

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 17

7:00 Registration - Breakfast - Projects Showcase (aka House of Friendship)

8:00 Welcome and Opening Session (Zoom available for this session only)

- Lakota Lands Acknowledgement; Dawn Marie Johnson
- Message from Rotary International; Tom Gump, Rotary International Representative
- Multi-District Project; Erica Gwynn, Rotary International WASH Area of Focus Manager
- District Governor Message - State of the District; Bruce Nearhood, District Governor
- **District Assembly; Bruce Nearhood, District 5610 Governor**

9:30 Break

9:45 PANEL SESSION: Rotary Priority 1 - Increase Our Impact

This session explores how Rotary can amplify its positive influence in communities, even when time, energy, and resources feel limited. Drawing inspiration from panelists who have successfully advanced philanthropic efforts, we'll uncover lessons on maximizing reach, stretching resources, and doing more with less in today's busy world. Participants will walk away with strategies to elevate Rotary projects without overextending volunteers.

(stand/stretch)

10:45 PANEL SESSION: Rotary Priority 2 - Expand Our Reach

For Rotary to thrive, we must continuously bring new voices, talents, and perspectives into our mission. This panel brings together PR experts, community leaders, and even a mayor to discuss how to attract people to causes that matter most. By learning from their approaches to engaging the right audiences, Rotarians can position clubs as vibrant, relevant, and welcoming spaces that people want to join—and serve.

12:00 Lunch - Buffet

12:30 Lunch Program

- 4-Way Test Essay Award: Jace Parkin, Rapid City, SD - Pat Sutliff
- RYLA Presentation - Rene Sorenson, District RYLA Coordinator and campers
- Awards - Rotarians of Distinction - Bruce Nearhood, DG 5610



1:30 PANEL SESSION: Rotary Priorities 3 & 4 - Enhance Participant Engagement & Improve Our Ability to Adapt

Rotary's ability to stay relevant depends on adapting to a fast-changing world. This panel, featuring voices from a community foundation, higher education, and Rotary International, explores how we can deepen engagement, strengthen relationships, and ensure our initiatives stay front-of-mind despite competing distractions. Participants will learn how Rotary can evolve while holding true to its mission—sustaining meaningful connections with current members while inspiring future generations.

2:30 Break - Rotary Projects Showcase Snacks & Beverages Available

3:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Richard Deming, MD - Above and Beyond Cancer

4:00 Break - Time to refresh and travel to The Canopy Hotel - Downtown Sioux Falls

5:00 - 7:00

CELEBRATION OF ROTARY - Reception and Awards

- 5:00 PM - Social Time
- 5:30 PM - Awards Presentation and Acknowledgements
 - Roger Kozak Award
 - Acknowledgement of Paul Harris Fellows
- 6:30 PM - Peace Pole Dedication - SF Presidents/AG - Area 8



Click here for
Restaurants



7:00 Dinner on Your Own - Connect with fellow Rotarians and enjoy what downtown Sioux Falls has to offer!

Saturday, October 18

7:30 Breakfast - Projects Showcase (aka House of Friendship)

8:00 Opening Session & Memorial Celebration - Kim Nearhood, Rushmore Rotary

8:30 General Session

- Polio Plus; Ashok Kumar, MD - Polio Plus District Chair
- Marketing of the Water Initiative Effort; Patrick Harrison, RI Public Image Coordinator
- Rotary Foundation; Tom Gump, Rotary International Rep.
- Rotary Youth Exchange; Patrick Morrison, Vermillion Rotary

9:30 Transition to Breakout Sessions

9:45 BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

1. Rotary District Grants: You got a grant...now what? - Rich Burns, District Grants Committee

If your club was fortunate to receive a District grant, this session is for you (or your grant coordinator). This session will include information about important steps to plan for as you implement your grant project.

2. Elevating the Rotary Experience - Tom Gump, Chair, Rotary Internat'l Membership Growth Committee

How did you become a Rotarian? Someone invited you, right? This session will dig more deeply into best practices on building your club's membership.

3. Running with Club Runner - Linda Liddell, District 5610 Administrator

You have heard of "Club Runner" BUT, do you know how to fully use it? This session will provide some hands-on learning to become more comfortable with this amazing club tool. (ALSO: Linda will be providing 1:1 sessions throughout the conference)

10:30 Snack Break

11:00 BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

1. How do people know you exist?! - Patrick Harrison, Rotary International Public Image Coordinator

One of the main purposes of "public image" is to help people know that you exist! THEN you can let them know about the great things that you are doing to improve your community and the world.

2 The Multi-District Water Project & Earth Day 2026 - Erica Gwynn, RI WASH Area of Focus Manager

This is going to be a really big deal and you'll want/need to be involved. Gain more insight on this effort and how to best collaborate across clubs, your community, and the other Rotary districts.

3. Club Expansion Opportunities - Joe Lichter, District Companion Club Chair

There are a number of ways to grow your club and this session will have a panel of clubs who have successfully taken different approaches. Come and ask how they did it and why they took the approach they did.

12:00 Conference Wrap-Up Session

12:30 Conference Adjourns