riverton, and Thermopolis clubs -- are expected to enter the one-day tournament and compete for three top prizes. After the prizes, the proceeds from entry fees will go to PolioPlus. Special cornhole boards painted with the Rotary and WPD banners may be up for auction, too!

The clubs expect to have "Purple Shirt Days," where failure to wear a purple shirt will result in a fine, and, of course, there will be those pizza coupons which return 20% of sales to the clubs. All in fun to raise money for the eradication of polio!

# Nominations for 2025-26 District Governor

**Greetings, Rotary District 5440 Members.**

The opportunity is here to take a bold, exciting step in Rotary Leadership. Your District Nominating Committee is now seeking nominations for the office of District Governor Designate. The individual selected will serve as District Governor in the 2025-2026 Rotary year.

The role of a District Governor is to lead, encourage, and equip other Rotarians in their leadership roles, and to provide inspiration and motivation to the clubs in the district. The District Governor Designate (DGD) will train with Rotary International leaders, travel to Rotary International conventions, be a contributing member of the District Leadership Team, and follow the guidance of the District 5440 Leadership Plan and prior to and as District Governor, visit with each one of the clubs in our District. This is an excellent opportunity for a Rotarian in your club to enrich her or his leadership skills; to encourage and be encouraged; to develop relationships with individuals throughout the District and throughout the world, and to exemplify the Rotary spirit of Service above Self.

Each Rotary club is encouraged to nominate one member for District Governor Designate. The individual must be a District 5440 Rotarian in good standing, who has served a full term as club President and has been a member of Rotary for at least seven years. A nomination form and a biographical information sheet must be filled out and returned along with a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the club naming the suggested candidate. Each club should send this nomination package to District Administrator, Kellie Kegerreis, at [rotary5440@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com) prior to December 31, 2022.

The nomination forms are posted on the District Website at <https://rotary5440.org/page/district-governor-nomination-process>.

Interviews for the position will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at a time to be announced. All nominations will be handled in accordance with the bylaws of Rotary International and District 5440.

If you have any questions on the nomination process, please get in touch with nominating committee Chair PDG Bill Emslie at [emslie.bill@gmail.com](mailto:emslie.bill@gmail.com) or at (970) 482-5268.

## Carter Canyon Fire

All of you are so supportive of the other clubs and communities. I recall your immediate response to the Marshall Fire near Boulder last year. I was so touched and proud of your support for that devastated community.

In that spirit I am sending this message to ask if you would be able to offer similar support to the Scottsbluff/Gering area. In August several lightning strikes from a huge thunderstorm struck several places just south of Gering. This was called the Carter Canyon Fire. Thousands of acres of ranch and farmland burned, livestock was destroyed and several buildings were lost. The fire came very close to the Scottsbluff/Gering area! The wildland firefighters fought day and night to contain and limit the reach of this fire. Support for these firefighters came from the Firefighters Ministry, who provided many services to help out evacuees and the fire workers.

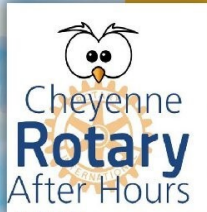
We are asking all clubs in the district to accept the challenge to pass the hat within one of your meetings and then send a check for the donation amount to:

**Firefighters Ministry**  
**PO Box 531**  
**Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0531**  
**Attention: Carissa Schank**

With gratitude for your generous hearts,  
District Governor Lee Varra-Nelson



## Upcoming Club Fundraisers




**Proceeds support Laramie County Library System's 2023 Summer Reading Celebration**

**Somewhere in the tropics  
between the Port of Indecision  
and Southwest of Disorder...**

**You'll find that  
murder meets  
mayhem and the  
intrigue begins!**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y9AXM3AK](https://tinyurl.com/y9axm3ak)

Scan me 



**MUR  
DER  
IN MARGARITALAND**

**DATE:** October 15, 2022 **TIME:** 6:00pm-9:00pm

**LOCATION:** Laramie County Community College,  
CCI Union Pacific Room

Ages 14+ Invited to Attend  
\$65 per Investigative Individual Ticket  
\$650 per Sleuthing Sponsor Table (8 Seats)

Ticket/Table includes Caribbean Buffet Dinner w/Cash Bar  
Plus! 50/50 Raffle, Live Auction, and more!

**A clever concoction of Chaos, Crime and Cocktails in the Caribbean**

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

- [Rotary Fall Assembly](#)

Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne

October 8, 2022, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

The Westin Westminster

March 3, 2023 - March 5, 2023, times tbd

- [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!**



***Service Above Self***

<https://rotary5440.org/>

**District Governor—Lee Varra-Nelson**

