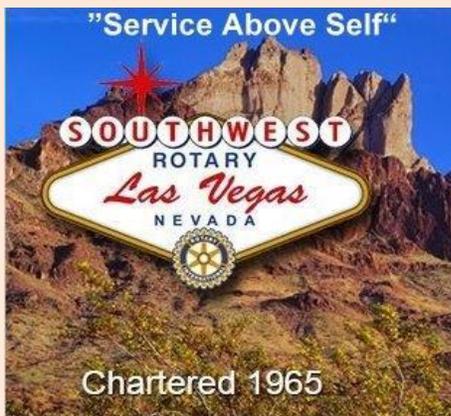




District 5300



President
Sean Tanko

Immediate Past President
Karl Maisner

President Elect
Jordana Lane
Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Guthrie

Directors
Shawn Callahan
Rebecca Collett
Eric Colvin
Paul Gustilo
Tom Martin

Advisors

Committee Chairs

- Community Service-Paul Gustilo
- International Service-Shawn Callahan
- Vocational Service-Joe Wittenwiler
- Youth/ Exchange-Adrienne Cox
- Foundation-Ted Henderson
- Club Service-Cliff Silverstein
- Membership-Rebecca Collett/Sebastian Swanson
- Public Relations/Calendar Newsletter -Keith Thomas
- Programs-Ed Guthrie

Monday, Noon

Lawry's Prime Rib Restaurant
4043 Howard Hughes Parkway
(Paradise and Flamingo)
Las Vegas, NV

501c(3) Tax ID# 81-1650174
501c(4) Tax ID# 88-6008778

PO Box 70126, University Station
Las Vegas, NV
89170-0126

southwestrotary@cox.net

Club Phone-702-870-4655

Check out our website
www.lvsr.org and our Facebook
page - "Rotary Club of Las Vegas
Southwest")

#VegasStrong

Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Newsletter 8/1219

Presiding and Conducting: **President Sean Tanko**
 Moment of Silence: **Pres. Sean**
 Pledge: **Pres. Sean**
 Photos: **Ted Henderson** (see below or click [here](#) for better quality pictures)
 Mic duty: **Sebastian Swanson** (again! That's five weeks in a row and must be his new assignment???)
 Newsletter: **Obadiah Dogberry, Esq.**

VISITING ROTARIANS

Michael Gordon joined us today in his capacity as Assistant Governor for Group 14, District 5300. He belongs to the Las Vegas Club, where he served as President in 2017-2018. Michael has been to our club many times beginning when he was an Ambassadorial Scholar from Capetown (NOT Johannesburg), South Africa. He is now a full time resident in Las Vegas and works at UNLV.

GUESTS

JB Spisso was a guest today of **Jordana Lane**. JB spent 26 years in the military, including time at West Point as an instructor. He now has a consulting company called [Elite Leadership Training](#) and he has a book out on Amazon, entitled "[Warrior Leadership: Steps to Success for Leaders on the Ground](#)".

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



The Object of Rotary

THE OBJECT of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

The Four-Way Test

OF THE THINGS we think, say, or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

AS A ROTARIAN, I will

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joe Wittenwiler announced that he is making good today on a pledge he made as part of his support of our Club and the Club Marketing Chamber of Commerce in which he is involved. His pledge was to donate \$100 for each loan that he closes. **Today he presented Pres. Sean a check for \$500.** Well done, Joe. Oh, and..."Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday Dear Joe, Happy Birthday to you!

Jordana Lane announced the annual "["SOAR" awards presentation](#)" on 9/16. [SOAR](#) is the Southern Nevada Safety Officer Award Recognition Ceremony and is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Southern Nevada. It is a 19 year old ceremony honoring outstanding first responders in Southern Nevada who embody "Service Above Self." The Rotary program "SOAR" was created to honor the ordinary officer who day in and day out, performs his or her job in an outstanding manner. All Rotary Clubs in Southern Nevada work together on this project. Please join us for this free event to honor those men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to serve and protect the citizens of Southern Nevada. We start with a continental breakfast at City Hall provided by Treasure Island Casino at 8am. The ceremony begins at 8:45am and finishes at 9:45am. Parking will be validated for up to 2 hours in the parking garage across from Las Vegas City Hall.

Sebastian Swanson reminded everyone that he is putting on a planned giving seminar on 8/21/19 and you can sign up using the link in the flyer sent out last week or by just giving him a call.. One of the areas of planning that his team is involved in is helping people with charitable giving. He said that a Rotarian seminar around effective strategies to give more and save on taxes would be not only beneficial to our current members, but also to prospective members, donors, and sponsors. He is hosting this event on 8/21 with a dinner at [Panevino's](#). There would be 50 seats available and he is flying in one of their national speakers to discuss the following topics:

- Donor Advised Funds
- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Bequest at Death

The kind of prospective members/donors/sponsors that would benefit the most from this discussion would be business owners (medium to large), high net worth individuals, highly compensated employees, and anyone who has estate tax concerns. Coming into the corporate membership chair, He said that this would be a great way to show prospecting members how to not only donate effectively to the club but also give current members insight as to how they can give more.

Keith Thomas announced (in Adrienne's absence) that she, once again, has been asked to help organize and coordinate an international project. This is "Open World" where the local Clubs of District 5300 host an educational curriculum for professionals from the Ukraine. This year we will be hosting 6 female educators from the Ukraine school programs.

Six Ukrainians, (5 delegates and 1 facilitator,) will be in Las Vegas October 11-19, 2019. She has agreed to assist Chair Karen Whisenhunt (LV Club) and representatives from other Clark County Clubs with the itinerary.

She needs more home hosts. The hosts provide a private bedroom and, preferably, bath for the 8 nights the delegates will be here. Breakfast and a ride to and from each day's events are expected. On 3 of the nights, various Rotary Clubs are hosting dinner events, and the host families are invited. Activities for the remaining 5 evenings haven't been determined; there will be opportunities for the delegates to share evenings with their hosts.

In addition to home hosts, we need Rotarians to serve as volunteer Drivers to take the delegates from appointment to appointment each day. We can volunteer for a day at a time, or half day. Contact Adrienne for further information and to volunteer! **Tom Martin** has already volunteered to be a driver.

Keith Thomas announced that the District 5300 Peach Conference this year is going to be held in Las Vegas for the first time. It is on a Saturday morning so it will be east for all to attend. Here are the details:

30th Annual Rotary District 5300 Peace Conference Registration

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Conference: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Doors open at 8:00 AM (Sign-in and Continental Breakfast)

\$35.00 Pre-registration

\$45.00 at the door

Students \$10.00

Treasure Island (TI) Hotel and Casino

3300 Las Vegas Blvd. S

Las Vegas, Nevada

Questions: Mary Ann Lutz: 626-695-6222

Keith Thomas also announced that the 2020 District Assembly/Conference are going to be held May 1-3, 2020 in Pasadena at the Westin Pasadena. Registration starts 9-1-19. Westin Pasadena, 191 N Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101, (626) 792-2727.

(Note from Obadiah: lest you think Mr. Thomas is super important and involved in everything in the Rotary world, it should be noting that he was simply repeating announcements made by **AG Michael Gordon** in the board meeting prior to the regular meeting today!)

Announcements from Board Meeting – the board is still finalizing the 2019-2020 budget and is being hampered by the fact that many have not returned their surveys, making it very difficult to plan our projected funding. If you haven't already, would you please send your survey to Melissa as well as to Pres. Sean so that Melissa can correctly bill each member for their pledges and so our Foundation Chair will know what income to expect for our Foundation giving?

RECOGNITIONS

Joe Wittenwiler was asked about his birthday plans and also which birthday he was celebrating. Joe said this is his 47th and he is celebrating by playing in a hockey game at City National Arena to which he invited everyone to attend. He said that Santa brought him all the hockey equipment for Christmas this year. For his earlier magnanimous gift, Joe received two Lawry's gift cards.

Bryan Dzedziak was asked about his recent travels since it seems like he has been gone most of the summer. Bryan said they spent a week in Sedona, AZ and then after a few days at home headed to Buffalo, NY for a family reunion. He said Caryl has 10 siblings (or is one of 10 - my notetaker's notes aren't very clear...either way 10 is a LOT!) Following the reunion he helped his son Matt move from Virginia to San Antonio. The move was made doubly interesting by the fact that Bryan and Matt drove a big "Penske" rental truck all the way. \$50 recognition (apparently for failing to obtain a "CDL" license.)

Bruce Pope was reminded by Pres. Sean about Bruce's flattering comments about his beard last week and said that "...in light of the fine I gave you last week, which may have been a bit high, I'll give you 2 gift certificates to Lawry's."

Eric Colvin was asked about the football pool he sponsors every year. He said that "...it's hard to believe that another NFL Season is around the corner which means it is time to sign up for Sunday Night Football. It will be the same as last year:

\$100 per square

Every Sunday Night Game of the year

\$50 1st and 3rd quarters

\$100 Half and Final Scores

A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Scholarship Programs."

He has already emailed a sign up. He said that, "If you want the same square as last year just let me know."

JOKE OF THE DAY

Scott Baranoff told the story of a golfer who, following an encounter with a denizen of an apiary, failed to accurately describe the location of the encounter, leading to a perhaps inaccurate observation by said golfer's golf instructor.

GIFTS FOR THE PRESIDENT (Socks, anyone?)

Tom Martin gifted Pres. Sean with a candy dish appropriately inscribed with the RI logo.

DRAWING

Eric Colvin was today's winner

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/19/19	Dark for Social on Thursday
8/21/19	Planned Giving Seminar at Panevino's.
8/22/19	Rotary Social Evening at Home Plate Grill and Bar.
8/26/19	Rotary Meeting at Lawry's
9/16/19	SOAR Awards at City Hall – 8:45 a.m.
11/16/19	Rotary Peace Conference at Treasure Island Casino, Saturday starting at 8:30 a.m.
5/1 to 3/20	District Assembly/Conference – Pasadena
6/6-10/20	RI Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii
6/12-16/21	RI Convention in Taipei, Taiwan
6/4-8/22	RI Convention in Houston, Texas

PROGRAM

Jon Ralston was today's speaker and has spoken to our club on many previous occasions. Jon has been covering politics in Nevada for more than 30 years. His blog, *Ralston Reports*, was founded in 2012 and now lives on [the Nevada Indy website](#). He wrote for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* for 15 years, the last seven as a freelance columnist. In 1999, Greenspun Media Group purchased his political newsletter, *The Ralston Report*, and hired him as a columnist for the *Las Vegas Sun* where his byline appeared until September 2012. He was also a columnist for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* from January 2015 until November 2016, when he left to start *The Indy*. Over the years, Jon has hosted several TV programs, including "Ralston Live" on Vegas PBS and "Ralston Reports" on KSNV News 3. He also writes and publishes a Nevada-centric email newsletter called "Flash" that frames the political agenda for the day, breaks news and offers analysis and snark.

In 2012, Politico named Jon one of the Top 50 "Politicos to Watch." He frequently appears on MSNBC, FOX News, and PBS, and he has also appeared on NBC's long-running "Meet the Press."

- Associated Press News Executive Council award for best local column (2009).
- Best Non-Staff Columnist (2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2015).
- Best Columnist of the Year (1991 & 1992)
- Nevada State Press Association's Outstanding Young Journalist of the Year (1986).

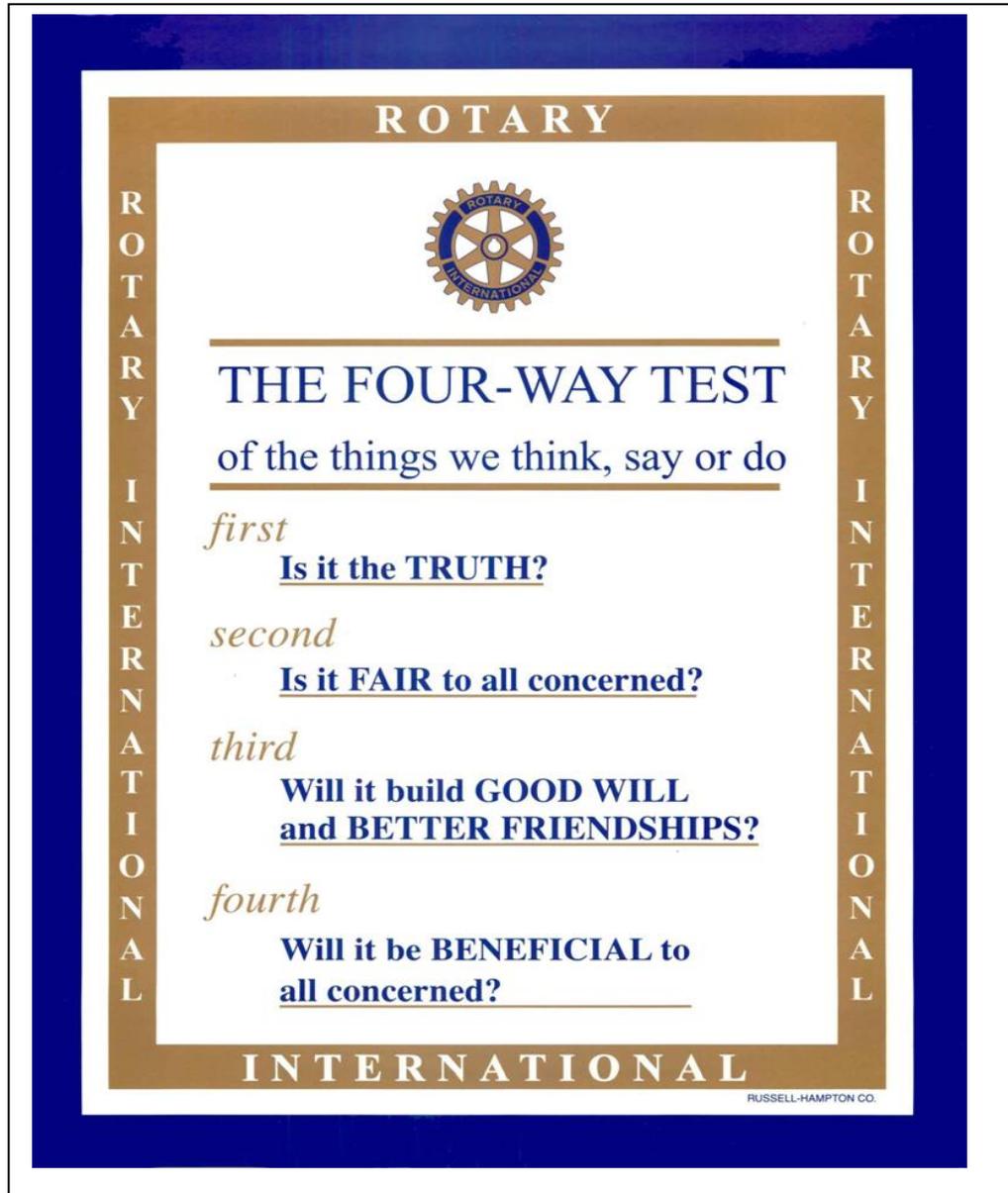
Jon is originally from Buffalo, New York. He has a B.A. in English from Cornell University and a M.A. in journalism from the University of Michigan. He came to Las Vegas in 1984 as the night police reporter for the RJ, later covering general assignment and county government before becoming a political reporter in 1986. He has a son, Jake. Jon loves movies and movie trivia and aspires to one day be *The Nevada Independent's* film critic, if they'll let him.

Jon's presentation was, as always, entertaining and informative. Topics included, gun control, the gross receipts business tax, Jeffrey Epstein, educational leadership and the state of the Clark County School District, the news media, and much more.

If you haven't already, you should [subscribe](#) to Jon's daily "Indy" report.

CONCLUSION

We concluded the meeting by standing and reciting the Four-Way Test:







JB SPISSO
Owner, Lead Consultant & Performance Coach

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FOR LEADERS IN THE CROWN

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Club President 2017-2018
Rotary Club of Las Vegas

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