

**Greeley  
Redeye  
Provides School  
Supplies**



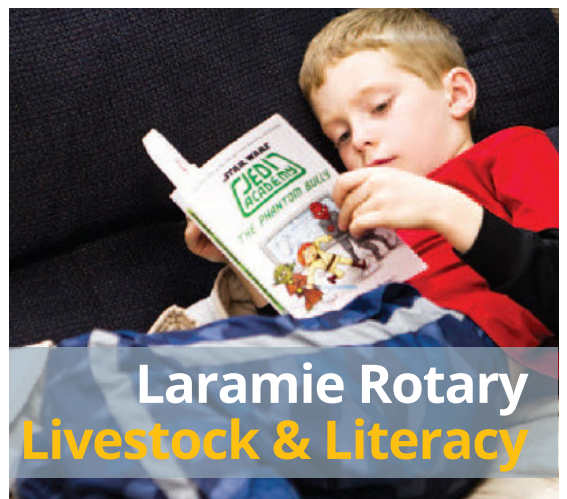
**Twelve-year-old  
project continues  
to feed the most  
vulnerable**

# The Connection

**Rotary District 5440 NEWSLETTER**

**September 2016 • Issue 3**

**Rotary**



**Laramie Rotary  
Livestock & Literacy**



## a good start

Members of the Greeley Redeye Rotary Club used a District Grant to help local students get a jump on the school year.

.04

## outpouring of support

Members of the Fort Collins Foothills Rotary Club donate time and effort to help local flood victims.

06.



## cuba impressions

Estes Park Rotarian, Rene Moquin, shares a perspective on Cuba through the eyes of a volunteer.

.08







## meet mrs. hobbs

This month, we get to know Assistant Governor, Nancy Hobbs, who serves the Rotary Clubs in Torrington, WY, Scottsbluff/Gering, and Morill, NE.

# .12

THE CONNECTION • SEPTEMBER 2016

# District Governor's Message

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

*Casper Five Trails Rotary Club*

As usual, summer has flown by and it is hard to believe September is already here. Since taking office in July, I have visited 18 clubs in three states, including our District's lone Rotary Club in Idaho. It has been a busy time and exciting time. I have enjoyed meeting many Rotarians and seeing first-hand the great work of Rotary being done by the local clubs and their members. As we move into September, Rotary celebrates basic education and literacy month. Basic education and literacy is one of Rotary's six areas of focus.

According to Rotary International:

Worldwide, 67 million children have no access to education, and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our members support educational projects that provide technology, teacher training, vocational training teams, student meal programs, and low-cost textbooks to communities. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

Globally, basic education and literacy are essential

for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development, and promoting peace. Consider the following statistics from Rotary International's publication, "Basic Education and Literacy: Project Strategies":

- If all women completed primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five.
- If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

As I travel around the District, I am amazed at the number and variety of projects our clubs do to promote education and literacy in our communities and around the world. In our district there are clubs supporting schools in Nicaragua by painting schools, providing desks, chairs, books, and computers. Also, our Rotarians recently participated in a project in Kenya building libraries in schools and reading to children and teaching them about water and hygiene.

Locally our Rotarians are engaged in great projects

■ See **REDDER** on page 12



# Greeley Redeye Provides Back-packs with School Supplies

Photo courtesy of Greeley Redeye Rotary Club

*Members of the Greeley Redeye Rotary Club distributed 2,700 backpacks to children in the Greeley School District this past month. Through the use of a District Grant, the small club was able to purchase and fill the backpacks with school supplies.*

On a warm sunny Saturday in August, Greeley Redeye Rotarians participated in handing out 2700 backpacks full of school supplies to local elementary and high school students.

Club members were proud to support the Back to School Event and see the Rotary Logo placed on 300 backpacks.

Additionally, Redeye Rotarians had a booth at the event in which we painted pinkies purple and provided information about Rotary's commitment to eradicating Polio.

The Back to School Event was attended by approximately 5,000 people. Club members also flexed their muscles as they stuffed the backpacks with school supplies

the week before the event.

Thank you for awarding Greeley Redeye a matching district grant for this project.

Please see Greeley Redeye Rotary's Facebook page for more pictures of the event. ([www.facebook.com/GreeleyRedeyeRotary](http://www.facebook.com/GreeleyRedeyeRotary))



**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>).



# 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.



June 1-3, 2017 District 5440 Conference 2017



## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**Rotary Zones 21b and 27 will be meeting in Salt Lake City,  
UT on Oct. 27-30, 2016 for the Rotary Institute.**

Opportunities and Scholarships exist for Emerging District Leaders,  
Young Professionals, and Rotaractors.

**For more information on the Rotary Institute, please visit:**

<http://www.rizones21-27.org/zone-institute-2016/>

## CONTACT US

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**Kellie Tovar**

(970) 506-1036

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

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**Members of the Fort Collins Foothills Rotary Club constructed storage sheds for victims of the 2013 floods that affected much of Norther Colorado**

# SHEDS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

We all remember the floods which devastated Larimer and Boulder counties in 2013, after the High Park Fire in 2012. Community and government support was outstanding and has still been going on even in 2016.

Earlier this year, we heard of a great opportunity for Rotary to make a difference.

The Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is comprised of State agencies, local government, a host of national and local nonprofits and volunteers dedicated to the recovery of individuals impacted by the floods. They identified a need for storage sheds, to help homeowners with significant property damage and loss. The sheds are used by the homeowners to store equipment and tools necessary for the reconstruction of the property.

The selection of shed recipients was made by the LTRG Construction Manager who worked homeowners, volunteers and coordinating the donated materials for the reconstruction. Each kit required approximately 6-8 volunteers 4 hours to construct. Shed kits were free, but transportation was about \$1,000 each.

Fort Collins Foothills Rotary helped secure funding from LTRG and District 5440, but we also wanted to make sure that these important assets are ready to withstand the rough mountain weather.

On a beautiful Saturday in August, we sent teams to do the final painting on three

■ See **SHEDS** on page 7

**EACH KIT REQUIRED APPROXIMATELY 6-8 VOLUNTEERS AND 4 HOURS TO CONSTRUCT.**

## **SHEDS** from page 6

sheds in Red Feather Lakes, Bellvue, and Loveland. The homeowners each picked their color preferences, and we energetically knocked them out in a morning!

This project is improving lives right here in our

community! Thank you to our dedicated Rotarians Rajan Bawa, John Davis, Carl Dierschow, Mike Hohl, Bruce Hottman, Charles Kaine, Brian Lacey, Ed Lueck, Jacque Niedringhaus, Ron Randle, Roy Steiner, Nancy Terry, and Gordan Thibedeau. Special thanks to Bruce and Gordan for making the connection and sponsoring this activity in our Club!



# Let's build something together

Are you in the building trades or construction industry?

Roman Repin, President of the Rotary Club of Saratov-Center in Saratov, Russia is seeking other Rotarians who are engaged in the construction profession to help establish a Rotarian Fellowship of Builders.

If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact Roman via email at: [repin.roman.russia@gmail.com](mailto:repin.roman.russia@gmail.com)







# Cuba IMPRESSIONS

By Rene Moquin - Estes Park Rotary Club

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 are aging. I thought it would be an interesting time to visit and volunteer. When an opportunity presented itself through Global Volunteers, I went.

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.

After volunteering in Poland for four years, this year I decided to venture into Cuba to teach conversational English. Many sponsors, including the Estes Park

Rotary Club, made my venture possible.

My first impression was when our plane landed in Santa Clara. Upon landing 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.

I worked with several students on their conversational English including Paula, a 41-year-old Cuban nurse, who lost her husband less than a month ago to cancer. 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; with our

new friends. We volunteers come knowing that we don't always know best. We can bring our experiences, resources, and care to work with people in their own way on their own goals.

■ See CUBA on page 9



**“I love my country, but we need improvements. Cuban people don’t want too much, just to live a comfortable life — food for our tables, more money to support our families and also to have the opportunity to travel to another country”**

in time. 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 50th.

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

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. Cubans are faced with innumerable challenges in an effort to modernize Cuba.

Isolation best describes the country of Cuba: politically, economically, culturally and in terms of infrastructure. The various forms of transportation speak to this isolation: American cars of the ‘50s, bikes, scooters, horse-drawn buggies, and dilapidated buses and trains. The City of Ciego de Avila in the center of Cuba where we taught was a charming and peaceful city frozen

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
- subsidization of food, jobs, health care, arts, etc.
- under investment in vocational and technology training
- management capacity
- 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. I am glad I was there.



# Baby Food Drive is Win-Win

● by Marge Mercurio

Every holiday season, some organization has a food drive asking for food staples such as peanut butter, tuna fish, soup, cereal, macaroni and cheese, and other such items. But how many times do they request or solicit baby food?

One man, a Rotarian who volunteered at Larimer County Food Bank noticed that the box labeled 'Baby Food' was empty each time he showed up to volunteer.

He tracked down one of the staff and found out that people rarely donated baby food. And yet, the demand for baby cereal, fruit, juices, diapers, formula, baby wipes, soap, and snacks remains high.

To fill this void, Marc Teets, a member of Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast asked his club to help him with a Baby Food Drive.

During the first few years, he put empty barrels from the Food Bank

in elementary schools, businesses, and shops. As each barrel filled with food, Marc would collect the food and bring it to the food bank.

It didn't take long for him to improve a more efficient and successful method and Marc went directly to grocery stores and explained what we wanted to achieve.

The event proved so successful, and the ASK was so easy that the Baby Food Drive became an annual event.

Twelve years later, the Baby Food Drive is well known and welcomed by the community.

The end result is that 95% of the baby food donated to the Food Bank is collected through this project!

As a Rotarian volunteer, working at the baby food drive was easy. Asking people to buy "anything baby-related ON AISLE 14" was

greeted with smiles and awareness since this was now a yearly event.

In addition to food, money we collected from generous customers was spent on more baby food items in the store.

This was a HUGE win-win project. People involved included Rotarians, family members, store management and staff, customers, Food Bank staff, volunteers and patrons and private organizations donating over \$3000 stepped up and gave time, money and food. Wow!

The Baby Food Drive is something any Rotary Club can do. Clubs can make it a challenge with other clubs within the same district. And districts can compete with each other.

The wonderful thing is everyone wins. The ripple effect is enormous, and the outcome is satisfying beyond measure!



# Students raise money to fight hunger

Eve Newman

*The Laramie Boomerang*

**Editor's Note:** The following story was originally published in the Laramie Boomerang on March 10, 2016.

About 75 Laramie children spent the month of February accumulating minutes spent reading with the aim of helping others.

Three Laramie child care centers — two Basic Beginnings Early Learning Centers and Developmental Preschool Daycare Center — participated in a program through Heifer International called Read to Feed, with sponsorship provided by Rotary Club of Laramie.

Children at the local daycare centers gathered sponsors to pledge money for minutes spent reading books during the month, with the Rotary club matching those sponsorships.

They plan to donate the money to Heifer International, an international nonprofit working to end poverty by providing livestock to impoverished families, who use the animals for food and income. Cows, sheep, goats, llamas, ducks, rabbits and more provide meat, milk, wool and transportation.

Jan Lawrence, director of Basic Beginnings, said children worked together to choose where they would send their funds. "They sat down and picked the countries," she said.

One group chose to focus on Kenya and another on Tanzania. The Developmental Preschool group chose to focus on Vietnam.

Lawrence said a Basic Beginnings staff member is from Kenya and her own sister-in-law is from Tanzania, giving the children a personal connection to the fundraising.



**Photo Jeremy Martin - Laramie Boomerang**

*Basic Beginnings Learning Center — North second-grader Nadia Buchanan reads "Girl Meets Ghost" as part of the school's Read to Feed campaign. Students collect donations for the time they read, and the funds will be matched by the Laramie Rotary Club and sent to help people in countries like Kenya.*

"We had some pretty specific reasons for choosing the areas that we did," she said.

Every day after school, students spent about 20 minutes reading books of their choice, accumulating more than 23,000 minutes for the month.

"We've set aside time for the children to take time out of their day to read," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said collecting sponsorships wasn't the main focus of the program. Instead, the focus for students was on gaining an awareness of global poverty and understanding where food comes from.

"There are children very much like them who live in other countries where food is an issue, where it's not something that's automatically put in front of you three times a day," she said.

As well, she said students were excited to be able to help others.

"And that's in addition to reading, which is always something we want the kids to do," she said.

Lawrence said the daycares had no trouble meeting their goal of \$600, which would be matched with a donation of at least \$1,000 from Rotary.

Herb Manig, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Laramie, said inspiration for the program came from learning about its successful implementation elsewhere in the country.

He called the program a "win-win" that fits with Rotary's missions of community and international service.

"It's a win for the recipients of the animal... and it'll help kids here take a greater interest in reading and perhaps improve their literacy skills," he said.

## AG SPOTLIGHT

This segment is designed to introduce you to our hard working Assistant Governors. An "AG" must have served as club president and agree to serving a 3-year term to be qualified for this position.

### The role of an AG is the following:

- *Provide support to the clubs in which they are assigned*
- *Provide support to the District Governor during their official club visit*
- *Assist incoming club presidents in entering goals in Rotary Club Central*



Nancy Hobbs (far right) is the new Assistant Governor in Torrington, Scottsbluff/Gering, and Morrill, NE.

### Torrington, Scottsbluff/Gering, and Morrill AG - Nancy Hobbs

Nancy Hobbs is a new Assistant Governor working with the Torrington, WY.; Scottsbluff / Gering; and Morrill, NE. clubs.

district.

"I'm loving all of it; while is it a challenge, it's great fun at the same time."

"I feel honored to have this job and get to know some great Rotarians over the next three years."

When she is not working on a Rotary, she is involved in her Torrington community with board work or her church. Her greatest passion is her family. My favorite people call me "Nana."

Besides her AG role, Nancy is also the Membership Chair for our

## REDDER from page 3

in their communities. Our clubs have programs where Rotarians visit local schools to read to children every week; clubs provide supplies for students, and other clubs provide supplies for teachers. There is also a project in the District to provide dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in many communities, although some clubs are moving away from hard copy dictionaries toward tablets and other electronic devices.

I applaud all the clubs and their projects supporting education and literacy in our communities and around the world. I hope the clubs to continue with these amazing projects and also encourage clubs to come up with new ideas to promote Rotary's goal of education and literacy.

Every community has different needs, and differ-

ent opportunities for service and each club can and should decide how to best promote education and literacy in its area or around the world.

I would also like to encourage all Rotarians to attend the Fall Assembly on October 1, 2016, at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Organizers are working on a mini-World Café, and there will be an opportunity to promote and fund-raise your club's District or Global project.

District Assembly is a great opportunity for club leaders and members to learn more about Rotary and the operation of our District. It is also a great chance to meet with other Rotarians from around the District to share ideas.

You can find more information about district assembly, and you can also register at District 5440's website - <http://rotary5440.org>. I hope to see you all there.



# SEPT 17<sup>TH</sup>

## CHAPUNGU AMPHITHEATER 3:00 PM



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# ARE YOU READY TO LEAD?

## Join the 5440 Team Serving With The Best

**Now seeking nominations for the  
District #5440 District Governor  
for the 2019-2020 Rotary Year.**

It is a matter of passage in Rotary, that on July 1 of every year, a new Governor assumes responsibility for our, and every, District.

**This year's interview date will be  
November 5 and the location is  
TBD.**

This brings a new theme, new responsibilities in the various committees, and, hopefully, a consistency of focus to attract new and keep current members, to make the world a better place, and to build awareness of our work.

The governor is charged with the duty of furthering the Object of Rotary by providing leadership and supervision of the clubs in the district.

The governor shall inspire and motivate them and ensure continuity within the district, according to the Rotary International Bylaws. There are sections in various documents addressing the qualifications and duties of the Governor that can be found in the Manual of Procedure; to make it easier for the average Rotarian to access and



Our District Nominating Committee is comprised of five Past District Governors, Mary McCambridge (chair), Mike Forney, Julie Phares, Phil Murphy, Ken Small and two Past Presidents of Clubs in our District, Billie Addleman (Cheyenne) and Ron Randle (Fort Collins Foothills). Charged with the "duty to seek out and propose the best available candidate for governor-nominee" they will meet before May, 2017 in accordance with the bylaws, to interview and select our District's Governor for Rotary Year 2019-2020.

All Clubs will be asked to submit suggestions for nominations for Governor, and these "...should be in the form of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Club naming the suggested candidate."

As with all elective offices in Rotary "any effort to influence the selection process for an elective office in positive or negative manner by campaigning, canvassing, electioneering or otherwise is prohibited."

Rotary International and District 5440 pay the expenses of attending training in the Governor Nominee and Governor Elect years, and for the Governor. The Governor Elect and the Governor also attend the Rotary International Convention as representatives of our District.

### **Contact:**

Nominating Committee Chair  
**PDG Mary McCambridge**  
at 970-222-1486 or  
marymac5440@gmail.com



# Rotary

## District 5440



### U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

#### **Fall District Assembly**

October 1, 2016  
Little America Hotel  
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.

#### **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)