Rotary District 5170

Monthly District Bulletin

UNITE FOR GOOD

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

Events

June 1st
Final DG Executive Team Zoom Mtg– Lt Gov, AG, AOS, PI, Mem. Foun
June 3rd
Final Monthly District Leadership zoom Mtg:
June 10th
District Climate Action Committee Monthly Zoom Huddle
June 13th
Park Cleanup Day
June 14th
District Dinner at the Rotary International Convention in Taipei
June 19th
District Public Image Committee Mtg (3rd Friday, 12 Noon)
June 24th
District Finance Committee Meeting
June 25th
RYLA Dave Ditto BBQ
June 25th
District Finance Committee Meeting
June 27th
2026 DG and DGE Roast & Toast
July 1st
Elevated Shopping Experience for Lifted Spirits Program
July 1st
DG Official Visit - Silicon Valley Rainbow
July 2nd
DG Official Visit
July 4th

District Governor Herb Ritter Reflects on a Remarkable Year of Growth, Service, and Momentum

By Herb L. Ritter III

As the 2025–2026 Rotary year draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the thousands of Rotarians across District 5170 who have made this one of the most successful years in our district's history.

Together, we demonstrated what is possible when dedicated volunteers unite around a common purpose: serving others and creating lasting change in our communities and around the world.

Highlights of the 2025–2026 Rotary Year

- Strong membership growth with **40 of 63 clubs** expecting **"Positive Net Growth"**, making **District 5170 A Leader in Rotary Zone 26/27**.
- Welcomed over 400+ new Rotarians into our Rotary family.
- Elevated the "Area Governor" role and achieved 100% goal-setting, expecting **63 clubs earning "Club Excellence Awards"**!
- Increased support for The Rotary Foundation (EREY $25), expecting over **16 clubs earning the 100% Giving Foundation Banner Award.**
- Implemented new **TECHNOLOGY** platforms to improve communication and collaboration save clubs money.
- Introduced innovative club models and flexible membership pathways. (**Satelite and Companion)**
- Expanded engagement, and area-focused collaboration across the district. **(Leadership Fellowship Events)**
- Increased participation in club/district **"in person"** events, training programs, and area service projects. (Personalized D5170 Rotary Hats)
- Enhanced Rotary's visibility and impact through **expanded social media** using Virtual Assistance outreach across the region. NorCalRotary.org, URneeded.org, Facebook, Instagram, X, Meet Up and soon Tik Tok.

Read More

Incoming DG Geeta: The year to Inspire; Future of Rotary 2026-27 in District 5170

By Geeta Kadambi

With less than 30 days remaining before the start of the 2026–2027 Rotary year, District Governor-Elect Geeta Kadambi is preparing to lead Rotary District 5170 into a new chapter focused on innovation, collaboration, and community impact.

DGE Geeta praised the leadership of District Governor Herb Ritter, whose year of service helped strengthen clubs, grow membership, and create

Aptos Parade After-party: Drinks Booth.
July 8th
DG Official Visit
July 11th
Park Cleanup Day
July 14th
DG Official Visit - Gilroy
July 20th
DG Official Visit - eClub Silicon Valley Smart Village
July 21st
DG Official Visit - Los Gatos
July 25th
District International Service Committee Mtg
July 27th
DG Official Visit
July 30th
Rotary - Golf Fundraiser on July 30th at Poppy Ridge Golf Course
August 6th
DG Official Visit
August 8th
Park Cleanup Day
August 10th
DG Official Visit
August 17th
DG Official Visit - Milpitas
August 21st
DG Official Visit
August 21st
DG Official Visit
August 27th
DG Official Visit
September 12th
Park Cleanup Day
September 19th
Rotary Collaborative Impact Summit - General Registration
September 19th
Rotary Collaborative Impact Summit - Nonprofit Registration

momentum across the district.

"Herb has been an outstanding leader, mentor, and supporter of new ideas from the very beginning," said DGE Geeta. "His inclusive leadership style has helped position District 5170 for continued success, and I am grateful that he will remain actively involved in supporting the future of our district."

As she prepares to take office on July 1, DGE Geeta is focused on building upon that foundation while preparing Rotary for the opportunities and challenges of the future. Her vision for the 2026–2027 Rotary year includes:

- Expanding membership opportunities and engagement across all generations
- Strengthening collaboration among Rotary clubs, nonprofits, businesses, and community
- Cherishing the legacy and learning from the experiences of century-old clubs
- Increasing Rotary's visibility and impact throughout the Greater Silicon Valley region
- Leveraging technology and new ideas to enhance the member experience

Read More

****** John Flaniken District Governor 2027-28- LET'S GO ******

By John Flaniken on Friday, May 29, 2026

Who are Rotarians? Let's clarify "who we are," push that message to our communities, AND *Give the Gift of Rotary*.

My year as District Governor in 2027–28 will focus on helping clubs become more visible in the communities they serve. Rotary clubs do their best work when they understand their own identity: who they are, what type of service energizes them, and why someone in the community would want to join. A clear identity gives each club a story to tell, making membership growth more natural.

The next step is helping clubs market that identity. Rather than asking people simply to “join Rotary” or “come to a meeting,” Rotarians can show the community the impact, friendships, leadership opportunities, and service experiences that make their club unique. **Encouraging clubs to invite prospective members to community events, socials, or international service trips takes people beyond the weekly meeting.** When clubs communicate with clarity and confidence, they simplify “Giving the Gift of Rotary” to the right people.

Lastly (and maybe most important), let’s simplify and elevate the role of Area Governor. Area Governors should be visible, practical, and trusted partners who help clubs recruit, solve problems, and connect district resources directly to club needs.

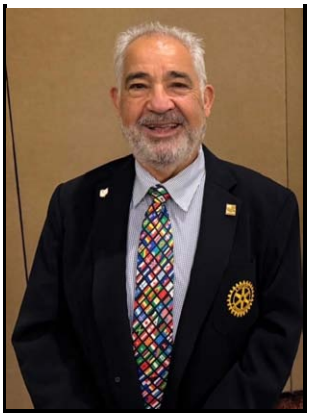
More to come soon... can't wait.

Read More

Looking Ahead to Rotary District 5170 — District Governor 2028–2029

By Kamal M. Della

As we move through 2026, I feel deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as District Governor of District 5170 beginning July 1, 2028. Rotary leadership is a journey of service, growth, stewardship, and faith in the good we can create together. I look forward to building upon the strong leadership that comes before me and continuing the spirit of service that unites us.
My intention is simple: to serve with humility, continuity, and heart while supporting the incredible work already happening across our



District.

Guiding Focus for 2028–2029

By the end of the Rotary year on June 30, 2029, my hope is that together we will have:
• Added value through continuity from Governor to Governor
• Encouraged and supported youth growth and development
• Recognized Rotarians for their service and dedication
• Fully supported Club Presidents in achieving their goals and visions
• Created opportunities for fun, fellowship, and meaningful leadership connections

Closing

To me, Rotary is more than leadership — it is service guided by purpose and love in action. May we continue to lift one another, serve with gratitude, and walk this path together with humility and faith.
Just as we do within our own families, may we practice patience, close one eye to small imperfections, forgive quickly, give one another grace, and radiate kindness and love through our presence with our fellow Rotarians. Together, we bring light to our communities and to the world.

District 5170 Nears Historic Rotary Foundation Annual Fund all time High

By Timothy A. Lundell

Only 1 Months Left to Make D5170 Rotary History!

Rotary District 5170 is entering the final stretch of the Rotary year with incredible momentum toward one of the strongest Annual Fund years in District history!

As of May 31, District 5170 has broken the **$1 Million level** for The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund — leaving just over **$200,000 needed to surpass recent year's record-breaking total** and continue the District's remarkable tradition of setting new fundraising records year after year.

District leaders are encouraging every Rotary club and member to finish strong and help push the District across the finish line in record-setting fashion before June 30.

Congratulations to the 13 club Presidents!
(reaching 100% TRF Giving as of May 31, 2026)

Club President	Club Name
Joyce Mecado	Alameda, CA
Jeff Nielsen	Campbell, CA
Julie Lambert	Capitola-Aptos, CA
Mily Jain	Fremont Bridge, CA
Cat Tucker	Gilroy After Hours, CA
Bill Baker	Hollister, CA
pat McMenamin	Livermore, CA
Crysta Krames	Los Altos, CA
Jeff Severtson	Mission San Jose, CA
Bruce Gee	Palo Alto/University, CA
Wallace Wong	Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore (Tri-Valley Evening), CA
Ian MacKenzie	Santa Cruz, CA
Tong Yin	Silicon Valley Chinese, CA

>>Click Here<< to see where your Club Stands

What Clubs Can Do Right Now
Simple Action Steps for Every Club

- Review your club's Annual Fund Goal progress
- Encourage every member to participate in EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year)
- Ask each member to contribute at least $25 to the Annual Fund
- Contact members who may still want to become Paul Harris Fellows this year
- Celebrate and recognize members already contributing
- Promote club giving progress at weekly meetings and on social media
- Finish the Rotary year strong with one final fundraising push

>>CLICK HERE<<< to Contribute toward The Rotary Foundation Contribution

Why This Matters Read More

District 5170 Launches First District Impact Companion Club

By Herb L. Ritter III

Rotary District 5170 is proud to introduce the **District 5170 Impact Companion Club**, an innovative new membership option designed to help Rotarians stay connected during life's changing seasons.

The Impact Companion Club provides a "Rotary bridge" for members who may be facing health, family, work, financial, or scheduling challenges that make participation in their current club difficult. Instead of leaving Rotary, members can remain active, connected, and engaged while maintaining ties to their home club and the Rotary family.

This new option may be ideal for:

- Members unable to regularly attend meetings or events
- Members facing temporary family, health, or work obligations
- Rotarians who value Rotary friendships but need greater flexibility
- Former members interested in returning to Rotary through a more adaptable membership model

"Rotary should adapt to the needs of our members, not the other way around," said District Governor Herb Ritter. "The Impact Companion Club gives us another way to retain great people and keep them connected to Rotary until they are ready for their next chapter."

District 5170 now has a new opportunity: Don't lose a Rotarian—help them stay connected. Only $20/month.

Taipei District 5170 Dinner and Zone Breakfast

By Geeta Kadambi

Register for Dinner Here

Register for Breakfast Here

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.

Some Club and District Awards will be presented by DG Herb in appreciation for the fantastic Year. Will your club be getting an award? Come to help Celebrate.

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

Rotary's Epic Day of Service Huge Success with Photos

By Darcy DeCoite

The global movement to show Rotarians in Action!

What an incredible show of Rotary in action!

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, Rotary's Epic Day of Service brought together more than 1,000 Rotary clubs and over 20,000 Rotarians, community volunteers, and partners around the world for one united day of service, impact, and fellowship.

Based on the amazing social media posts, photos, and videos shared throughout the day, the turnout and energy were absolutely outstanding! From local community cleanups and food drives to youth projects and humanitarian outreach, Rotarians showed once again what happens when Positive People unite for a purpose.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, posted, shared, and helped amplify the message of service above self. Together, we proved that when Rotary comes together, we truly can make the world a better place.

PHOTO CONTEST: **Enter the District 5170 Epic Day of Service Photo Contest!**

Check out **These Photos:** **<<<<<** Special thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Sunnyvale, Cupertino,

Los Altos, Los Gatos, and Saratoga for their generous contributions.

Check out These Photos: <<<<< Special Thanks to the Area 5 Rotary Clubs (Pleasanton Clubs, Dublin, Livermore Clubs, Tri Valley Clubs

Check out Santa Cruz Facebook <<<<< Great job to the Santa Cruz Club's Social media Post.

Send in your photos!!!!

Submit pictures of your club/area's Epic Day of Service and the winner will get a customizable **Service Above Self award** for their club and a **$500 gift card** to their club's favorite local restaurant! It can be a single photo or series of photos from the event. Pictures must be submitted to me **no later than May 31st.**

Any club who submits photos will also be included on the Epic Day of Service official photo page and in an **end-of-year District 5170 Community Service slideshow!** 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**

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

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

Register now: https://www.register.zoneinstitute.org/events/2026-zone-workshop/
Hotel reservations: https://bookings.atlantiscasino.com/promo?offerCode=5702586&hotel=MCRATL

Read More

Register for Camp RYLA's Dave Ditto BBQ on June 25, 2026 | Don't Miss This One

By Jennifer Chang

Whether you're a longtime RYLA champion or you've never set foot at camp before, this is your invitation to see firsthand what your support and the support of clubs across District 5170 makes possible. You'll share a meal with some of the most inspiring young people in our community, connect with fellow Rotarians who love this district as much as you do, and leave with a full heart and probably a very full stomach. Register here >

Read More

District 5170 Club News Spotlight; Monthly on the 15th

Rotary District 5170 “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

Rotary District 5170 Launches Inaugural Collaborative Impact Summit 9/19

By Geeta Kadambi

Rotary District 5170 is excited to announce the inaugural Rotary Collaborative Impact Summit, hosted by District Governor Geeta Kadambi (2026–27), at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.

This exciting new event reimagines the traditional Rotary District Conference by bringing Rotary clubs, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and service partners together to create stronger collaborations and greater community impact.

The Summit will feature:

- Inspiring keynote speakers, including Paralympic medalist Lex Gillette and AI entrepreneur Kevin Brookhouser
- Interactive service projects benefiting local nonprofits
- Club and nonprofit showcase displays
- Multicultural entertainment and community networking
- Opportunities to build partnerships that create lasting impact throughout the region

"This Summit is where connection turns into action," shared organizers. "Participants will leave inspired, activated, and ready to build partnerships that go further than ever before."

Rotarians, nonprofit leaders, and community members are all encouraged to attend and experience a day focused on service, collaboration, and innovation.

For registration and event information, contact CollaborativeImpactSummit@rotarydistrict5170.org.

About the Event Registration Quick Links

- If you are a **Rotarian or a member of the general public**, you can register here. Rotarians can also register for club display tables on this site.
- If you are a **nonprofit wishing to sign up for a display table**, register here. **Rotarians who serve as staff or board members of a nonprofit** and wish to reserve a display table for that organization should register through the nonprofit registration page and pay the applicable nonprofit fee.