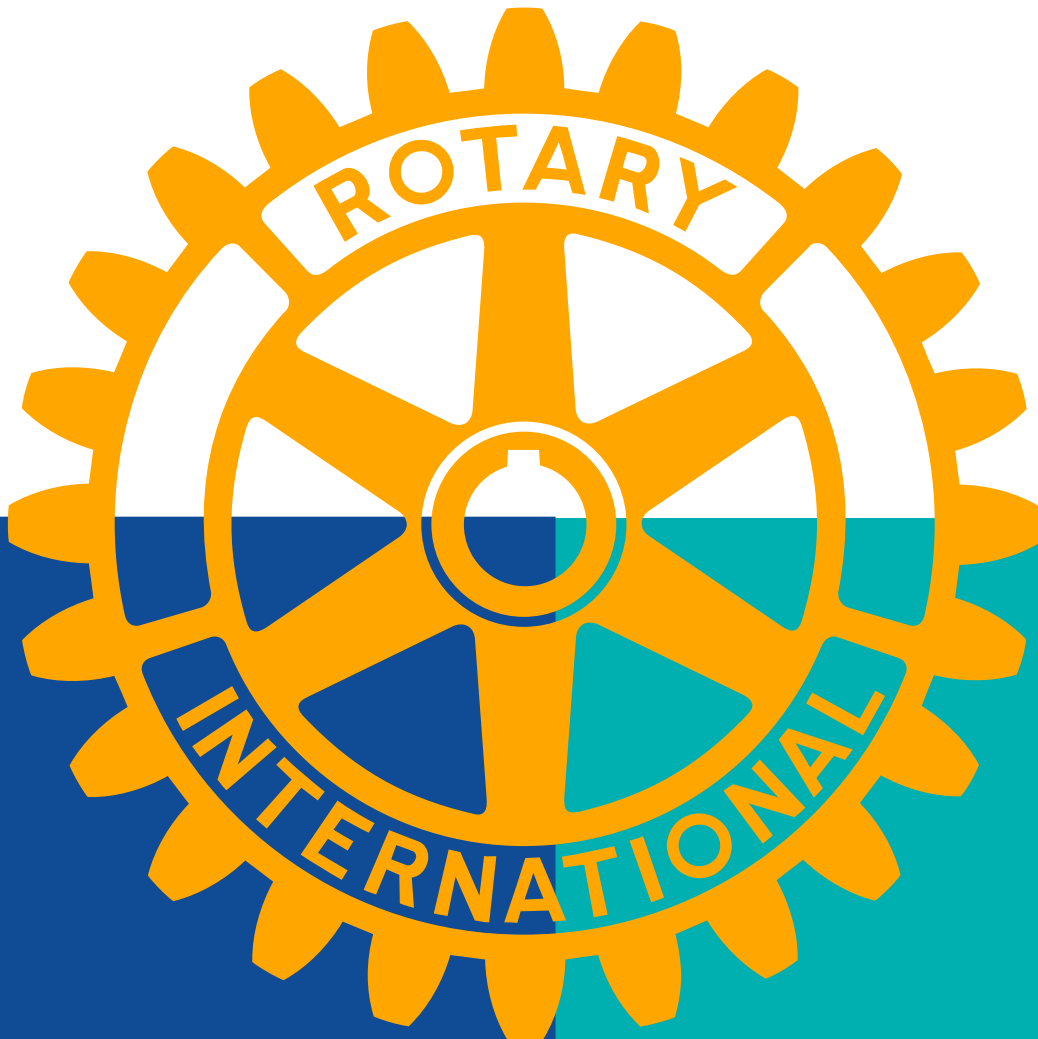


# People Of Action NEWSLETTER

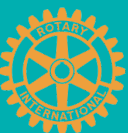
*"Rotarians are People of Action Making a Difference"*



## A New Rotary Year 2017-18

*meet our new District Governor page 2*

**Rotary**  
District 5440



# District Governor's Message

## *Rotarians are People of Action Making a Difference*

### The Rotary Experience

Each of us has a different picture of Rotary. Our personal Rotary experiences paint our view of Rotary. The color palette for our Rotary painting is rich and full of life experiences. No two people have the same view, the same experiences, or the same cumulative attitude of what Rotary is or the impact it has on this world. It is unique to our own circumstances and the way we choose to live our lives. And yet, we all share the Rotary bond, whether we are just beginning the experience with Interact, members of Rotaract or a new or experienced Rotary club or satellite group member. There are common themes, common values, common routines that blend each of our Rotary pictures using the values that have united us as Rotarians for more than a hundred years. These values are expressed as the four-way test, service above self, doing good in the world, fellowship, humanitarian service, club service, The Rotary Foundation six areas of focus, and so much more brought about by our collective experiences. All of these link and consolidate for each of us what it means to be a Rotarian.

### The Rotary Story

We each have our own Rotary story, or collection of stories that can tell others what Rotary means to us. It is through our stories that we can truly communicate the impact of Rotary from our personal experience. Sharing those Rotary stories with others is one of the most powerful ways to communicate the value of Rotary.

### My Rotary Story

In March of 2009, our club received a letter from a student at Colorado State University. Michelle was going to Nepal to study nursing and medical practices as part of her pre-medical undergraduate education. She needed some help in financing the trip and had sent a letter to several service clubs in the Fort Collins area. I invited Michelle to our club for a short presentation on her plans to go to Nepal. After hearing her story, we presented her with a check to help fund the experience but with a request that she come back when the semester was over and report on her trip. A few months went by and right on schedule, Michelle came back to our club with great enthusiasm about her new "brother" and "sister" who she stayed with while in Nepal. Her sister was a nurse who showed Michelle how nursing is done in Nepal. Her brother, a young man named Sudip, was a member of the Manohara Rotaract Club near Kathmandu and was a strong advocate

■ See MESSAGE on page 4



**Bill Emslie**

District Governor 2017-18

*Fort Collins After-Work  
Rotary Club*





# Rotary Stories: Telling the Tale

by Tracey Emslie

Fort Collins Rotary After Work

I was dressed as “Bad Sandy” from the movie, “Grease,” for a Rotary 1950’s party, complete with big blonde wig, tight pants, leather jacket, and too much lipstick. The poodle skirts, muscle shirts, and pompadours, not to mention hot dogs, popcorn, and an Elvis impersonator were fun, but I needed to take a break from the noise.

I walked into a quiet exhibition room next door. There was an iron lung. My costume was from a fictional, fun-filled ‘50’s. This was the terrifying reality for children and parents of that same period. Rows upon rows upon rows of these machines used to fill hospital wards.

The sleek steel was cool to the hand. It was surrounded by pictures of children suffering from polio, a disease that has killed and crippled millions upon millions of children throughout history.

There was a large close-up of a little girl encased in an identical machine that was using air pressure to raise and lower her diaphragm so she could breathe. Only her head was outside the riveted steel tube. She had turned it to look at the photographer with enormous eyes that were asking volumes of questions without saying a word out loud. We do not know who she was or whether she survived.

Polio can now be prevented but there is still no cure. Thirty years ago, Rotarians began working on an outlandish dream to eradicate polio worldwide by vaccinating every child on earth. In 1985 there were 350,000 cases of polio a year. So far in 2017, there have been five.

We are tantalizingly close, but the entire world must be polio free for 3 years before we can declare victory on this vicious disease. Until the end of those polio-free years, all unvaccinated children anywhere in the world are at risk.

The effort to vaccinate those children is expected to cost \$1.5 billion. Rotary, the Gates Foundation, individual countries, the World Health Organization, families, foundations, companies, and individuals around the world pledged \$1.2 billion of that at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in June, 2017. That leaves \$300,000,000 to fill the gap.

Rotarians started the largest public health initiative the world had ever seen. Rotarians need to bring it home.

Poodle skirts and Elvis are great legacies from the 1950’s, but the widespread polio outbreaks of the same period? Never again. It must never happen again.



## MESSAGE

from page 2

of helping women and children. Michelle was firm that we must get in touch with Sudip and work together on some very needed Rotary projects.

It all might have ended here. Michelle went on to graduate and then to medical school. Her life was enriched by the Nepal experience. This might have been the finale to a good Rotary act of service, but as it sometimes happens, things turned out differently. As president and later international chair of our club, I was interested in having us reach out into the world and make a difference. Our small club had an emphasis on youth with youth exchange, RYLA, Young RYLA and projects with the local Boys and Girls Club being some the things we liked to sponsor. We had not yet done much to reach out beyond our own city and our community. Michelle had been emphatic about reaching out to Sudip and I knew she must have had good reasons for this. Because she had been to Nepal and worked with Sudip, it seemed like the risk would be minimal for a successful project with the Manohara Rotaract club. We started to communicate with Sudip and found him to be a passionate young man who truly wanted to help his people. After discussing options within our club, we decided to ask Sudip for a project that we could fund and he would manage. Sudip proposed we fund the construction of a simple toilet in a small rural village where poor sanitation was impacting the lives of the village population of all ages. We could help, but did not have enough available funds to complete the project by ourselves. We requested a small district grant. Our little grant request was approved and the project went forward as our



*Here is a photo of our club's first Rotary toilet project in Duralitar Village, Nepal, completed in 2010. Cost of the toilet was \$1,627.42 with half funded by a District 5440 grant. The project was managed on site by Sudip Koirala, then president of the Manohara Rotaract Club in Nepal. Our partnership with Sudip continues today with over 40 projects, including 12 district grants, completed or in progress to date.*

first international experience. And though we had no idea at the time, it would turn out that this tiny project, located halfway across the planet, would not only improve lives in the village, but would change our club forever. Our 12th district grant with Nepal has just been approved. These grants have helped fund:

- Our first toilet project
- Surgery for 32 women
- Surgery for 8 women
- Our second toilet project
- A school renovation in a remote village
- Our third toilet project
- A Woman's Empowerment center
- Our fourth toilet project
- A Deaf Empowerment center
- A school renovation following the devastating earthquake of 2015
- A second school renovation damaged in the earthquake
- A third school renovation damaged by the earthquake that has just been approved for 2017-18

In addition to the district grants, we have partnered with Sudip in more than 30 additional projects for children, orphans, earthquake relief and related work.

These projects made a difference in the lives of people we shall never meet. Our partnership continues today and has a solid record of doing good. All of this

■ See MESSAGE on page 5

## MESSAGE

from page 4

evolved from that first encounter with Michelle.

### Your Rotary Story

My story has changed my view, painting a beautiful picture that has shaped my perspective of what Rotary is and what it has the potential to do.

As a member of Rotary, Rotaract or Interact, you too have gained your own, unique perspective. Our individual actions and their

stories make Rotary what it is today. In the coming year, we want to hear your story.

We want to tell our stories with the goal of making Rotary known by perspective members and to increase public awareness. To do this, we are asking you to complete the New People of Action Citation which can be found here: [www.rotary5440.org/](http://www.rotary5440.org/)

### The People of Action Citation

The People of Action Citation is an opportunity to recognize you for what you have done with your Rotary, Rotaract or Interact club or

satellite group. It includes not just telling your Rotary story, but your work in attracting future Rotary members, gifts to our amazing Rotary Foundation and your work in your club, our Rotary district and beyond.

Please download and complete the People of Action Citation and let our 3,000 members, as well as the public know what we are doing. Your story is unique, but the combined perspective gained by many of us telling our different stories helps us all frame the true impact of Rotary on the lives of people everywhere.



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

## CONTACT US

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

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

#### Kellie Tovar

(970) 506-1036

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

#### Visit us on the web at:

[www.rotary5440.org](http://www.rotary5440.org)

and

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



**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*

**Rotary**  
District 5440



# ROTARY DISTRICT 5450 WASH SYMPOSIUM

# BUILDING WASH

BUILDING CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

SATURDAY

## Oct. 7, 2017

8:00 am-3:30 pm

Breakfast and Registration 8:00-9:00 am

Denver Wastewater Management Bldg.  
2000 West 3rd Ave., Denver, CO

### Registration

Opens June 15th

General Reg.: \$40 earlybird (thru Sept 7) /\$50  
Students: \$25



**Keynote Speaker: Dr. James W. Jackson**

**Cultural Economics: The Power of "Goodness" in Human Development**

Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Project C.U.R.E. and award-winning author, speaker, humanitarian and cultural economist.



**Eddy Perez**

Senior Researcher & Faculty, University of Colorado Boulder's Center for Engineering in Developing Communities



**Levan Metreveli, MD**

Chief of Party at USAID-funded Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project in Adjara, Georgia, Georgian Medical Group



**Steve Werner**

President of Steve Werner Consulting specializing in capacity building of local, national and international nonprofit organizations.



**Dr. Braimah Apambire**

Senior Director of the Center for International Water and Sustainability at the Desert Research Institute



**Stephanie Cox**

Founder & CEO at The Level Market | Relief & Humanitarian Supplies



**Dr. Emily Van Houweling**

Visiting Assistant Professor for the Masters of Development Practice Program at Regis University



**Jeff Power**

Director of Partner Development for Global Hope International



**Rich Thorsten**

Director of International Programs for Water.org



**Dr. Peter Van Arsdale**

Director, African Initiatives, University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies



**Keynote Speaker: Tim Prewitt**

**Transformational Community Development**

Chief Executive Officer for IDE, an organization that reaches millions with innovative market solutions, meeting global challenges in poverty, food security, and health.

## SUBTHEMES

Building successful business models that bring functional WASH solutions.

Strengthening WASH education and capacities for sustainability.

**INFORMATION \* NETWORKING \* CASE STUDIES \* MENTORING**



Register at:

**[www.2017WASHsymposium.com](http://www.2017WASHsymposium.com)**



16 YRS & UP - \$ 5 • 15 YRS & UNDER - FREE



# PEACH FESTIVAL FORT COLLINS

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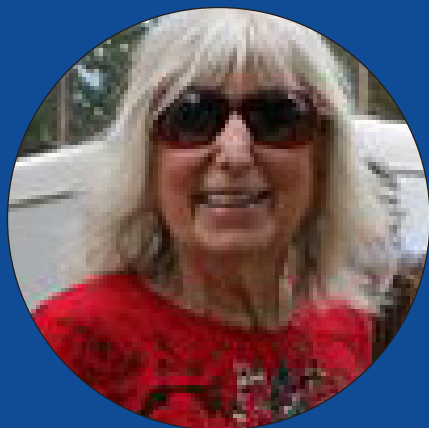
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD & BEVERAGES
- PEACH-THEMED EVENTS
- PEACH PIES
- PEACHLING AREA
  - FACE PAINTING
  - JUMPY CASTLES
  - CLIMBING WALL
- PEACH BEER & MARGARITAS



All funds from this event benefit the Rotary STEM Education Fund and the Fort Collins Rotary Clubs' service projects.



# Gillette Area AG - Dr. Verlyn (Lyn) Velle



## 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

Being a member of Rotary and then moving on to Assistant Governor for Gillette Energy Rotary Club and Gillette Rotary Club has been one of the most humbling and also the most rewarding endeavors of my life.

I don't really remember when I joined Rotary, but I do remember that my boss, who was the President of Gillette Energy Rotary, asked me to go to a meeting and take notes, which meant for the rest of the year, I was the secretary (it was legal, the board actually voted that day). A couple years later, I was elected the first female president of the Gillette Energy Rotary Club.

One of the committees that I have been with for several years is the International Committee, so have written district grant proposals and have fundraised to do educational/water sanitation/community development projects in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua from 2013 through 2017 and hope to receive a district grant this year to assist more of the 23 elementary schools that we help to support. The poverty in Nicaragua is overwhelming.

My background is in education, where I have taught at the Junior High, High School and

University level and now am the Career and Technical Education Director for Campbell County School District in Gillette. Education is a passion, and working with teachers and students is very fulfilling, whether in the USA or in Nicaragua.

I am very involved in Career Technical Education Student Organizations and will be traveling with students to SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in June and will judge the "Career Pathways" Competition, and to the Future Business Leaders International Conference in Anaheim, California, as well, where I will be judging "Business Plan" and "Business Portfolios".

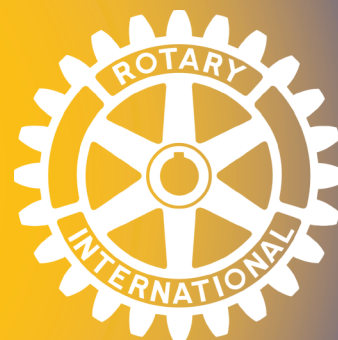
My family and I love to travel and have spent many Thanksgivings, Christmas and other vacations in Italy, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, France, Norway and Sweden, Mexico, England, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Alaska and have been to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival eighteen years in a row.

My favorite saying is: *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others".*

~Ghandi

*Start with Rotary and good things happen.*

**Rotary. Humanity in motion.**





# Rotary

## District 5440



### U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

#### **District Leadership Training**

Jul. 21-22, 2017  
Embassy Suites  
Denver, CO

#### **CCRYE Inbound Orientation**

Sep. 21-24, 2017  
TBA

#### **2017 Fall Assembly**

Oct. 7, 2017  
Little America Resort  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2017 Fall Interact Assembly**

Oct. 7, 2017  
Triumph High School  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2018 High Country PETS**

Mar. 2-4, 2018  
Denver, CO

#### **2018 Spring Assembly**

Apr. 7, 2018  
Little America Resort  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2018 District 5440 Conference**

May 3-5, 2018  
Estes Park, CO

# 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)

*"Rotarians are People of Action Making a Difference"*