

DOING GOOD IN NEW MEXICO AND FAR WEST TEXAS



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District Governor Dave Anderson

www.rotary5520.org

*On Route 5520 ...
with DG Dave Anderson*



Tick tock! It's not too late to be a club winner!

Our District Awards Committee is about to review each of our Clubs to determine who will receive awards at the District Conference, May 4-7 in Albuquerque. A number of awards are planned for both clubs and individuals, ranging from the best newsletter and website to our club and Rotarian of the year.

Unlike past years when Rotary's Presidential Citation was a key element in club awards, this year awards will be based solely on locally developed criterion with an emphasis on club attention to administrative details including listing of leaders and their contact numbers, goal setting in *Club Central*, membership development, and participation in District activities such as RYLA. This change has been necessitated by Rotary International's decision to extend the qualification deadlines for their Presidential Citations to June 30, well after awards are presented at our Conference.

Over the last few months I have been urging our Rotary clubs to check, and where necessary, to update their administrative information on our District web site. I am disheartened at the number of clubs that don't have contact information for current club leaders and have failed to enter the names and contact information for their 2017-2018 leaders. In addition, it is also very disappointing to see the number of clubs that have failed to enter basic information in *Club Central* on the Rotary International web site.

This lack of basic information causes significant problems in both District and Rotary International planning. The lack of membership and Foundation contribution goals on *Club Central* make it virtually impossible for us to effectively plan District and Foundation activities. Lack of contact information for both individual Rotarians and club leaders makes it difficult and time-consuming when we need to talk to individuals.

This year, as Governor Tom instituted last year, four clubs will receive "Club of the Year" awards based on their relative membership size. Other awards include Best Newsletter/Blog, Best Club Website, and a number of District Service Above Self honors. In keeping with the 100th anniversary of OUR Foundation, many NEW and traditional awards will take the form of Paul Harris Fellows rather than small Plexiglas items. As an added bonus, random Paul Harris Fellowship drawings will be held to elevate individuals to their next Fellowship level. **Our overall aim is to award 100 Paul Harris Fellowships during this, our 100th Foundation Anniversary celebration.**

Meanwhile, there is still time for clubs to update their information on both *Club Central* and our District 5520 web site and get in the running for awards! However, time is running out! Selection for awards will take place on April 16th. So, get busy and good luck. If you have questions please contact Lleta Scoggins, our Awards Committee chair, at lletas77@gmail.com or 505 690-3067.



Rotary International

www.rotary.org
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President-Elect: Ian H.S. Riseley

Rotary District 5520

www.rotary5520.org
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Governor-Elect: Doreen Kelsey
Governor-Nominee: Linda Woodward
Governor-Nominee (Designate): Jeff Weinrach
Vice Governor: Tom Walker
Executive Secretary: Kathy Fuller
District Treasurer: John Gordon
District Finance: Lonnie Leslie
Immediate PDG: Tom Walker
District Action Team Leaders
Lt. Gov.-Operations: Fred Bryant
Lt. Gov.-North: Yale Jones
Lt. Gov.-South: Earl Greer
Lt. Gov.-Central: Tony Pino
Lt. Gov.-East: John Drusedum
Lt. Gov.-Southeast: Jim Hatcher
Committee Chairpersons
Membership: Sheryl L. Saavedra
Foundation: Tom Walker
Global Awards: Darryl Gregerson
New Generations: Bobby Wallace
Alumni: Katie Updike
IT & Website: Donette Wagner
Public Image: Craig Altschul
Friendship Exchange: Donna Pedace
Historian: Dan Schulte
International Conv.: H. Peter Krebs
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District Governor-***Elect's*** corner

with Doreen Fox Kelsey

Why we give

I don't really know why anyone gives money to the Rotary Foundation. That's because giving is a personal matter, and it wouldn't seem right to ask. The one thing I can be sure of is why I give.

I don't give to get anything back, though I have found that I get much more back than I give. The last time I had the opportunity to participate in a Rotary Foundation grant and travel to a developing country, we had a lot to give and we were eager to do so. But, as usual, we received more than we could give.

I give because there is pure joy in knowing that 1.2 million of my closest friends share in the ideals of creating a more perfect world, alleviating poverty and suffering, building peace and resolving conflict, healing the sick, and teaching children to read. I give because I can't bear the thought of millions of children dying before their fifth birthday from drinking contaminated water. I give because I cannot think of anything else with a greater return. I give because it is such an incredible privilege to have *enough* to give.

I was reminded recently – at my Rotary Club meeting, no less – of all the disadvantages of giving to the Rotary Foundation. In the interest of full disclosure, I'll share some of these with you.

We'll plant trees in some part of the world, but we'll never have the chance to sit in the shade of those trees;

We'll feed starving children, but we'll never get invited to dinner;

We'll buy books for children, but we'll never get to see them graduate from school; and,

We'll fund micro-credit projects so that families can support themselves with small businesses, but we won't be there to see them take those first steps toward independence.

So, considering all these disadvantages, why would anyone give to the Rotary Foundation? Quite simply because, as PDG Tom Walker says, "When our contributions are combined with those of our fellow Rotarians around the world, we are doing things that no single club (or individual) could achieve."

Of course, I don't actually consider any of the above circumstances to be disadvantages; I'm only trying to make a point. What the Rotary Foundation does so brilliantly is to leverage financial and human contributions in such a way that these are increased multifold. The Rotary Foundation is a leader among the most efficient and effective charitable organizations evaluated by Charity Navigator. This is why your Rotary Foundation was ranked number three last year among the top ten charities of the world.



Horses for Heroes: Santa Fe Rotary builds ramps

The Rotary Club of Santa Fe participated in matching funds with Horses for Heroes in constructing a ramp for veterans at the Horses for Heroes site. This ramp is being used by U.S. veterans and active military participating in the Horses for Heroes program. A Santa Fe Rotarian's business donated a custom stone waterfall and reflection pond. The Santa Fe Club using the District ramp project funds provided the "sweat equity" and materials to complete an access ramp suitable for veterans with ambulatory challenges.



Santa Fe Rotary's reflecting pond.

The Rotary Club of Santa Fe was delighted to partner with Horses for Heroes whose mission is to help integrate our war veterans by providing a program centered around the "Cowboy Way". From day one, veterans are hands on with the horses and participating in all aspects of ranch life in and around Santa Fe, New Mexico, but more importantly experiencing the camaraderie of cowboys who are veterans themselves. This sharing can recuperate, recreate, and reintegrate these heroes into society essentially giving them a new and vital mission.

Having access to the calming effects and sounds of water help the Horses for Heroes with sleep issues as well as provide a wonderful backdrop for celebrations. This setting has already been used for marriages, birthdays, and the Gold Star Mothers who often visit.

Fellowship Cycling

Cycling enthusiasts in Rotary can connect around the world



Spring is here! It's a great time to dust off the bike, pump up the tires and join the Rotary Fellowship Cycling cycling2serve.us. Connect with cycling Rotarians from around the USA, and around the world who share the same passion for Rotary and cycling. Link up with Rotary fundraising & fellowship events. Post your cycling event and take advantage of cycling discounts. *** SPECIAL EVENT ***. FCS is hosting a fellowship ride at the Rotary Atlanta Convention.

For more info contact: James Morrison, info@cycling2serve.us

Club Awards:

Deadline for submitting your best has been extended

Hopefully, you have made your plans and reservations to attend the District Conference in Albuquerque May 5-7. It is always a highlight of the year to get together with fellow Rotarians across the District and celebrate friendships and all the good work that is being done in our District and internationally.

A big part of that week-end is celebrating our year. Many traditional activities will take place along with some really special events such as the Friday luncheon celebrating 30 year of women in Rotary and our Rotary Foundation's 100th anniversary. Friday evening will be a special Cinco de Mayo fiesta followed Saturday evening by a western night!

One of the key features will be the presentation of awards to both clubs and individuals. **MANY AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT!** Not only will a number of traditional awards be presented, but some new ones are in the lineup including Paul Harris "Step Ups" drawn at random for some of those attending.

Although submittals for several of the awards were due March 31, we experienced some problems with our communications requesting submissions. Consequently, **WE ARE EXTENDING** the deadline for submittals for the following awards to April 10. This includes Best Club Newsletter/Blog (submit examples), Best Club Website (submit website address), New Generation submittals, and Sonny Brown Business Awards (applications attached to this email). **ALL** submittals should be sent to

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As you may know, Rotary International has changed the Presidential Citation deadline to June 30. This means that the 2016 – 2017 Presidential Citation cannot be awarded this year, nor can it be used to evaluate clubs for District awards. Consequently, the District Awards Committee will be looking at both the District web site and Rotary's Club Central to determine which clubs should receive recognition. Governor Dave has announced that Club of the Year Awards will be given to Clubs in each size category (small, medium, large, and extra-large) based on club activities, participation and support of both Rotary International and District 5520. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SUBMIT** for awards or to ensure your clubs administrative information is up to date of both *ClubRunner* and *Rotary Club Central*!

I hope you will send me your submittals for the above awards, register for the Conference, and be there so we can celebrate you and your club!. If you have questions, give me a call!

—**Lleta Scoggins, Rotary District Awards Chair**

A special reminder to District Rotarians: *Not only will we be celebrating 30 years of women in Rotary and the 100th anniversary of our Foundation at Friday's luncheon and a grand Cinco de Mayo fiesta that evening, but we will also have a special tribute at Saturday night's Western Party to honor Past District Governor, past Rotary International Vice President and Director, founder of our District RYLA program and everyone's friend, Sonny Brown. Sonny has dedicated his life to Rotary and it will be our pleasure to honor him with the District 5520 Lifetime Achievement Award. Come out and help Sonny celebrate a life dedicated to service above self!—DG Dave.*

Grants e-Town Hall meetings: *First set for April 13*

The District 5520 Foundation Committee has announced dates for an e-Town Hall meeting, four Grants Management training sessions and the period for submitting applications for District Grants matching funds.

The e-Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. (MDST) on Thursday, April 13, 2017. Its purpose is an open discussion between club members with Tom Walker, District Foundation Chair, and Dom Bernardi, District Grants Chair and in-coming District Foundation Chair. Further information on how to access the Town Hall via Zoom will be distributed via the district website.

Clubs are reminded that no less than two club members must attend Grants Management Training to qualify for a Global or District matching grants. This training will be conducted via Zoom on the following dates and times (all times are MDST):

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.

The training will last approximately 1 – 1½ hours. Clubs interested in applying for grants should make every effort to have at least two club members certified by attending one of the sessions. No other Grant Management training sessions are planned.

Global Grants applications can be submitted at any time by contacting Tom Simon, District Global Grants Chair. District Matching District Grants (formerly called community Grants) applications can be submitted through the ClubRunner Grants Module beginning May 1, 2017. The deadline for obtaining approval of a District Matching District Grant is June 15, 2017. No District Grants will be approved after June 15, 2017. Further information can be obtained by contacting Ray Cox (Rotary Club of El Paso) at (915)740-3722 or at lrcox0251@yahoo.com.

Global Grant to India: Desks for classrooms in poor areas

A couple of years ago, several Rotary Clubs in District 5520 agreed to provide financial support for a Global Grant to India, D3040, to purchase desk furniture in classrooms in the poorest regions in India. This was the first one that our district had done in several years in India. It took almost 18 months to get the grant approved by RI but, the project is almost finished and they are already working on their final report to submit to RI. These schools are located in the rural areas where few children have access to school or quality education. Previously, many of these classrooms offered only chairs given by parents or, in most cases, the children sat on the floor.



India Rotarians try out new desks in a school classroom.

The second part of the grant provides for master teachers to go into the schools and present additional training for the local teachers, many of whom have only limited education themselves. This training will provide lesson plans, tips and suggestions on how to engage the students in learning, and general improvements to the teaching skills. This additional training is going on now and will be completed soon. The district intends to continue with the master teacher training program on an annual basis.

Rotarians in District 5520 have truly made a difference in the lives of the thousands of children who now have a place to sit as they continue their education. -- Submitted by Donna Pedace, Rotary Club of **Albuquerque Del Norte**

A personal story on why to donate blood

Fred Bryant supports District Governor's Blood Challenge

I don't know if you have ever needed life sustaining blood or knew someone who needed blood. I have and I really believe in this District 5520 Governor's Blood Challenge that Rotary clubs throughout the district have been invited to participate in.

My first wife, Kathy, was diagnosed in 1986 with a virus. Kathy had been a military wife for 29 years, traveling all over the world with me. She was a mother of two and a marathon runner in Washington State, Oregon, California, Nevada, Germany & Hawaii twice. Her last marathon was in 1990 at the Napa Valley, California, Run For The Wine.



In February 1990, Kathy needed blood transfusions over the next two years on a regular basis. The blood she received was donated by complete strangers. On October 1992, at the young age of 44, Kathy lost her fight with the virus, but was always thankful for those strangers that donated blood so she could live the extra 32 months and spend this valuable time with her family. The people who knew Kathy watch her fight this virus with an inner strength always keeping a smile on her face and thankful for the time she had. She made a great run for life with the help of those unknown folks who donated blood.

During the District Blood Challenge, you have a chance to help save lives or extend those lives of people who need our blood. From now through Saturday, April 22, from you can help. All you have to do is call your local Blood Services Center to make an appointment to donate. If you can't donate, bring your friends, family members to donate in your name.

We will be drawing names for Paul Harris Fellowship Awards for those who donate. That is just an added benefit. The real benefit are the lives you are saving.

Yours in Rotary,

Fred Bryant, District 5520 Lt. Governor for Operations, fredbryant300@gmail.com

Immunization Week April 24-30

The use of vaccines has, in many parts of the world, nearly eliminated diseases that once were widespread, such as diphtheria, tetanus and rubella. Thanks to vaccines, 20 million lives have been saved from measles since 2000. Smallpox has been eradicated – and polio is next.

Thirty years ago, there were an estimated 350,000 cases of polio per year worldwide. Only 37 cases of polio had been recorded in 2016 – the lowest number in history. All of the other cases, and the paralysis and death they would have brought, were prevented through the widespread use of a safe, reliable and inexpensive vaccine.

Overall, the World Health Organization estimates that immunization prevents an estimated 2 million to 3 million deaths every year. It also averts a tremendous burden of disability and economic loss. Yet we could be doing so much better: An additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided by improving vaccine coverage worldwide.

This month, from April 24-30, we join WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in celebrating World Immunization Week, raising the awareness of the incredible impact that vaccines have had on global health. This year's theme is "Vaccines Work" – and they do. — **John F. Germ, Rotary International President**

2017 Atlanta Convention: It could be the greatest Rotary event in your Rotary life!

As RI President John Germ said: Please participate in this year's **ROTARY CONVENTION** to be held in Atlanta, GA June 10-14. It could well be THE greatest event of your Rotary career!

Apart from meeting thousands of Rotarians from all over the world, the host committee is anxious to show off Southern hospitality including the vibrant dining scene of Atlanta, the huge aquarium, museums and the unique Botanical Garden, just to name a few of the many attractions waiting for YOU !

If you are a sports fan, there are also many things to look forward to:

Join the Golf icon and Rotary Polio Ambassador JACK NICKLAUS who can't wait to meet you at the Convention Center.

Further, you might want to combine RI experiences with a few side trips to local shrines of sports.

Even if you do not make it to the special event baseball game (Braves vs. Phillies) hosted by the legendary Hank Aaron, you should check out the Braves' old and new homes: Sculptor and Rotarian Ross Rossin's iconic statue of Aaron stands outside Turner Field where the Braves played until this year. Rossin sculpted another statue of Aaron at the new Sun Trust stadium.

If you, like all Georgians, love college football be aware that honorary Rotarian Vince Dooley coached the UGA team for 25 years with a 70% winning record. In addition, plan to visit the College Football Hall of Fame which has acres of exhibits and even a 45-yard indoor field. The host committee holds a special evening event there on June 12, but if you cannot make it, the hall is just steps away from the convention.

There is just **no excuse** not to sign up as several members of our District 5520 have done already.

Getting to Atlanta is an easy non-stop flight from Albuquerque or El Paso and the huge Hartsfield airport is well located. From there, it is really easy to transfer to the **Georgia World Congress Center** in the heart of downtown Atlanta using MARTA, Atlanta's rapid transit service.

Please do not miss this opportunity by registering soonest. Look for much more detailed information under www.riconvention.org and by talking to those of your club members who have already attended past RI conventions.

--Peter Krebs, Rio Grande, Las Cruces



RI President John Germ and his wife Judy welcome Rotarians to Atlanta.

Polio journey a dream trip

Omaha Rotarian Gretchen Bren (see insert) spoke to the District 5520 Assembly in March about her passion for being hands-on in the fight to end polio by making 11 immunization trips. "Polio is more than just the numbers," she said. "Every time I went back (to India), I would get huge smiles. The experience of seeing children improve year after year has truly changed me," she said. "It's about making dreams come true. It's about serving humanity."



News Briefs... from around New Mexico and West Texas

The Rotary Peace Centers

One of the lesser known, but most important, projects of Rotary International is the Rotary Peace Centers. This dynamic and ambitious project identifies highly qualified professionals and trains them to become agents of peace. Since 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,000 Rotary Peace Fellows who are now working as leaders in government, nongovernmental organizations, the military, law enforcement, education, humanitarian assistance, restorative justice, and international governance organizations. Six Rotary Peace Centers operate in partnership with seven premier universities in six countries around the world (in the United States, the peace center *is* associated with both Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Each Rotary Peace Center offers its own customized curriculum and field-based learning opportunities that examine peace and conflict theory through various frameworks. Five of the peace centers offer master's degrees; one offers a professional development certificate. To get a better sense of the important work these alumni are doing, watch this inspiring video of a presentation by a Peace Center alumnus at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego on January 19, 2017. <https://vimeo.com/200269701>. See also <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>. Please consider joining my wife and me in supporting the Rotary Peace Centers. -- Yale Jones, Taos Milagro Rotary Club

Rio Grande Academy to hold pre-District sessions

There will be a special Rio Grande Academy preceding the District Conference, covering many aspects of Rotary: Leadership, Membership, Service Projects, Rotary Foundation and Grants, International Activities, Youth Activities, Rotary Projects — and much more! All three parts will be offered. Whether you are just starting or needing one part to complete the curriculum you can take one of the three at this time. There will be attendees from clubs around the entire district, giving you a chance to interact with Rotarians from many other areas. District Governor Dave Anderson has made a special offer to complete a Paul Harris fellow for any Rotarian completing Rio Grande Academy at this session and also going to District Conference. It is immediately before the district conference, so you can do both in one trip. But, although it is immediately before District Conference, it is a separate event. **So, you MUST sign up for it even if you have registered for the District Conference.** If you have questions, contact Rick Akins at randr2@cableone.net or Jesse Allen at jesse.austin.allen@gmail.com



Banner day for Oregon RFE's

Oregon Rotary Friendship Exchange members from District 5110 show off banners from their hosts from the Rotary Club of Los Alamos while they were in northern New Mexico in March. They spent four days in Los Alamos before visiting fellow Rotarians in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Roswell and Silver City before returning to Oregon.