

**Announcement:**  
**District 5440 DGND**  
**Chris Woodruff**



Are you registered  
for Atlanta?  
**It's Not Too  
Late!**

# The Connection

Rotary District 5440 NEWSLETTER

January 2017 • Issue 7

**Rotary**





# 2019-2020 DG

With nearly 25-years of experience in Rotary, Greeley Rotarian, Chris Woodruff has been nominated as the 2019-2020 District Governor.

## .04

## cuba update

Estes Park Rotarian, Rene Moquin gives an update on the challenges facing Cuba.

## 06.



## inbound

The newest bunch of Inbound Student Exchange participants gathered in Cheyenne recently for some fellowship.

## .08

# District Governor's Message

**Barb Redder • District Governor 2016-17**

*Casper Five Trails Rotary Club*

**H**appy New Year! We are beginning the second half of our Rotary year and I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to check on your club's progress towards the 2016-2017 Rotary year goals.

There are three citations that clubs are eligible for this year, the Presidential Citation, Governor's Citation and Public Relations Citation. Clubs successfully completing these citations will receive recognition and awards at this year's District Conference, but more importantly the requirements to obtain these citations help clubs define and stay on track of membership, foundation, PR, youth and leadership development goals.

Descriptions and requirements for these citations are on the District website under the Club Resources tab <http://rotary5440.org/SitePage/club-resources>. Please take a look at the goals and see what you can do to help your club achieve these citations.

While you are on the website, also take a look at the upcoming events. Specifically, I would like to invite all Rotarians to attend the Membership Summit on January 28th in Cheyenne.

District Membership Chair, Nancy Hobbs has organized this event and Rotary Zone is sending a member of its Membership Cadre to lead Rotarians through a variety of interactive activities to help Ro-

**“ Promoting integrity through ethical behavior is an essential part of what it means to be a Rotarian.”**

tarians recruit and retain members. We hope to see as many Rotarians there as possible.

There are also a variety of Rotary Leadership Institutes scheduled around the district, so all members are able to attend and expand their knowledge of Rotary. Please keep an eye out for more information about the Spring Assembly, Rotary District 5440 Foundation Dinner, and District Conference, all coming during the second half of our Rotary year.

January is Vocational Service Month. The concept of vocational service calls on Rotarians to “encourage and foster”:

- High ethical standards in business and professions

■ See REDDER on page 9



**Join DG Barb Redder in Atlanta for the 2017 Rotary International Convention!**

Registration links, convention hotels, event tickets can all be accessed using the RI Convention Atlanta link (<http://www.riconvention.org/en/atlanta>).



# 2019-2020 District Governor: Greeley Rotarian, Chris Woodruff

Mary S. McCambridge, PDG  
*Nominating Committee Chair, 2016-2017*  
*Loveland Rotary Club*

It is with great pleasure that I announce to our District that Chris Woodruff has been chosen as our District Governor Nominee to serve during the Rotary year of 2019-2020.

Chris has been a wonderful Rotarian and an effective Assistant Governor. We are also pleased that Chris's wife, Karoline Woodruff is a committed Rotarian and will be a great asset to Chris during his year as governor. Between them they have over 25 years of service to Rotary.

Chris and Karoline told me "they have seen the power of Rotary and how it can change people's lives, whether it be students, seniors, people in other countries or people right here in District 5440". They both believe that above all, the District Governor is a servant leader; providing the model of "service above self" to others. They hope to empower, encourage and celebrate the successes of all Rotarians in our district during their year of service. Chris also shared that, "the strongest leaders are those who gather the best



**Photo courtesy of Chris and Karoline Woodruff**

*2019-2020 District Governor Nominee, Chris Woodruff and his wife, Karoline.*

and brightest people around them and do everything they can to help make those chosen leaders successful".

Please join me in congratulating Chris Woodruff as our selection for District Governor nominee.



and plan to attend the  
**2017 District 5440  
Membership Summit**

**January 28, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne**

A Rotary Membership Cadre will facilitate this event. All members of our District who are interested in brainstorming new ideas on how to recruit, retain and engage members in their club are invited to attend! This is a **FREE** event but you do need to register on this site so we know how many to expect.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 am and the seminar will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Lunch will be on your own during a short lunch break in the college cafeteria.

Learn more at: <http://rotary5440.org/event/membership-summit>



## SAVE THE DATE

**Save-the-Date for the  
2017 District 5440  
Conference!**

**June 1-3 in Casper, WY.**

Plans are already being made to host you in Casper! Prepare now to come and enjoy the fellowship of Rotary with friends of old and new, along with inspiring speakers.

More details will be released in early fall.

**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

**“If this Rotary of  
ours is destined  
to be more than a mere  
passing thing, it will be  
because you and I have  
learned the importance  
of bearing with each  
other’s infirmities, the  
value of toleration.”**

*~ Rational Rotarianism,  
The National Rotarian, January 1911*

## CONTACT US

### GIVE US A CALL OR SEND AN EMAIL...

For more information about advertising  
and/or placing articles in The Connection.

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and  
[www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict5440](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict5440)

**Rotary**  
District 5440



# IMPRESSIONS from Cuba

## Part II

by Rene Moquin  
*Estes Park Rotary Club*

"None of us can save the world alone but each of us can do something,"

After having volunteered the past four years in Poland with Global Volunteers, I decided to join their program in Cuba in 2016 to teach conversational English. Many sponsors, including the Estes Park Rotary Club, made my venture possible. After several weeks in Cuba, some initial impressions are worth noting.

Global Volunteers is an internationally recognized organization engaging volunteers in community development projects. Working in close partnership with local people, volunteer teams provide essential services to help at-risk children and youth in 17 countries reach their potential.

The island is almost 800 miles tip to tip. It is the biggest island in the Caribbean and was the first island discovered by Columbus. Cuba's population is 11 million.

Upon landing in Santa Clara, applause was evident throughout the plane: families visiting, vacationing or reuniting after long periods of time. For Cubans, it was a time to celebrate. For us Americans it was the venturing into a country isolated for fifty plus years. I don't know if any of

us were prepared for the heat and humidity. I am sure sweating is good for the soul.

Cuba has been isolated, frozen in time for fifty years and now stands on the brink of many changes--politically, economically and culturally. The leadership and general population is aging. I thought it would be an interesting time to be there.

I worked with several students on their conversational English, including Paula, a 41 year old Cuban nurse, who lost her husband to cancer less than a month before. Paula was quite willing to share her loss with me. Laughter seemed to be the glue that bonded our relationship.

As my colleagues will attest, the range of English proficiency among the students varied widely, but they were most eager to learn. During one evening class I noticed that there was laughter at each table. At that point I knew we had bonded with our students; our new friends. We volunteers come knowing that we don't always know best. We can bring our experiences, resources and caring to work with people in their own way on their own goals.

I was struck by the level of knowledge the students had of the

world, along with their critical and conceptual thinking and creativity. The students are brilliant, dedicated, filled with hope, and eager to learn. As one student expressed: "I love my country but we need improvements. Cuban people don't want too much, just to live a comfortable life--more food for our tables, more money to support our families and also to have the opportunity to travel to another country." Although I tend to be positive regarding coming changes to Cuba, again views among the students varied widely. Time will tell what the changes will bring.

In addition to teaching there were fun moments. From our hotel to the community center where we taught classes, our mode of transportation was horse and buggy. I asked my driver what my horse's name was. He informed me that the hoarse did not have a name. All the other horses had names. I insisted that my horse had to have a name. So we agreed to name the horse Rene. So if you are ever in Cuba see if you can find Rene the horse.

Cubans are faced with innumerable challenges in an effort to modernize Cuba. In terms of infrastructure, the various forms of

■ See CUBA on page 7

## CUBA from page 6

transportation in Cuba speak to the isolation: American cars of the 50s, bikes, scooters, horse drawn buggies, busses, trains, etc. The City of Ciego de Avila in the center of Cuba where we taught was a charming, peaceful town frozen in time. In terms of traffic I am coming to learn that pedestrians never have the right of way.

Our last two days were spent in Havana. As we drove into Havana it felt like we were experiencing coming on to a movie setting of the 50s. After the Soviet Union collapsed ending its economic support and kicking off a brutal depression, change became inevitable. The Cuban government has approved both people- to-people educational travel such as Global Volunteers as well as people-to-people traveling on their own. As one Cuban stated: "It's going to change. But little by little." "This is going to be good for the whole country, you'll see. We'll figure it out."

- Change is already happening including:
- Greater tax and budget authority being directed to lower levels of government
- A decreasing state payroll
- Expansion of private markets
- Increase in real estate ownership
- Reduction in government subsidies
- Increase foreign investment
- Addressing the budget deficit

The socialist system of Cuba has many benefits including universal access to all levels of education, medicine and health care. Giving up these dependencies will not be easy. Government subsidies are everywhere: government hotels, grocery stores, the art, etc. The issue is not whether change is coming, but in what form. I think Cubans will find a balance between socialism and capitalism. From my conversations, the following issues will need to be

addressed:

- Decreasing labor force
- An aging population
- A cradle to grave free health care system
- Out migration of young Cubans
- Government subsidization of food, jobs, health care, arts, etc.
- Under-investment in vocational and technology training
- Mismanagement and over-reach of their own state ministries
- Corruption

As a longtime volunteer with Global Volunteers, I have no illusions about teaching conversational English, painting a wall or pulling weeds. Instead what happened during my visit in Cuba was a bonding between two peoples after a too long period of absence. Cubans welcome Americans. I am glad I was there.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



# 100 years of partnering with Rotary clubs to do good in the world



# District 5440 Inbound Student Exchange Students

Photos courtesy of Lucie Osborn  
Cheyenne Rotary





## REDDER from page 3

- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations
- The dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society

Promoting integrity through ethical behavior is an essential part of what it means to be a Rotarian. During January, consider how you can put these ideals into action. Consider the following as some suggested activities during Voca-

tional Services Month:

- Talk about your vocation in your club, and take time to learn about fellow members' vocations.
- Use your professional skills to serve a community.
- Practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your words and actions.
- Help a young person achieve his or her career aspirations.
- Guide and encourage others in their professional development.
- Emphasize the connection between the Four Way Test and

the Rotary Code of Conduct and their importance to the values of Rotary.

If you do any of these things, you are performing vocational service. If vocational service motivates and energizes you, then you're in the right place, because vocational service is the very essence of Rotary. It is what sets Rotary apart from other service organizations.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Membership Summit or at other upcoming Rotary functions. Thank you all for your support and work last year. Don and I wish you all the best in the new year.



**Mardi Gras**

**BINGO**

**Save the Date!**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2017—6 TO 8 PM**

CASPER SENIOR CENTER—1831 E 4TH STREET

\$1,400 IN TOTAL PRIZE MONEY INCLUDING ONE \$250 BLACKOUT GAME AND ONE \$500 BLACKOUT GAME

ONE \$20 TICKET BUYS YOU TWO BINGO CARDS FOR THE NIGHT

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT DEMENTIA CARE

**Come join us for food and family fun . . .**

REVEILLE ROTARY OF CASPER HELPING SENIORS AGE IN PLACE



## ROTARY DISTRICT 5440 ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

**Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a leadership development program for all Rotarians.**

RLI believes that excellent club leadership (all types of club leaders) is essential to the future of Rotary in a complex and fast changing world. Most Rotarians have not been exposed to the great scope of Rotary around the world and the leadership opportunities available to move Rotary forward.

- *Learn about the evolution of Rotary and its activities in the world.*
- *Discover leadership strategies for your club, work, or other volunteer activities by participating in interactive discussion.*
- *Fulfill one of the key purposes of Rotary by networking with other Rotarians*

**There are many opportunities to complete the Rotary Leadership Institute in 2016-2017 (required to earn the Governor's citation!):**

**February 10-11, Fort Collins, CO**  
**March 24-25, Casper, WY**  
**April 7-8, Fort Collins, CO**  
**April 7-8, Lander, WY**

**A Friday (5-8:30 p.m.) and Saturday (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)  
is all it takes to complete RLI!**



**Join a session in your backyard, or make it a Rotary Vacation Weekend!**

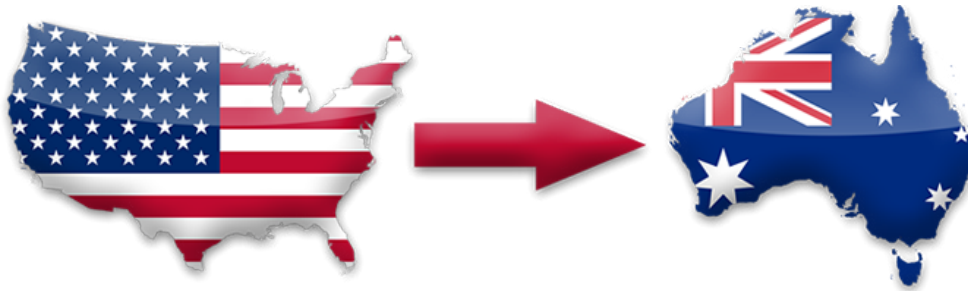
**Register at: [www.rotary5440.org/events](http://www.rotary5440.org/events)**



If you have any questions about Rotary Leadership Institute, please contact District 5440 RLI Co-Coordinator Marie Zimenoff at [marie@astrategicadvantage](mailto:marie@astrategicadvantage).



# Rotary Friendship Exchange Dist. 9650 and Dist. 5440

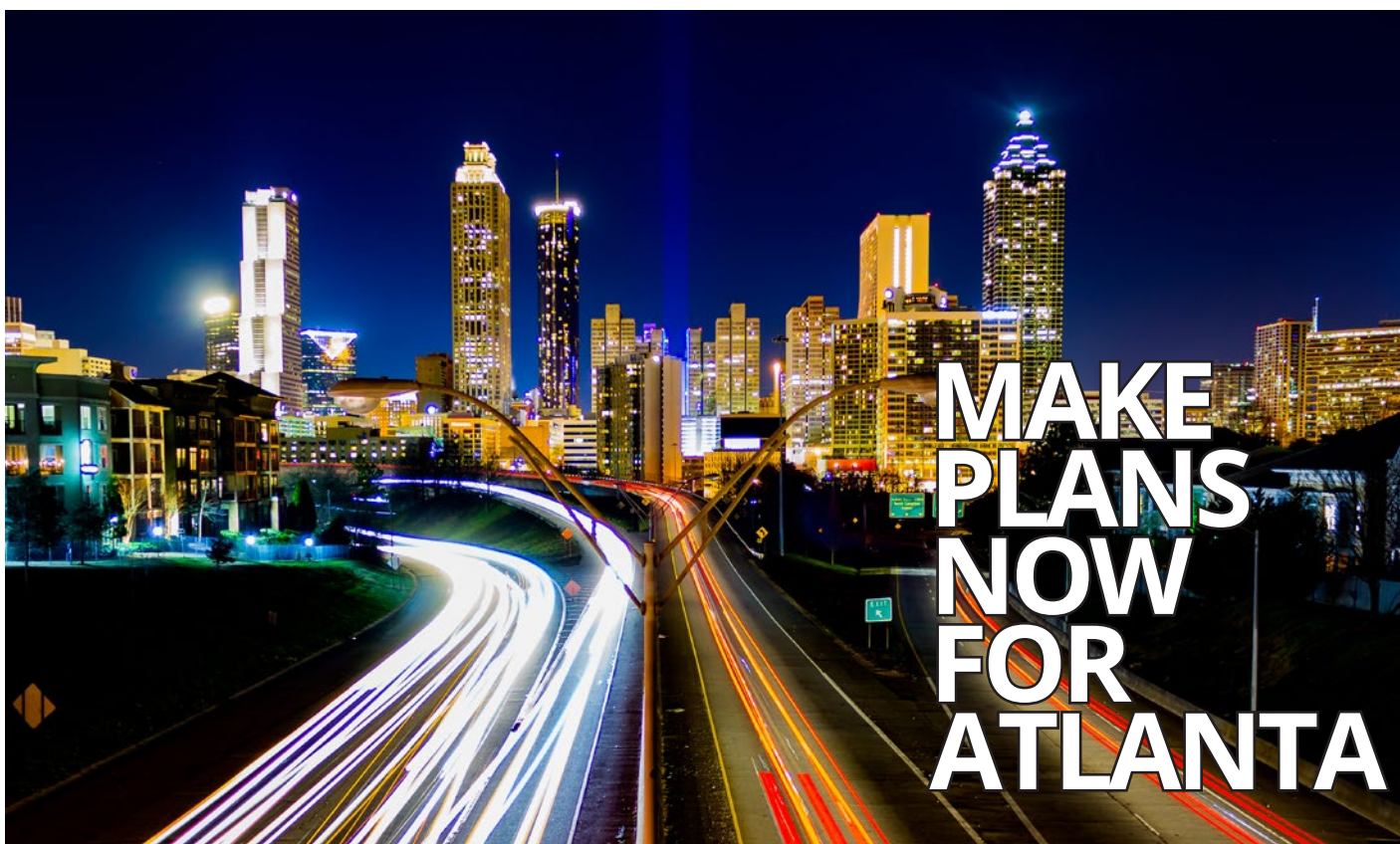


## *Schedule for Outgoing Rotarians from Dist. 5440 to Dist. 9650 (March 16 – 26, 2017)*

- **ARRIVE Sydney.**
- **Arrive Coffs Harbour Thursday 16th March**, PM preferably – by air. At home in evening with hosts.
- Friday 17th, Sat 18th, Sun 19th. March. Coffs Harbour Hosting - local stuff to include, including sightseeing, including a yacht cruise to the Solitary Islands, up close encounters with (wild) kangaroos guaranteed, pristine beaches and much more., social functions and a combined Rotary function. **Local transport** by members and members' perks.
- **Depart Coffs** for Dorrigo Monday 20th March AM (earlyish). **Transport** by Rotary volunteers.
- **Arrive Dorrigo** well before lunch Monday
- Balance of Monday 20th, all day Tuesday 21st March, host program by RC Dorrigo, with all the famous Dorrigo Plateau has to offer, World Heritage Sub Tropical Forests of Gondwanaland, and driving to and from Dorrigo on the renowned Waterfall Way, an Australian classic drive.
- **Depart Dorrigo** Wednesday 22nd March, AM for Walcha, Point Lookout on the way, likely lunch with **Armidale** Rotarians. **Transport** appropriate rental vehicle with volunteer, Coffs (most likely) to arrive Dorrigo in good time to transport the group from Dorrigo to **Wauchope**. (The rental bus naturally will be at your cost.)
- **Arrive Walcha** Wednesday PM, mid afternoon.
- Balance Wednesday, 22nd, all day Thursday 23rd March, host program by Walcha **local transport** by rental vehicle, if required, but more likely that locals would do their legendary 4WD tour.
- **Depart Walcha** Friday 24th March AM after all heads are clear, travel, most likely fairly directly to Wauchope.
- **Arrive Wauchope** as early as practicable to allow time for initial settling in with local hosts and good time to depart for the evening function at **Laurieton Rotary District Conference**. Once group is delivered to Wauchope hosts, the Coffs volunteer driver should return the rental vehicle to Coffs. Or, if it is Thrifty, perhaps the vehicle can be returned to Thrifty at Port, if the driver is planning to attend the conference.
- Balance Friday 24th, all day Saturday 25th and Sunday morning 26th March **D9650 Conference** and time with Wauchope hosts.
- **Depart Wauchope Sunday 26th March PM for Sydney** or other destinations. For some, or all, Monday morning might be better. By air from Port Macquarie, or maybe by train from Wauchope.

*As well as the rental bus, there will be cost to attend conference, and possibly some meals, especially when traveling.*





**June 10 -14, 2017**

**\$340/Rotarian  
Until December 15**

Register now for the best rates for the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Until December 15, 2016, the rate will be \$340/Rotarians and \$70/Rotaractors. The rate goes up from there with two other deadlines of March 31, 2017 and June 14, 2017.

Your registration includes:

- Inspiring and entertaining speakers
- Informative breakout sessions
- Opportunities to network and exchange ideas
- Entertainment provided by local artists and musicians

Registration links, convention hotels, event tickets can all be accessed using the RI Convention Atlanta link (<http://www.riconvention.org/en/atlanta>).

## Centennial Events

As you've heard, The Rotary Foun-

dation will celebrate 100 years in 2017! Special centennial events will be happening in Atlanta where it all began. You can explore The Rotary Foundation Centennial exhibit, attend the "Doing Good in the World" book signing and even attend the special centennial birthday party.

## Program Highlights

In addition to the amazing speakers, entertainment and events there will also be a special moving screening of "Gone with the Wind" at the historic Fox Theatre.

## Discover Atlanta

Plan your visit now to include family-friendly attractions like World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium, enjoy Southern cooking during Restaurant night or Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the King Center.

There is so much to do in this city full of rich history.

*\*Information courtesy of Rotary International*

# Rotary

## District 5440



### U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

#### **2017 Membership Summit**

January 28, 2017  
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Laramie Community College  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2017 President Elect Training Seminar (PETS)**

February 24 - 26, 2017  
Renaissance Hotel  
Denver, CO

#### **Spring District Assembly**

April 29, 2017  
Little America Hotel  
Cheyenne, WY.

#### **Centennial Foundation Dinner**

April 29, 2017  
5-9 PM  
Little America Hotel  
Cheyenne, WY.

#### **2017 District Conference**

June 1 - 3, 2017  
Casper Events Center  
Casper, WY

#### **2017 International Convention**

June 10 - 14, 2017  
Atlanta, GA

# SEE YOU SOON

**Share your club's projects, events, and milestones with the rest of Rotary District 5440,** by sending your photos and stories to Kellie Tovar at [rotary5440@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com)