

DOING GOOD IN NEW MEXICO AND FAR WEST TEXAS



September 1, 2015 ■ No. 2

District Governor Tom Walker

www.rotary5520.org

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On the Road ...with DG Tom Walker



The 2015-2016 Rotary year is well underway. We have just successfully completed our annual Bi-District Conference with Mexican District 4110 in Las Cruces. We have witnessed our twelve Outbound Youth Exchange students get on their flights and, likewise, we have received our fourteen Inbound Youth Exchange students. And I have visited 31 of our Rotary Clubs across District 5520 and participated in numerous club and district events.

A couple of weeks ago, Albuquerque-area Rotary clubs conducted D5520's second, and highly successful, Membership Cadre training. I am reminded of Vera Lynn's song "Bless 'em All". Many of you have heard me say, "I'm still looking for the 'normal' Rotary Club." I'm pretty well assured that on June 30, 2016, I'll still be looking for "normal." Each one of our members and every one of our Rotary clubs brings so much to the "table." I never cease to be amazed by what our members and clubs are doing to "Be a Gift to the World" each and every day.

President "Ravi" Ravindran's theme for the 2015-2016 Rotary year is *Be a Gift to the World*. Besides the gift of the "Rotary Family" and the gift of "Rotary", have we considered the impact that we, as Rotarians, have had, and are continuing to have, on our communities? We're so accustomed to supporting our community projects, the food drives, the backpacks for kids, the virtually unlimited literacy projects, our various club projects, that we may have become anesthetized to our own impact on our communities. As I visit each club, I am PROUD of your accomplishments. Shouldn't we let our friends, relatives, associates and civic leaders know what a SIGNIFICANT IMPACT we have on our communities?

About six weeks ago, President "Ravi" announced to the world that it had been a year since the last case of Polio in Nigeria and Africa. What a tremendous accomplishment for Rotarians worldwide. The war against Polio is not over but this is certainly a major victory in the battle to eradicate Polio and to give the world the gift of a Polio-free world! We anticipate the last case of Polio worldwide during this Rotary year. What a gift to the world that'll be! We have the opportunity to tell our communities about Rotary's war on Polio during Rotary Day on October 24.

— Tom Walker, District Governor, 2015-2016

**Rotary International**

www.rotary.org

President: K. R. Ravindran
President-Elect: John F. Germ
Vice President: Greg E. Podd

Rotary District 5520

www.rotary5520.org

District Leadership

Governor: Tom Walker
Governor-Elect: Dave Anderson
Governor-Nominee: Doreen Kelsey
Vice Governor: Bobby Wallace
Executive Secretary: Kathy Fuller
District Treasurer: John Gordon
District Finance: Kit Turpen
Immediate PDG: Lonnie Leslie

District Action Team Leaders

Lt. Gov.-North: Lleta Scoggins
Lt. Gov.-South: Jesse Allen
Lt. Gov.-Central: Tony Pino
Lt. Gov.-East: Sheryl Saavedra
Lt. Gov.-Southeast: Jim Hatcher

Committee Chairpersons

Membership: Kathie Williams
Foundation: Tom Lindsay
Global Awards: Darryl Gregerson
New Generations: Bobby Wallace
Alumni: Katie Updike
Public Relations: Mike Antiporda
Friendship Exchange: Donna Pedace
Historical: Dan Schulte
International Conv.: H. Peter Krebs
Newsletter Editor: Ed Hughes

District Office

Kathy Fuller
Executive Secretary
8 Cielo Montana
Alamogordo, NM 88310
E-Mail:
kfuller5520@gmail.com
Phone: (575) 430-0432
Website:
<http://rotary5520.org>

The Elect's Corner: DGE Dave Anderson

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself, I'm Dave Anderson, a 20 year member of the Albuquerque del Norte Rotary Club. It will be my honor to serve as your District Governor during the 2016 – 2017 Rotary year. After 22 years in the USAF and three assignments to Albuquerque, my wife, Maureen, and I decided to retire in New Mexico and raise our two daughters in the beautiful southwest.

My involvement in Rotary began when a friend invited me to attend a meeting and I witnessed a Rotary matching grant helping special needs children in the local area. Seeing the impact Rotary had on the children led us to join Rotary and become Paul Harris Fellows and major donors to the Rotary Foundation.



Recently Fred Bryant (our District's 2016-17 Lieutenant Governor for Operations) and I had the opportunity to informally visit clubs in the El Paso and Las Cruces areas. I was overwhelmed with the spirit and efforts at "Service Above Self" displayed by the Rotarians we met. The friendly atmosphere of the clubs and their efforts at community service have renewed and strengthened my commitment to Rotary!

I would like to take a moment to discuss our most critical and pressing area - membership. I am a firm believer that nearly all people join Rotary because a friend or acquaintance invited them to a meeting and let them see the spirit and community involvement that are the hallmarks of Rotary. Membership recruitment and retention is a personal thing. It requires that each of us look for worthy candidates and then make the effort to share Rotary with them. Retention involves two very important items, a commitment on each member's part to become involved AND a commitment to encourage our fellow Rotarians to do likewise and remain involved!

I hope to informally visit more clubs during the year to renew old friendships and make new ones! As we travel the District this year I am interested in listening to YOU. I would like to hear your ideas and suggestions as they will help me form "the vision" upon which plans for next year will be based. Remember, Rotary International, our Rotary Zone, and your Rotary District 5520 exist to support YOU and YOUR Rotary club. Rotary is not a "top down" organization – the clubs and their members are the driving force behind Rotary. Let us know how we can best serve you!

— Dave Anderson, District Governor-Elect



Foundation News: The importance of process

Too many rules for getting grants, community or global. This is a common thought expressed at times when trying to get a grant to address needs in our communities that we are committed to serve as Rotarians. Your foundation committee also expresses some frustration with the difficulty in applying the guidelines and rules that enable us to get funding for our local and international projects.

District 5520's foundation committee is dedicated to helping our district clubs maximize the use of the funds that are available from your donations to the Rotary Foundation. Your donations to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund gives the core funding we need for our service projects. This core funding gives our clubs leverage to multiply the power of each dollar that is contributed to the Rotary Foundation.

Our Community Grant process, this year, has been pared down but our Community Grant chair still needs some paperwork. Your applications are reviewed and any questions that your club needs to answer are requested. We really are not asking questions just to irritate you but we do to have some information to get the funding for your grant from our district grant funds that we request from the Rotary Foundation. Your patience is appreciated in the process. We will work with your club to get your projects funded.

The final step in the community grant process also requires that the foundation approve our requests for funds. The better we address the details of our district request, the less questions the Rotary Foundation will ask our committee.

Global Grants require much more paperwork and training to get a grant to fund. The Rotary Foundation thoroughly reviews each Global Grant application before funding a grant. This process takes time, perseverance, and patience. The process can take months before all issues are resolved. But the result is a project that will serve many individual's needs.

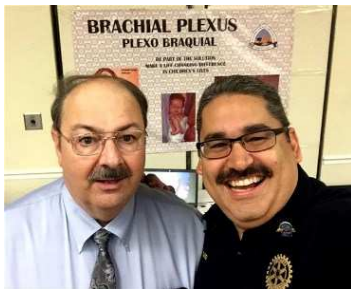
All these rules are basically aimed toward maximizing each dollar that you donate to the foundation. Your participation in these grants is essential for adding to your clubs ability to serve our local communities and world community. Your patience in the process will be reflected in the service that your club can offer to the needs that you have selected to address. — **Tom Lindsay, 5520 Foundation Chair**



Global grants at work in Guatemala.

Bi-District Conference: A two-way street on joint projects

Some 36 Rotarians from District 5520 and 41 from D4110, old friends and new friends, got together this past weekend in Las Cruces for the annual Bi-District Conference to do good in the world – partnering and pledging to provide clean water, breast cancer rehab, cleft palate surgeries, bridges, ramps and vocational training amongst many other projects.



District 5520 Gov. Tom Walker visits with Antonio Cachazo, president of El Paso Camino Real, at the Bi-District Conference in Las Cruces.

It's not a one way street either. Our district projects received pledges from Mexico as well. And our district upped the ante – we increased our match of 5520 contributions up to \$8,000 this year due to the generosity of those contributing to The Rotary Foundation three years ago.

The energy in the room was fueled by good eats and drinks and lively conversations in both languages – although a little broken at times. Enthusiastic stories of communities in action were exchanged expressing hope and growth for those in need on both sides of the border. — **Helen Doherty, Deputy Foundation Chair**

RI Convention: Touch the world in Seoul, Korea

Ravi Ravindran, our current RI President, invites all Rotarians to experience the friendship and hospitality of the Koreans in Seoul on occasion of the 2016 Rotary International Convention, May 28 to June 1, 2016.

This memorable event will bring together thousands of fellow Rotarians in a country and town most will be unfamiliar with. Be assured, though, that this being the largest RI event of the year you will feel right at home among fellow Rotarians from all around the world and that the whole event will be done in English.

Much more information is available in the convention brochure which exists as a paper copy in your home club and can be accessed as well under www.riconvention.org.

Let me repeat the main headings :

An added benefit, if you book by 12/15/2015 you will save \$130 over the price when booked after 03/31/2016 !

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING, after all it is YOUR convention.

— **Peter Krebs, Rio Grande, NM**



Cover of brochure promoting the 2016 RI Convention

Alumni Report: Katie Updike & Arik Kotkowski

Today I heard our District Governor Tom Walker speak at the Rotary Club of Santa Fe. He told an inspirational story (I won't spoil it for you) about "the family of Rotary." The theme for the year "Be a Gift to the World" underscores for me why we care about Rotary Alumni. Governor Walker asked us... (and I'm paraphrasing), "If we can cure polio, can we be peace makers? Can we go where governments, religious groups, and other formal peace makers can't go?" He asked us this in the context that Rotary is a *family*. Families sometimes fight, but mostly we figure out how to make things work and how to live peaceably.

This preface is my way to explain why I think our Alumni effort is worthwhile. We bring foreign exchange students into our families – literally. We train leaders through RYLA, the Ambassadorial Scholar and Peace Fellowships. We cultivate youth to respect the world, differences among us, and cultural richness. I know our family was enriched by our hosting experiences, and visa-versa.

So ... I know that if we want Rotary to be a gift to the world, and to truly bring peace making to our communities, our alumni are key members of the effort. Let's make sure they are part of the dialogue, the inspiration, and the boots on the ground. Also, don't miss Governor Walker's visit to your club. You will be inspired.

What can you do right now? Our lists of alumni participants are outdated and few of us use My Rotary, but we will try to help, by getting names and addresses of participants updated and out to you. Also please advise us of examples of how you are connecting with alumni.

Now....what can you do? Encourage alumni you know to update My Rotary <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/user/login>

Let us (emails below) know about alumni in your area for our database.

Invite alumni to a meeting...stay in touch.

Include alumni in your projects.

Start a Star Club.

So let's encourage our future peace makers and help them be gifts to the world. Thank you.

— **Katie Updike** kupdike@bldgsolutios.com
and **Arik Kotkowski**, arik.kotkowski@gmail.com, Co-Chairs

Rio Grande Academy: Jeff Weinrach, coordinator

September Rio Grande Academy sessions in Albuquerque and Las Cruces



The first RGA sessions for Albuquerque and Las Cruces are scheduled for September 12 and 26 respectively. Registration is available on the District Web-site in the "Upcoming Events" section on the home page.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact PDG Rick Akins (randr2@cablone.net) for Albuquerque or LG Jesse Allen (jesse.austin.allen@gmail.com) for Las Cruces. Information on upcoming sessions for Santa Fe and Roswell will be in next month's newsletter.

Whether you are a long-time Rotarian or new to Rotary, there is always something more to learn about all that Rotary encompasses, whether it's understanding how The Rotary Foundation works, how to oversee a successful service project, how to carry out effective strategic planning to accomplish Club goals, or how to recruit and retain our membership. If you are a current President-Elect, RGA is a great opportunity to prepare you for PETS later this Rotary year. And, if you are not near one of our regional hubs, the distance learning pilot sessions of RGA are designed to provide you with this valuable training.

If you have any questions about the Rio Grande Academy including the distance learning pilot program, please contact me at 505-400-1403 or jbwein@nmia.com.

— Jeff Weinach, District RGA Coordinator

STARS: Los Alamos Rotary Club's venture into a satellite world

The Los Alamos Service to All Rotary Satellite (STARS) Club of the Los Alamo Rotary Club began in November 2012, consisting of four members wishing to take part in Rotary but unable to attend weekly meetings scheduled by the main club. The challenges of family and work obligations also made it difficult to participate in Rotary.

The Los Alamos STARS satellite club provided a solution. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of every month. These meetings are necessarily dense and efficient, where we share comradery, a glass of wine, and a passion for rising to the Rotary challenge. After a great deal of mentorship from the main club, our group is now experiencing the fruits of dedication and hard work.

Our latest project was called Fiesta Los Alamos!, a celebration of Mexican culture (music & dance) with proceeds assisting the mothers of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, caring for their children at a government-supported hospital. We are planning two mission trips to Juarez a year.

We are still learning how to be effective and impactful, and there will be new challenges and lessons along the way. But our team is ready. We are enjoying the experience.

— Michael Erickson

Best kept secret: “The power of the Rotary family”

Reprinted from the Aug. 28 issue of Del Norte Rotary NorthWind (thanks to Editor Ed Hughes).

As a veteran Navy man – a nuclear submarine commander, in fact – District 5520 Governor Tom Walker knows how to get the attention of his audience. All he has to do is heap praise on the audience he’s speaking to, and then fire a shot that is heard around the world.

First, the kudos. He noted all the members of the Del Norte Rotary Club who have served as district governor, or will next year. Then he added those who already have leadership positions in his district that covers all of New Mexico and a rather large portion of west Texas. And then he ran down a full page of projects that the Del Norte Club has performed, locally and globally – some \$280,000 worth of “doing good” – in the past decade.

Then came the shot heard around the world. “We anticipate the last case of Polio worldwide will occur during this Rotary year. What a gift to the world that will be!” he said to rousing applause.

Of course, that jives with the theme of this Rotary year – “Be a Gift to the World.” “I believe that is possibly the most overlooked gift we Rotarians have is the gift of the Rotary family,” Tom said during his full-house appearance on August 5.

“How many times have our Rotary friends stepped up when we needed help or were in distress?” he asked. “Of course, at some point each of us was invited to share the gift of Rotary membership. Don’t we owe it to our friends, relatives, associates and civic leaders to share the gift of Rotary with them?”

His example was the way Rotary came to the aid of an ailing mother in Sri Lanka, who was diagnosed with the dreaded disease now known as Polio. A 10-year old son watched as his mother slowly lose the movement of her arms and legs and there was no ventilator (known as the Iron Lung) in the entire country to help her breathe. But then a doctor who was called to her bedside happened to know a Rotarian. And he called on his Rotarian friends to see what could be done. Money was raised. An iron lung was found and flown to Sri Lanka. It worked. After a year in the hospital, the mother returned home. And her young son? Well, you need to hear Tom’s story to learn the rest of that story.

“That story,” said Tom, “is the best kept secret in Rotary – the power of the Rotary family.”



Dist. Gov. Tom Walker speaks to the Del Norte Rotary Club in Albuquerque.

District Rotary Day: October 24, also “World Polio Day”

Last year’s District Rotary Day was a grand success. We had over 40 clubs participate, raised over \$140,000 to help end polio, introduced Rotary to many members of our communities and had lots of fun too. The creativity of our members was evident as some clubs held community picnics, some held rummage sales, and many set up bell ringing sites similar to the Salvation Army at Christmas.

This year’s District Rotary Day is scheduled for October 24th, which is fittingly World Polio Day. We encourage every club to participate and truly make this a District-wide event. Use your imagination; be creative in planning your local event. Our Rotary Day goals are simple; raise money to end polio, make people aware of Rotary’s efforts to end this disease, introduce Rotary to your community and have fun as a club.

Discuss your event with your board and solicit input from your members, make this their event. Please let me know if your club intends to participate and briefly explain your event. If you have questions my email is earl@rioranchomagazine.com.

Good luck Rotarians,
Earl Waid



Remembering Don Welker: Angel Fire's involved Rotarian

Don Welker was always a very active Rotarian. When he moved from his club in Chardon to Angel Fire, he wasted no time to join that club. And he immediately volunteered to serve as President-Elect, then became President when his predecessor had to move due to a job change. So he became the President of the Angel Fire Rotary Club in his first year of living in Angel Fire. He quickly adopted some ideas from his old Chardon Club by starting a Career Day for the Middle High School, started the first Interact Club in Angel Fire, and inducted 10 new members for a club that had 20 members when he took over as President. Such accomplishments won the Angel Fire Rotary Club the "Small Club of the Year" honor in the District. It's no wonder that he was honored by being named the Rotarian of the Year. Don was also active within the community. He convinced the NM State Big Brothers and Big Sisters to start a chapter in Colfax and Taos counties, served on its board, and in less than two years the chapter has successfully made 50 matches. When Don passed away on July 15, many came from as far as Santa Fe just to thank Don for his service to mankind. — Dale Fellows, Angel Fire Rotarian

Candid camera: It's a happening place in 5520 land



A special Rotary bolo tie from Del Norte Albuquerque.



You have to get up early at Rio Rancho Sunrise.



Speaking at Gov. Tom's favorite stop: RYLA Camp.



Presentation of a club flag at Taos-Milagro.



In Roswell, always among friends!

District Executive Secretary's Report: Kathy Fuller

As the District's Executive Secretary I have already meet many of you – face to face (the Rio Grande Academy, Bi-District Conference, PETS, District Conference...), by phone, or via e-mail. I can't think of a better group of folks to work with than Rotarians!

Along with me, many of you are going through an intense immersion in learning about ClubRunner™ and the various initiatives and software connected with Rotary International. I would like to extend a District-wide "Thank you!" for your patience as I learn along with you, or (in many cases) try to catch up. It is my goal to respond to every e-mail or phone call within 24 hours (sending me an e-mail is best).

As a Club or District officer One of the BEST things you can do is to take time to explore both the District and RI websites! You may have access to view or update certain details related to your role. I am learning that the more familiar I become with these creatures, the more quickly I can find what I need and the more comfortable I am with pathways and procedures. Likely the same will be true for you.

ClubRunner™ has an excellent Support Center with a variety of tools to include on-demand videos, how to get started, FAQs, and a team which is quick to respond to requests for help! Check it out at <http://clubrunner.helpserve.com/Knowledgebase/List/Index/387/support-and-help>
If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me!

— Kathy Fuller, Executive Secretary Kfuller5520@gmail.com



A Message from District Historian: PDG Dan Schulte

First club in our District was El Paso, chartered in 1914, at a time when District Governors were appointed from California and Texas under the umbrella of the National Association of Rotary Clubs — later changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs, and finally to Rotary International. Since that time, of course, Rotary has grown around the world, especially in New Mexico and Texas.

Unfortunately, early District Governors and clubs left very few footprints to follow. Fortunately, we have excellent written records of a couple of early clubs which preserved their heritage.

I think we can agree that District Gobs and Club Presidents from the 1980s have made concerted efforts to leave a legacy. Innovation programs have emerged, community efforts have placed the Rotary mark for all to recognize both here and abroad. We know this as they have sent their records to our Archives. Nevertheless, several Clubs along with records of Past District Governors have not found their way to the District Archives. PDG Harold DeShurley gathered as many records as he could during the 1980s, and made arrangements with the Directory of the Library at NMSU in Las Cruces to open an Archive solely for District 520 (now 5520) to store them.

After PDG DeShurley passed, I assumed the duties and have been the District Historian for more than 15 years. As a consequence, we have deposited records which take up a complete room at the NMSU Library—all identified as to location and the name of the donor.

It is important to the identification of our District that all Clubs and PDGs send their records, pictures, important meeting minutes, District Convention results, along with awards, to the Archives for future use. You might ask: Which records should be archived? In short, archive those records which reveal the essence of your club's efforts.

Your records can be sent directly to the NMSU Library Archives Director, using the address: Rio Grande Historical Collections University Library, MSC3475, PO Box 30006, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006. Or send to me at 3130 Mesa Verde Lane, El Paso, TX 79904-3011.

— PDG Dan Schulte