

2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Debra Fine (Denver Southeast Rotary Club)

Building Rotary Connections One Conversation at a Time



Denver's own Debra Fine, a former engineer turned keynote speaker and bestselling author, is known worldwide for her book *The Fine Art of Small Talk: How to Start a Conversation, Keep It Going, Build Networking Skills—and Leave a Positive Impression* (Hachette). The book has been translated and published in more than two dozen countries.

A 30-year member of the National Speakers Association, Debra presents both on stage and virtually, delivering keynotes and trainings to hundreds of associations, corporations, and government agencies around the globe. Her insights have been featured on *The Today Show*, NPR's *Morning Edition*, *The New York Times*, *Fox Business News*, *Time Magazine*, and CNN.

A proud 30-plus-year member of the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast, Debra has served in many leadership roles, including as Club President in 2011-2012.

When not speaking or writing, Debra and her husband Steve Tilliss (also a longtime Rotarian) relish time with their four adult children, their spouses, and a growing collection of cherished grandchildren—between cycling adventures around the world.

Andre Van Hall (Denver Rotary Club)

The Power of Personal Connections in a Digital World



A native of Argentina, André has worked at some of the most prestigious hotels in the world, to include the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in Hamburg (once recognized as a one of the top ten hotel in the world), the Ritz in Paris and the St. Regis in New York. Additionally, he has managed some of the largest hotels, including the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta and the Adam's Mark in Denver. Before retiring, he was the

CEO of the historic Denver Athletic Club. A graduate of the school of Hotel Administration at Cornell University, van Hall has held such positions as Director of Quality, Executive

Assistant Manager, Rooms Executive, General Manager, Professor of HR and CEO. His volunteer activity have afforded him the opportunity to serve on boards of Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Rotary clubs, Urban League and many others.

After suddenly losing his eyesight in late 2011, he started a new career as a Professional Speaker, with an emphasis on Motivation, Change Management and Staff Development. His message of CHANGE, CURIOSITY and INITIATIVE has motivated thousands of individuals. He has spoken hundreds of times to groups large and small garnering him huge accolades.