



## UNITE FOR GOOD

UNITE FOR GOOD



### Rotary District 5170 May Bulletin - District News

By Olivia Poe

As we turn the calendar to May, it's hard to believe we have just **two months left in this Rotary year**. Like a great concert that seems to fly by, this year has been filled with energy, connection, and moments that remind us why Rotary matters.

#### Events

May 1st  
[Far West Fest Multi-District Conference](#)

May 2nd  
[Saratoga Rotary Art Show](#)

May 2nd  
[Kentucky Derby Party Fundraiser](#)

May 4th  
[DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg- Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun.](#)

May 6th  
[2025-26 District Business Leadership zoom Meetings \(May 6, 5 PM\)](#)

May 8th  
[Poker Event - Fundraiser](#)

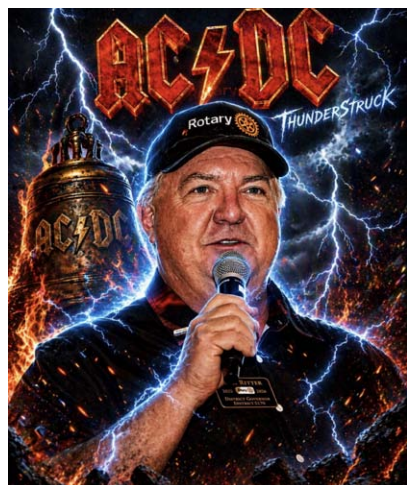
May 9th  
[Cupertino 33rd Annual Charity Golf Classic \(05/09/26\)](#)

May 9th  
[Park Cleanup Day](#)

May 9th  
[Silicon Valley Passport](#)

May 9th  
[Mother's Day special Musical Fundraiser - May 9th](#)

May 13th  
[District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom](#)



First and foremost, **thank you** to our incredible **Club Presidents, board members, and leaders** across District 5170. Your commitment has made Rotary more meaningful, more visible, and more impactful in every community we serve. Because of you, Rotary isn't just something we do—it's something people feel.

And let's talk about momentum...

We are approaching **nearly 400 new Rotarians** welcomed into our district this year. That's not just growth—that's a movement. To every new member: you were invited because someone saw something special in you. Your **Member Sponsor** gave you the *Gift of Rotary*. Now it's your turn to experience it, live it, and yes... share it.

#### The Next Big Opportunity: Retention

Growth gets the headlines—but **retention builds the legacy**.

The challenge ahead is simple (but powerful):

- Keep our members engaged
- Keep them connected
- Keep them inspired

The best way to do that? **Involvement**.

Invite members into service projects. Encourage them to attend events. Give them a role. Help them build friendships.

Because when people feel connected, they stay.

Get ready for an exciting announcement about a brand new concept called: **Rotary District 5170 Impact Club!**

[Read More](#)

### Camp RYLA 5170 Opens Registration + June 25th for Dave Ditto BBQ

By Chris Miller

**Camp RYLA 5170 Opens Registration for 2026—Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders**

**District 5170, CA** — Registration is now open for Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) 2026, with a limited number of spots still available for student participants and club sponsorships. This premier leadership experience



empowers high school students to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and connect with peers from across the region.

Rotarians and community members are encouraged to play a direct role in shaping future leaders by sponsoring a camper. Sponsorships provide deserving students with access to a life-changing program focused on personal growth, teamwork, and service.

#### Opportunities Available:

- **Student Participants:** High school students ready to grow as leaders are invited to apply now.
- **Club & Individual Sponsorships:** Rotarians and supporters can sponsor a student and make a lasting impact.

#### Get Involved:

- **Apply or Refer a Student:** Share the RYLA Application with high school students who are eager to lead and make a difference.
- **Sponsor a Camper:** Help transform a student's future by funding their RYLA experience.

For additional details, sponsorship opportunities, or application information, please contact:  
[Chair@ryla5170.com](mailto:Chair@ryla5170.com)

#### Save the Date:

Join us for the annual **Dave Ditto BBQ** on **Thursday, June 25** in **Scotts Valley**—a great opportunity to connect, celebrate, and support youth leadership in our community.

#### About Camp RYLA 5170

Camp RYLA is Rotary's signature youth leadership program, designed to inspire and develop young leaders through immersive experiences, mentorship, and hands-on learning.

[Read More](#)

## Rotary's Epic Day of Service on 5/16

By Darcy DeCoite

[Huddle](#)  
May 14th  
[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

May 15th  
[Santa Cruz County Food Insecurity Symposium- Rotarians Invited](#)

May 15th  
[SF Bay Cruise: Major Donor \(\\$10K\) & \\$ Paul Harris Society \(\\$1K\)](#)

May 15th  
[District Public Image Committee Mtg \(3rd Friday, 12 Noon\)](#)

May 16th  
[Silicon Valley Region Rise Against Hunger Meal packing Event](#)

May 16th  
[District International Service Training](#)

May 16th  
[Kids Against Hunger Food Packing Event - Epic Day of Service](#)

May 18th  
[Service Projects Committee Meeting \(In Person & Zoom\)](#)

May 23rd  
[District International Service Committee Mtg](#)

May 28th  
[District Finance Committee Meeting](#)

May 30th  
[30th Anniversary Celebration - Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista](#)



**Join the global movement to show Rotarians in Action!**

On **Saturday, May 16, 2026**, you are invited to be part of a global movement of action, impact, and unity. Rotary's **Epic Day of Service** will unite more than 1,000 Rotary clubs and 20,000 Rotarians, community volunteers, and partners across the globe in a single day dedicated to making the world a better place. [Read More](#)

## **Rotary District 5170 Announces Distinguished Annual Awards Honoring Service, Leadership, and Impact**

By Herb L. Ritter III on Friday, April 3, 2026

### **Rotary District 5170 Announces Distinguished Annual Awards Honoring Service, Leadership, and Impact Across the District**

Rotary District 5170 is proud to announce its prestigious **2025–2026 District Awards and Rotary International Awards**, recognizing extraordinary Rotarians, clubs, and leaders whose dedication has strengthened communities, advanced Rotary's mission, and inspired service across the district and beyond.

These distinguished awards celebrate excellence in leadership, membership growth, youth development, public image, peace building, training, foundation support, compassion, and Rotary ideals.

The award recipients will be formally recognized during a special **District 5170 Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM** at the **Far West Fest District Conference in Reno, Nevada**. [Register Here](#) to help CELEBRATE this amazing Rotarians.

District Governor **Herb Ritter** shared:

"These awards represent the very best of Rotary in District 5170. They honor those individuals and clubs who lead with vision, serve with heart, and truly leave their mark in our communities and around the world. We invite all Rotarians to join us in Reno as we celebrate these remarkable

leaders and their service.”

## 2025–2026 Rotary District 5170 Award Categories:

### **The Sydney R. Mitchell Rotarian of the Year Award**

\*\*\*\***Mark Linsky, Rotary Club of Pleasanton North\*\*\***

Named for the first District Governor of Rotary District 5170, this award honors an outstanding Rotarian whose service and leadership exemplify the highest ideals of Rotary.

### **The Mike Kutsuris Membership Development Award**

\*\*\*\***Mike Thompson, Rotary Club of Livermore\*\*\***

Recognizes the individual or club demonstrating exceptional success in membership growth and development during the Rotary year.

### **The Richard D. King Rotary Foundation Award**

\*\*\*\***Lou Bash, Rotary Club of San Jose East Silicon Valley\*\*\***

Presented to the individual who has shown the greatest personal commitment to the programs and mission of The Rotary Foundation.

### **The Carl G. Orne World Peace and Understanding Award**

\*\*\*\***Sangita Seshadri, Rotary Club of Saratoga\*\*\***

Honors an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to advancing peace, goodwill, and international understanding.

### **The Allan McLeod Interact Support Award**

\*\*\*\***Vanessa Nguyen, Rotary Club of San Francisco Bay Area\*\*\***

Recognizes significant support and commitment to Interact Clubs and the development of youth leadership in high schools throughout District 5170.

### **The Neal J. Hoffman Outstanding Young Rotarian Award**

\*\*\*\***Jana Dlakova, Rotary Club of Gilroy\*\*\***

Presented to an exceptional Rotarian age 45 or younger who has shown outstanding leadership within their club and/or the district.

### **The David A. Heagerty Public Image Award**

\*\*\*\***Misti Short, Rotary Club of Castro Valley\*\*\***

Honors a Rotarian whose efforts have significantly enhanced the promotion and public image of Rotary.

### **The Ward Garing Youth Programs Award**

\*\*\*\***Randy Klein, Rotary Club of Scotts Valley\*\*\***

Recognizes outstanding service and commitment to Rotary youth programs beyond the club level, including Youth Exchange and leadership initiatives.

[Read More](#)

## 2026 DG Herb and DGE Geeta; Roast and Toast June 27th

By Jill Duerig

Join Rotary District 5170 for a lively and meaningful celebration as District Governor **Herb Ritter (2025–2026)** officially passes the baton to District Governor-Elect **Dr. Geeta Kadambi (2026–2027)**.

Enjoy light refreshments while recognizing Herb's impactful year of leadership—complete with appreciation, a few laughs, and maybe a little friendly teasing. Then help welcome Geeta as she steps into her new role, bringing fresh energy and vision for the year ahead.

It's the perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon—celebrating success, friendship, and the future of Rotary.



[click here to register](#)

## 2026 Roast and Toast

Join us as we honor soon-to-be **PDG Herb Ritter** for his incredible service and warmly welcome soon-to-be **DG Geeta Kadambi** as she steps into leadership.



Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026  
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Location: San Francisco Bay University  
161 Mission Falls Ln, Fremont, CA  
Registration costs only \$20 per person



## Big West District Team Workshop Heads to Reno This July, 18th, Reno

By Camilla Boolootian

### Big West District Team Workshop Heads to Reno This July

## 2026 ZONE WORKSHOP ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA RENO NEVADA • JULY 17-18, 2026

### BUILDING A STRONGER ROTARY TOGETHER

Join Rotary leaders from across the region for a focused, collaborative workshop designed to strengthen impact, leadership, and connection.

The Zone Workshop brings together District and Regional leaders to align priorities, share ideas, and strengthen Rotary's ability to grow, serve, and lead in our communities.

#### SPECIAL GUESTS

TRUSTEE VICE CHAIR VICKI PULIZ • RI DIRECTOR WYN • RI DIRECTOR ELECT JOHN CHASE

#### MEMBERSHIP

GROWING AND STRENGTHENING CLUBS

#### PUBLIC IMAGE

TELLING ROTARY'S STORY WITH CLARITY AND PURPOSE

#### FOUNDATION

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT THROUGH GIVING AND GRANTS

#### YOUTH SERVICES

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- DISTRICT CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- ROTARY REGIONAL LEADERS
- DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVES
- DISTRICT GOVERNOR LINE

#### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- JULY 17 | 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM  
DISTRICT CHAIR TRAINING (OPTIONAL)
- JULY 18 | 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM  
FULL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### WORKSHOP REGISTRATION REQUIRED - \$50 USD

INCLUDES ACCESS TO ALL WORKSHOP SESSIONS AND OPTIONAL DISTRICT CHAIR TRAINING

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HOTEL BOOKING LINK WILL BE INCLUDED IN YOUR WORKSHOP CONFIRMATION EMAIL.

Rotary  
Zones 26 & 27



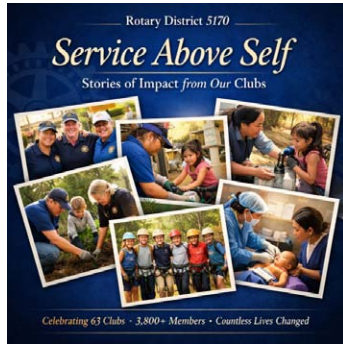
<https://bit.ly/zw2026>

Register now: <https://www.register.zoneinstitute.org/events/2026-zone-workshop/>

Hotel reservations: <https://bookings.atlantiscasino.com/promo?offerCode=5702586&hotel=MCRATL>

[Read More](#)

## The District 5170 Coffee Table Book



**Calling All Rotary Clubs in District 5170! We need your stories!**

What happens when thousands of people choose service, year after year?

This collection brings together the stories of Rotary clubs across District 5170—highlighting the projects, partnerships, and people creating meaningful change both locally and globally.

It's a snapshot of impact in action—and the collective power of service.

Make sure your club is a part of it!

[Read More](#)

## Taipei District 5170 Dinner and Zone Breakfast

By Geeta Kadambi

**Rotary**  
District 5170

### Registration Now Open!

**Join Us**  
for a Memorable  
District 5170 Evening  
at the RI Convention!

We warmly invite all Rotary District 5170 members to attend this Special Dinner featuring our esteemed guests:



**Gary C.K. Huang**  
Rotary International President  
2014 - 2015



**Frank Horng**  
Rotary Foundation Trustee

**WHEN:** Sunday, June 14, 2026 • 6:30pm – 9:30pm  
**WHERE:** Banqiao Caesar Park Hotel Banquet Room  
2nd floor, No.8, Section 2, Xianmin Blvd.,  
Banqiao District, New Taipei City, Taiwan 220  
**COST:** \$60 per person

To ensure your seat at this extraordinary gathering, please register by [Clicking Here.](#)

For Questions, please contact:  
Richard Flanders, District Governor 2021-2022  
email: [rotary5170dg2122@gmail.com](mailto:rotary5170dg2122@gmail.com)

For quick access  
you may also use  
the QR code provided here.



**Rotary** **UNITE FOR GOOD**



[Register for Dinner Here](#)

[Register for Breakfast Here](#)



## JOIN US FOR THE BIG WEST

### "BREAKFAST IN TAIPEI"

Big West Rotary members are cordially invited to meet up for breakfast to connect, share stories, and start the day together. We look forward to seeing you in Taipei!

**Date:** June 15, 2026 (Monday)

**Time:** 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM.

**Location:** Grande Luxe Banquet Nangang Ya Yue Banquet Hall, 3rd Floor (CTBC Financial Park, No. 166, Jingmao 2nd Road, Nangang District, Taipei)

**What:** Buffet & Short Fun Program: Extensive Buffet with a variety of hot dishes, salads, light bites, fruit and pastries. Program to follow . . .

**Venue:** Monday morning will begin with Breakout Sessions and the HOF at the TaiNEX Convention Center — there will be no General Session. Our venue is located directly across from TaiNEX 2, approximately a 5–7 minute walk, with a skybridge available for easy access.

**Price:** \$78.00

#### REGISTER HERE

Please scan the QR Code or visit the link below to register for this event.

<https://www.register.zoneinstitute.org/big-west-breakfast/>



## Rotary District 5170 Focuses on Action to Amplify Club Impact and Visibility

By Kristin Fabos on Sunday, March 1, 2026

**Pleasanton, CA — January 2026** — Rotary District 5170 is shifting from planning to purposeful execution, reinforcing its commitment to elevating club activities and service projects across the district. District leadership emphasizes that the foundation is already in place; the next step is consistent club-level engagement that allows the District to amplify what clubs are doing best—serving their communities.



“We don’t need more analysis—we need more shared stories,” said District Governor Herb Ritter. “When clubs provide content, the District can extend the reach, celebrate impact, and strengthen Rotary’s public image.”

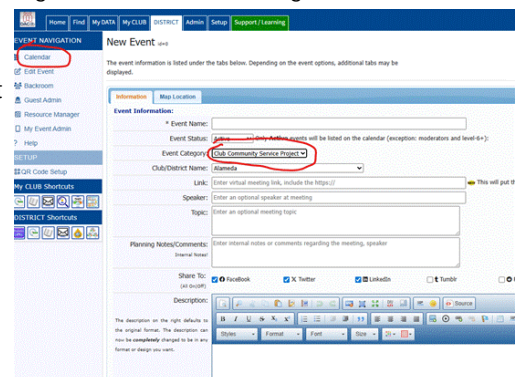
To support clubs, the District Leadership Team has outlined **four clear, simple tools and objectives** designed to increase visibility and engagement:

**Create and share an ezStory in DACdb** so the District can amplify it through district-wide channels, including the Monthly News Bulletin.

**Enter Club Service Projects in DACdb** to enable broader sharing via platforms such as [URNeeded.org](http://URNeeded.org) and the new [District 5170 "Meetup"](#) page.

3. **Tag @rotarydistrict5170 on social media posts** featuring club activities, allowing the District to reshare and expand reach.
4. **Encourage consistent participation:** Club Presidents and Assistant Governors are asking club leaders to post at least **one ezStory and one social media post per month**, shared with the District for amplification.

While the District’s Public Image Team has conducted multiple outreach efforts to Club Public Image Directors—with some successes—overall engagement has remained limited. To better support clubs and strengthen district-wide visibility, the District has made the strategic decision to **hire a social media virtual assistant to help us amplify our District’s and clubs’ social media presence**, an investment included in the approved budget.



“Many districts commit significant resources to public image,” Kristen Fabo, District PI



Chair added. "District 5170 has been thoughtful and conservative until now. This step ensures our clubs receive the support they need to tell their stories—and be seen."

We will be having monthly (3rd Friday) at 12 noon Zoom calls for Club PI Chairs and anyone interested in sharing and learning. Check out the [District Calendar for Zoom Link](#) and dates.

For more information and resources, visit [Rotary District 5170 PI Committee](#) and [DACdb tools](#).

## Monthly D5170 Bulletin "Club News Spotlights" - 15th of every Month -PRESS RELEASE



### Rotary District 5170 Launches "Club News Spotlight" to Amplify Local Impact Across the District

Rotary District 5170 is excited to announce the launch of the **District 5170 "Club News Spotlight"** — a new initiative designed to shine a light on the incredible service, events, and achievements of our local Rotary clubs.

Through the **ezStory tool in DACdb**, clubs can now easily share their stories and events with the district. Each month on the 15th, selected submissions will be *spotlighted* in a district wide broadcast email reaching more than **3,800+ Rotarians** across our communities.

**"This is an opportunity for every club to showcase the heart of Rotary,"** said District Governor Herb Ritter. **"By telling your story, you not only celebrate the impact your club is making, but you also inspire others to join us in service, leadership, and fellowship. Together, we can attract new members, strengthen our commitment to the environment, and continue to unite for good."**

[Read More](#)