

From Jose Velasco - Utah Rotary District Governor <josevelasco5420@gmail.com@ccsend.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Baktybek Abdrisaev <ABDRISBA@uvu.edu>
Subject: March Utah Rotary Newsletter



Always check events & resources on utahrotary.org

We Celebrate 118 Years of Rotary!

Paul Harris, Gustavus Loher, Silvestri Schiele and Hiram Shorey came together on the evening of February 23, 1905, to create Rotary.

Much has happened since that day and I am sure they had no idea what would come of that initial day, and especially the good that would evolve from that meeting. The organization has evolved to provide Hope, Health, Life opportunities, Literacy and learning, Peace, Food and shelter, comfort, and most importantly Fellowship among many other options in all our lives.

Throughout the hardships of war and famine during the past and current centuries, we have seen how Rotarians have mobilized to be there somehow and partner with the locals, providing support and the sense of belonging as well as the idea that we can, move forward to a better tomorrow.





I am thankful Rotary has given me and my family the inspiration to honor Service, Fellowship and Goodwill towards mankind.

I am honored to be part of this amazing organization together with all of you!

Happy 118 Birthday Rotary!

Jose Velasco
Utah Rotary District Governor 2022-2023
josevelasco5420@gmail.com

Utah District Conference is May 4-6

It's now only 65 days until Rotarians from around District 5420 will come together to **Celebrate Imagination** at this year's Utah Rotary District Conference!

This conference – as is by tradition held in the outgoing District Governor's hometown - will be at the beautiful new Midvalley Center for the Performing Arts in Taylorsville May 4-6.

The annual Utah Rotary District Business Meeting will begin at 3 p.m. May 4 and what DG Jose Velasco calls "a party to remember" will conclude on Saturday at noon.

This annual gathering of Rotarians will include outstanding speakers, exceptional learning for new or seasoned members in amazing breakout sessions, great meals and social opportunities, a House of Friendship and the recognition of the extraordinary "service above self" in both clubs and members in RY2022-23.

Watch for more information and the link to register coming to your e-mailbox on March 8. In-person registration opens onsite at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 4.



**CELEBRATE
IMAGINATION**

**Dist. Gov. Orem-Lindon Club, Rotaract, State Dept. at
UVU**

How Rotary Clubs Can Empower Communities Locally & Globally

On Friday, February 10, 2023, Orem-Lindon Rotarians and Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors hosted a meeting of Utah District Governor Velasco with Patrick Hanish, the Director of the Office of Iranian Affairs in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State at UVU.



During this meeting, Director Hanish shared both his experience working within the US State Department and Foreign Service and his partnership with Rotary International. Orem-Lindon Rotarians and UVU Rotaractors discussed how Rotary clubs empower communities locally and globally, especially through the Student-Engaged Learning (SEL) Model, where students, both traditional and non-traditional, work inclusively as a group to solve real-world problems with faculty serving as mentors.

District Governor Velasco introduced to the distinguished guest, a joint delegation representing Utah district, Orem-Lindon Rotarians and UVU Rotaractors at the upcoming 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women during March 6-8, 2023.

The delegation will host a parallel event centered on Sustainable Mountain Development, gender issues, and the empowerment the SEL model provides for mountain communities and women.

District Governor Velasco also highlighted UVU Rotaract's partnership with Osh Technological University and Orem-Lindon Rotarian's partnerships with Rotarians in Kyrgyzstan through Rotaract clubs. Director Hanish provided valuable advice on how the State Department could help to facilitate ongoing partnerships and future projects between Rotarians and Rotaractors globally.



Strengthening Partnerships with the Kyrgyz Republic

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Utah District Governor Jose Velasco met with His Excellency Baktybek Amanbaev, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States and Canada at Utah Valley University (UVU). During the meeting, Governor Velasco discussed current partnerships programs between academic

institutions in Utah and the Kyrgyz Republic with a focus on Rotary International's seven priority goals.

Since 2021, Rotaractors at Utah Valley University have partnered with peers from Osh Technological University on jointly observing the International Mountain Days. They have also participated in the 66th and 67th sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Both sides agreed to strengthen the partnerships of Rotarians in Utah District and in the Kyrgyz Republic through the Rotaract clubs and Rotary youth programs such as RYLA within Kyrgyzstan based on a Student-Engaged Learning Model.

Ambassador Amanbaev was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Almazkan Akmatova, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States and Canada, Ermek Sydykov. Past District

Governor Dean Jackson, Orem-Lindon Rotary President Spencer Mack, and UVU Rotaract President Tristin Juarez-Smith participated at the meeting as well.

These Foreign Clubs Are Asking For Your Help Choose One! It Can Be Your Club's International Project

These host clubs know their community's needs and can make things happen. We know they are great partners. For more information and to contact one of these clubs, email Jerry Summerhays, District International Service Chair, SummerhaysGS@gmail.com.



Medellin, Colombia Project

Sonia Uribe came to Utah last year on the Colombia Friendship Exchange. Recently she wrote us, "We hope a Utah Rotary club can help us fund an INDEPENDENT LIFE project where we take Spina Bifida children/young people out of their environment to help them acquire skills and more independence.

We work with the POR AMOR Foundation. Our Nuevo Medellin Rotary Club supports the POR AMOR Foundation with financial resources. Please communicate with us through Jerry and help Spina Bifida children."

Irapuato, Mexico Project

The **Rotary Club of Irapuato International** is an amazing club of all women. President Maria, and Susana who speaks English, wrote: "We hope a Utah Rotary Club will contribute \$1,100 US to construct 15 more efficient, safe, ecological stoves this year in two communities 10 minutes away from Irapuato. Each stove costs \$130. The recipient helps build their stove and on average contributes 20%. Our Irapuato club will coordinate everything and fund the rest of the \$1,950 cost. To build the stoves we partner in Irapuato with Choice Humanitarian, which is based in Utah. Ask Jerry to send you a picture of the stove."





Puerto Peñasco, Mexico Project

"Our Rotary Club in Puerto Peñasco is working with the local Health Center, Secretary of Health, and City administration to combat rickettsia (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever). We are requesting your assistance for the purchase of two motorized backpack sprayers, at a cost of approximately \$700 US each. Our club can pay for one of the backpack sprayers. We invite a club from Utah to donate \$700 US for a second sprayer. Our state and city have the highest national rate of infection and deaths due to rickettsia. Prevention of this bacterial disease, which is spread through ticks, includes sprayer/fumigation efforts, among

others. We are working to support this citywide comprehensive program, even working on a future global grant."

Buenos Aires, Argentina Project

Jorge Cangini, of the Rotary Club of Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina wrote the following in his very good English: "Please help us provide a refrigerator and a baby balance in cooperation with a well-known Argentine Foundation (Conin) that helps newborn babies and poor mothers.

They are for a new Conin office being opened in the suburban village of Merlo in the province of Buenos Aires. The total cost is US \$1400. Our Rotary Club Belgrano will pay US \$700. Can a Utah Rotary club donate US \$700? I look forward to hearing from the Utah Rotary club which chooses to help."



Volunteers needed for International "service above self"

Interested in inspiring young learners in Africa, Nepal, or Mexico? You can, through the Utah-based non-profit Village Book Builders. Village Book Builders is a 501(c)(3) that builds and operates libraries in the developing world with the mission of providing access through education and learning. Through their Village Voices program, professionals can spend an hour virtually visiting Village

Book libraries in Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Mexico, Nepal, and Zambia, and help introduce them to new opportunities or empowering ideas. With a worldview that formerly did not extend past their village, these children are beginning to understand the vast opportunities that can await them with education. Past speakers include authors, entrepreneurs, illustrators, engineers, web developers, performing artists, business leaders, and technology experts.

If interested in participating or learning more about the program, please contact Julie Arko at juliearko@villagebookbuilders.org.



What Happens to the Money We Donate?

That's a key question asked at a recent Foundation training session. Here's the answer:

This year there were 37 **District Grants**. Besides dictionaries for third graders, Clubs bought winter clothes and hygiene supplies, supported Interact clubs, made park improvements, planted trees, promoted local businesses, and assisted family crisis centers. Sub for Santa, books for elementary students, supplies for Guatemalan, Ghana and Mexican schools, help for food pantries, backpacks for homeless teens. Real needs are being met.

Global Grants are much larger. Over the years, our District has invested millions in more than 30 countries. Our District currently has 17 in the works. Grants supply restrooms, vaccines, water, medical supplies and training, improved crop production, school supplies and books, peace resolution training, improved hygiene and health care to babies and mothers, employment training, and hospital equipment.

Disaster Grants are currently supplying assistance to Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, and Pakistan. This assistance comes from your donations. The funds are distributed much like Global grants with Districts working with the international Rotarians to assure funds are used properly.

Oversight is the reason the Rotary Foundation has been rated one of the top four foundations in the country by Charity Navigator for the last 15 years. Four stars 100%!

Grateful to be a Rotarian? Time to donate to the Rotary Foundation, so others will be grateful also!

Bruce Powell
Utah Rotary District Foundation Chair



Are You on Rotary Direct?

Rotary Direct is an automatic, recurring giving program that saves time and reduces administrative costs. Because contributions are automated, donors don't need to worry about sending checks or remembering to make an annual contribution on time.

Monthly, quarterly, and annual gift options are available. Enroll at the **Rotary Direct page**, return a completed Rotary Direct **enrollment form**, or call the **international office** +1-866-976-8279.

Last year, our Foundation raised over \$434 million to fund 1,190 global grants, 470 district grants, and 225 disaster response grants.

For more information, you can refer to these **frequently asked questions**. If you have additional questions, contact your District Rotary Foundation Chair Bruce Powell at **brucepancho85@gmail.com**

Time To Start Planning Your Club's Service Impact Report



There are exciting changes coming to the way District 5420 reports service and impact, but for now the 2022-23 Utah Rotary Service Impact Report will once again measure the effect Rotary service has had in Utah's local communities, the district and the world.

For several years this "great idea," originated by Past District Governor Bev Christy, has been a powerful public image tool - when shared with neighbors, friends, co-workers and others - to increase awareness and Rotary's public image ... and will continue to fulfill its original intent when the new format is introduced next year.

For now, this sixth annual publication will include data and details about all the amazing projects done by clubs from Logan to Moab, St. George to Park City and everywhere in between! So use this valuable information to promote Rotary and your club in every story posted on your social media platforms and in every other media source!

Deadline for submitting your club data is July 10, 2023.

But if you need help to better understand how to measure and report your club's impact please email District Public Image Chair [Linda Sappington](#) or call/text 435-669-8020.

Membership Growth Report

As of Feb 22, the district had 1,641 Rotary club members (up 47 since July 1) and 57 Rotaract club members (on record in My Rotary). Club growth leaders YTD (not due to merging) include: South Jordan +11, Murray +8, Park City +8, Bountiful +6, Sandy +6, Park City Twilight +5, Cedar City +5, Sugarhouse/South Salt Lake +4, Ogden +3, Park City Sunrise +3.

YTD we've placed nine membership leads and are currently managing seven active leads. Our average placement is about 12 leads per year so we're on track to exceed that. Thanks to all clubs who've helped place leads!

We now have 10-15 clubs that are working on or considering working on developing or revising a club membership action plan. Please let me know if you are interested and/or need help.

A final reminder - please keep your club rosters up to date and don't wait until end of year. This will help minimize the big drop in membership we typically see at that time. Let's keep up the good work to grow Rotary and finish the year strong!

Scott Florence
District Membership Chair



Past, Present, and Future District Governor Reunion

A Utah Rotary Past District Governor breakfast was held at Little America in downtown Salt Lake City –in-person for the first time in three years – on the NBA All-Star weekend in mid-February 2023. There was good food and pleasant conversation. DG Jose Velasco shared his plans for the last four months of his year in office and

DGE John Redd, who just returned from the RI International Assembly in Florida, introduced his goals for his year in Utah Rotary's "top spot." And the rest of the 15 past, present and future DGs in attendance were updated on a variety of changes and events in the district.

More News to Know



Join the Fight to Eradicate Polio

Joining the Polio Plus Society is an easy, affordable way to support Rotary International's most important Service above Self project ... the eradication of polio – finally and forever - from the earth.

For just \$8.33 a month – the cost of a movie ticket or your favorite latte at Starbucks - you can become a "polio warrior" joining the ranks of those in the fight to eradicate only the 2nd human disease in world history (after small pox). Don't wait another day to start saving lives and limbs.

To sign up TODAY, see your club Foundation Chair or email Rachael Palmer at rachaelpalmer73@gmail.com.

Rotary Peace Fellowship Applications are Open

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. We are looking for our next Utah Peace Fellow!

Applications for the Rotary Peace Fellowship Program opened in February. There is a lengthy application process including an interview with the District Peace Committee so candidates must start soon.

Go to rotary.org for information about the program and email Kris Swanson, District Peace Chair if you are interested.

May Convention in the Land Down Under

On the weekend of May 27-31, 2023, the city of Melbourne, Australia is expected to have a balmy average daytime temperature of around 72 degrees and about 51 at night. This pleasant fall weather in the "land down under" is another good reason to schedule a flight heading for the 114th Rotary International Convention. This exciting event is now only about three months out so there's still time to register at <https://convention.rotary.org>.

Join fellow Rotarians from around the world and together we'll "IMAGINE what's next" for Rotary.

Register Today!



The Club Hub

Get ideas, support other clubs! Send your service projects & fundraisers to Newsletter Editor **Lola Beatlebrox** for this monthly section of the newsletter.



In February, **Moab Rotary Club** donated 10 new starter baskets for the Seekhaven group. Twice a year in a community collaboration we buy household items (10 of each) and fill laundry basket and trash bins with these items. We all love this project and so do the recipients. You can help by donating to the Rotary Club of Moab.



On a late February Saturday, **Murray Rotary Club** hosted a work party at the Murray Children's Pantry. Seven Rotarians spent 22 hours planning and repairing a rotten joist supporting the front porch. We also installed an extension for the handicap ramp. The previous ramp only went to the

porch. The next extension allows access from the road all the way through the front door.



During the week of February 7-16, 2023, **Orem-Lindon Rotarians** and **Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors** held their annual fundraiser by selling fresh-picked California oranges to our local community in the midst of winter. This year, Rotarians and Rotaractors were able to sell 247 boxes of oranges. Among the Orem-Lindon Rotarians Dean Robinson sold 72 boxes, followed by President Spencer Mack who sold 46 boxes, then Rotarian Lynn Hillstead sold 33 boxes, and UVU Rotaractors sold 23 boxes.

These funds will directly assist the community by contributing to programs such as Coats for Kids, among other service projects.



Hurricane Valley Rotary and **Hurricane City** officials kicked off the construction of the Rotary Club All-Abilities Playground at Dixie Springs Park on Friday, February 24. Mayor Nanette Billings of Hurricane and President Patty Nation of the Rotary Club took shovel in-hand to lead the groundbreaking ceremony at Dixie Springs Park. The Rotary Club All-Abilities Playground, designed for children for special needs but open to all, is planned for completion in May.

Much of the funding for the \$600,000 project has been raised, but additional help from other clubs or Rotarians is sincerely appreciated. Visit <https://hurricanevalleyrotary.org/donate/rotary-all-abilities-playground-at-dixie-springs-park/> to donate.



St. George Realtor Holly Porter was hit hard by COVID 19 in 2021. After testing positive for the virus in September, she became seriously ill, was admitted to the hospital and intubated twice. She spent 70 days in the hospital, had to learn to eat, talk and walk again and still deals with long-haul Covid symptoms today. Holly told Rotary members she wanted to help other “long-haulers” who suffer from PTSD, trauma, depression and other health issues and formed the Adventure Bucket Wish Foundation to promote awareness of long-haul Covid by inspiring hope, granting bucket list wishes of long-haulers, and creating a community through education and support to improve their quality of life.



Hispano Latino Rotary Club in partnership with the Midvale Clinic and the Food bank deliver meals every Tuesday to approximately 120 Hispanic families in need un the Salt lake area.

Save the Dates

April 2023

April 8 Hurricane Valley Easter Car Show
April 29 Moab Rotary's April Action Car Show

May 2023

May 4-6 District Conference, Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, Taylorsville
May 27-31 RI Convention in Melbourne, Australia

June 2023

June 16-17 Bountiful "Coats for Kids" Car Show

June 24 Foundation Gala dinner

September 2023

Rotary Youth Leadership Academy

Coming in 2024

Friendship Exchange to Colombia



Newsletter Contributors

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Britta Kingsley, Moab Rotary Club
Krista Simonsen, Bountiful Rotary Club
Jerry Summerhays, District International Service Chair
Jose Velasco, Utah Rotary District Governor 2022-2023

Thanks for Making this Newsletter Possible



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District Blog

District Facebook - members only

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