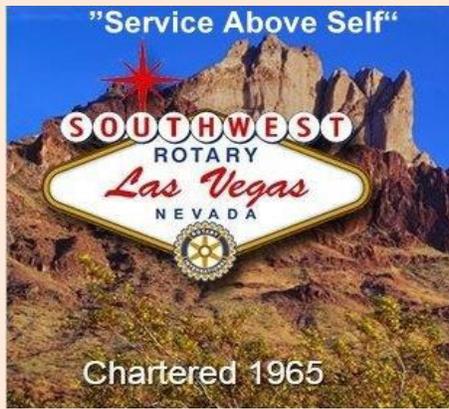




District 5300



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



**President**

Jordana Lane

**Immediate Past President**  
Sean Tanko

**President Elect**  
Paul Gustilo

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Joe Wittenwiler

**Directors**

Rebecca Collett  
Eric Colvin  
Fred Fukumoto  
Francesca Gilbert  
Tom Martin

**Advisor**

Bruce Pope

**Executive Secretary**

Melissa Brooks

**Committee Chairs**

Community Service-Paul Gustilo  
Int'l Service-Cliff Silverstein  
Vocational Service-Fred Fukumoto  
and Francesca Gilbert  
Foundation-Bryan Dziedziak  
Club Service-Tom Martin  
Membership-Rebecca Collett  
Public Relations/Calendar/  
Newsletter-Keith Thomas  
Programs-Francesca Gilbert/Ed  
Guthrie  
Interact Club-Karl Maisner

**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 752612  
Las Vegas, NV 89136

[melissabrooks1@outlook.com](mailto:melissabrooks1@outlook.com)

Club Phone-702-870-4655

Check out our website  
[www.lvswr.org](http://www.lvswr.org) and our Facebook  
page - "Rotary Club of Las Vegas  
Southwest")

#VegasStrong

# Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Newsletter

## 5/16/22

Conducting:

**Jordana Lane**

Rotary Moment/Pledge:

**Fred Fukumoto**

[Photos:](#)

**Tom Martin** (see below or click on Photos at the left for pictures at today's meeting.)

Mic duty:

**Joe Wittenwiler**

Newsletter:

**Keith Thomas**

### VISITING ROTARIANS

**Steve Arnowitz**, Past District Governor (2017-2018) for [District 7305](#) (recently combined with District 7330) in Southwestern Pennsylvania, joined us today. He is a member of the [Rotary Club of Charleroi, PA](#) and is in town visiting family. He spent many years working for "[JoS. A. Bank](#)" (**Jack Woodcock's** favorite store...actually that is not true since we know that **Jack's clothes** are all hand tailored!) He told us about some of their projects including a fundraiser using baked goods from a bakery named [Valdiserri's](#). I looked it up and it appears to be a "must visit" place if you are ever in western Pennsylvania. Always good to have "PDG's" visit our club. He brought a banner from his club and received one from our club. Welcome!

**Colleen Arnowitz** attended with **Steve** but in her own right she is also a member of the [Rotary Club of Charleroi, PA](#) and is currently serving as an [Assistant Governor](#). She is a retired special education teacher having spent 33 years teaching in virtually all the grades K-12. And we know that special ed teachers get guaranteed entry to heaven. They do wonderful work!

**Kristopher Dahir**, today's speaker (more below), is a member of the [Rotary Club of Sparks Centennial Sunrise](#), Sparks, NV. He is their immediate past president having served two consecutive terms from 2019 to 2021.

### GUESTS

**Michael Hess** accompanied **Kristopher** today. Welcome, **Michael**, and thanks for visiting today.

# 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

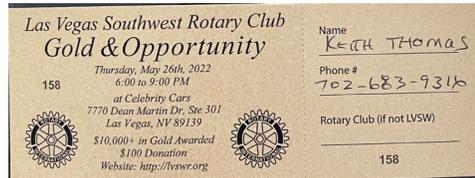
The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

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
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Paul Gustilo** reminded everyone that the **Gold Raffle** will be held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at [Celebrity Cars](#). Gold Raffle is a free event and you are welcome to bring as many guests as you wish. Although there is no formal meal, there are heavy hors d'oeuvres at no cost. Our Gold Raffle is our major fundraiser of the year and tickets are now available. Please help sell tickets!!!!!!



**Joe Wittenwiler** is in charge of the "Blind Draw" event for wine. Members are asked to donate a bottle of wine (\$20-\$25 range). At the Gold Raffle, tickets will be available for \$20 for a chance to win a great wine at the blind draw. The point to this gamble, besides supporting the club, is that there are two or three very nice, expensive wines included in the wines offered which are in gift bags that keep the identity of the wine secret. So, for all you oenophiles, dig deep into your cellars and pony up a bottle or two!

**Rebecca Collett** is helping to coordinate the silent auction so if you have items, bring them to next week's meeting.



**Raffle Prizes**  
Live & Silent Auctions! **Thursday, May 26th, 2022 from 6pm to 9pm**  
Celebrity Cars Las Vegas  
7770 Dean Martin Dr #301, Las Vegas, NV 89139

**Admission is FREE!**

Your donation of \$100.00 is entry to our gold raffle (attendance is not required to win).  
Your donations will help our local community service projects & programs

Las Vegas Southwest Rotary club is proud to support our local community projects:

- Back to School Shopping - Clothing and school supplies for "At Risk" children
- Happy Feet - New shoes and socks provided at various "At Risk" schools.
- Feed the Homeless - Food, clothing and hygiene kits are provided to persons in need
- Opportunity Village's Magical Forest - We sponsor "At Risk" elementary students to visit Opportunity Village's Magical Forest in November/December.
- Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada - We provide \$2,500 to support an annual Boys Night Out and Girls Day events. We have at least 2-3 volunteers who basically "adopt" a child for a night and take them around the event for various activities.
- Scholarships and Sponsorships:
  - Dan Stover Music Competition - A contest for high school musicians to compete for a \$5,000 Scholarship - 1st Place.
  - Teen Leadership Camp (TLC) - Our Club sponsors middle school students to attend a fun and rewarding leadership training program.
  - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - Our Club sponsors high school students to attend a dynamic leadership training program.
  - 4-Way Speech Contest - High school students participate in Rotary's annual 4-Way Test Speech contest to compete for a \$5,000 Scholarship - 1st Place
  - Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Scholarship - Our Club offers a 4-Year renewable scholarship of \$9,600 to graduating seniors who attend a Nevada college or university.

Please join us to celebrate, support and honor our community!  
Contact Paul Gustilo for more information & to purchase tickets for entry to win gold.

Phone: (702) 499-5465  
Email: [gustilop@gmail.com](mailto:gustilop@gmail.com)



**Fred Fukumoto** reported that he attended the regional Dan Stover Music Contest last Saturday at the Pahrump Community Church in Pahrump. Oscar Hernandez Nunez was our club's representative and his violin solo landed him in second place! Hal Weller and Richard McGee were the judges.

**Fred** also announced that District 5300 will once again sponsor a mission to provide cleft lip and palate surgeries to children. Due to the pandemic all missions were canceled for the last two years. This is your opportunity to participate in an international service project which will dramatically change people's lives as well as your own. Our district will be part of a team of 30 volunteers and travel to Medellin, Columbia. The mission is two weeks long and will last from JULY 24 – August 5, 2022. They are seeking contributions and four Rotarians/Rotaractors as non-medical volunteers on the mission. See the attachments below for further information. NOTE: Rotaplast Mission Volunteer Forms are due in May 28, 2022. Questions, contact:

Roger Schulte, Co-chair  
District 5300 Cleft Lip Committee  
rogerschulte@gmail.com  
909-532-0673

**Tom Martin** reported on last weekend's golf outing at the [Sky Mountain Golf Course](#) in Hurricane, Utah. Fun evening on Friday at the [Best Western Settler's Point Hotel](#) in Washington, Utah, golf on Saturday, and dinner at Settler's Point on Saturday evening. Tom said he had to juggle a mountain of everchanging cancellations and adjustments, but all who attended reported that they had a great time; Tom and Donna Martin, Greg and Sandy Mottau, Vern and Dotty Ratzlaff, Melissa and Marshall Brooks, and Keith and Sherrie Thomas. Click [here](#) for pictures. According to Tom, the non-golfers were able to find "Chico's" and "Dillard's" and sundry other establishments while the golfers were hacking up the golf course (well, Keith was hacking it up, the others were pretty good. Click [here](#) for a video of Vern's birdie putt on 18. I think Greg birdied it also but I didn't get the video started in time.)





Vern and Greg's picture below is on the 18<sup>th</sup> green and their golf balls are in the exact location where they landed after both of them hit from about 100 yards out!



**Pres. Jordana** announced that District Conference is scheduled for June 23, 2022 – June 25, 2022, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, CA. Click [here](#) for more information about the hotel and conference and click [here](#) for registration.

## **UPCOMING SPEAKERS (also see attached calendar)**

5/23/22 Milan Devetak ECDC/African Community Center (Refugees)  
5/30/22 Dark--Memorial Day

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## **RECOGNITIONS**

**None**

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## **JOKES**

**None**

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## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION – INDUCTION OF LORI CLARKE BY JACK WOODCOCK**

Lori is a true Las Vegas native and was born at Sunrise Hospital. She went to school at Western High School and ran cross country track and worked at Westgate Drug

As many of you know, Lori's dad is Gib Oswald, previous owner of Westgate Drugs and a long time Southwest Rotarian. She fondly remembers going with her dad to two International Rotary conventions, one to Japan and the other to Rome, Italy.

When Lori graduated from high school her dad gave her the bill for her auto policy and life insurance and told her, "Here, now you are an adult!"

She received her bachelor of science degree at Colorado State University. She wanted to ski in Colorado so she chose Colorado State where her goal was to be a veterinarian; however, she only skied 3 times. The hiking, however, was phenomenal. Many of her classmates are now vets.

She and her future husband Andy knew each other in high school; however, they didn't date until much later. They dated long distance for 3 1/2 years and when she was 21 and had returned to Las Vegas, they married in 1987. Andy is a great dad, great cook, and has been a free-lance videographer for over 30 years.

After graduating college, she got a job at Sunrise Hospital in the microbiology department and worked there for a year. She was making \$12.00/hour right out of college. She soon realized that working in a lab was not for her.

Gib convinced her to be a pharmaceutical rep because they got a free car, expense account, and a salary! She interviewed with Glaxo Smith Kline, was hired right away, and worked there for 20 years. Her first trip the company took her on was to Hawaii to celebrate their first billion-dollar drug Zantac.

She and Andy had two kids along the way. Jenna is now 30 and works for Virgin Cruises in the entertainment department. She travels the world and Grandpa Gib is very proud of her. Her boyfriend is from Scotland and they are reportedly pretty serious. Lori may bring her as a guest the next time they are in town. Jenna still has a room at home. Zoe is 27 and graduated from Boise State. Zoe married an army veteran named Zook. They live in Portland with their two dogs. She is in marketing for Arcadian, a real estate related company. Zook is an army recruiter.

After 20 years with GSK, she worked for Wonder Farms as a door-to-door saleswoman. She then worked at Lowe's as a cashier. After that, she worked for hospice for 5 years. She enjoyed that time; however, she knew it was time to go. She wanted to be in business for herself, so she became a Farmers Insurance agent in 2014 and started her own agency in 2015.

Becoming an insurance agent has been a very rewarding experience; however, not without a lot of family support and dealing with a lot of unknowns. She is now beginning to enjoy her business. The first few years were challenging. The relationships she develops is her favorite part. She is constantly building her book of business. She writes homeowners, life, all kinds of recreational vehicles/auto, business, and travel. She does not do health insurance. Most of her business comes from referrals. Her office is on North Rancho; however, she conducts business all over Nevada. She writes policies in Reno, Mesquite, and everywhere in the valley.

Growing up, Rotary made a great impression on her. She fondly remembers father-daughter days and other Rotary events. In fact, many Rotarians attended her wedding. Gib has to be very proud of Lori. She has looked forward to this moment for a very long time. We too look forward to having her as another second-generation Rotarian.

Let's give Lori a warm Rotary welcome to, in our opinion, the best club in all of Rotary, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest.

Lori Ann Clarke  
702-339-6640  
[lclarkel@farmersagent.com](mailto:lclarkel@farmersagent.com)



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## GIFTS FOR THE PRESIDENT

**Keith Thomas** presented **Pres. Jordana** with an empty caramel popcorn bag. Turns out it (the full bag, that is) was gifted to **Tom Martin** by management at the hotel last weekend and somebody ate all the popcorn before it made it to the meeting today. (An unnamed Rotarian at Keith's table said, "Keith, I knew you were cheap, but you have reached a new low, even for you!")

**Pres. Jordana's** preferred gift for her second year is "animal slippers" or "flip flops" (size 8 ½). Time is running out, folks. Six more weeks, folks!



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## DRAWING

No winner today so the pot rolls over.

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Each week I try to upload pictures or other memorabilia from the past for your viewing pleasure.

Click [here](#) to see the 1/26/06 roster (with pictures for most of the members at that time).

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## PROGRAM

Kristopher Dahir was our speaker today. Today he is speaking about the Nevada Veteran's Memorial Plaza (see attached description below). He was elected to his second term serving the City of Sparks (Ward 5) in November 2020. He has called Nevada "home" for over 40 years. He is the current president of the Nevada League of Cities and municipalities.

He holds degrees in psychology and has a Masters in strategic leadership. For most of his career, he has concentrated on work with non-profits and businesses to help them run more concise and focused operations. He has travelled to over 40 countries, leading and training leaders in the area of practical and principled leadership. He has served as a Pastor since his Bible College days in 1991.

Kristopher grew up in Las Vegas and his father was George Dare, the write and singer of songs like "Runnin' Rebel Fever" for UNLV Rebel team, "With a Little Bit of Love" for the Jerry Lewis Telethon, "Shine Las Vegas" official song for the City of Las Vegas. Kristopher pastored in Las Vegas for 15 years at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship. He has also administrated and run private schools for 20 years in Las Vegas and in Sparks where he currently lives.

His residency in Sparks is highlighted by community service. He is a chaplain for the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home and serves as the president of the Nevada Veterans Memorial Board. He and his wife Melissa of 28 years have served as pastors for over 30 years in both southern and northern Nevada. They have two grown sons, Adam and Noah.

### Boards and Commissions:

Community Homelessness Advisory Board  
National League of Cities, Vice Chair Community and Economic Development Committee  
Nevada League of Cities, President  
EDAWN, Board of Directors  
Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Alternate #1  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Vice Chair  
Washoe County District Board of Health  
Western Regional Water Commission –Vice Chair

### Other Local Boards

Nevada Christian Institute- President and Board Chair  
**Sunrise Centennial Sparks Rotary President from 2019-2021**  
Excel Christian School- Board President from 2016-2021  
Nevada Veterans Memorial- Board Chair  
Northern Nevada Sports and Recreations- NNSR President  
ALS State Board Member  
United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras- Board Member

Kristopher presented an interesting presentation on the Memorial Project and shared a Powerpoint presentation (click [here](#)).

An interesting observation that he made was that one of the difficulties for commercial businesses moving to Las Vegas is that the air quality is “[out of attainment](#)” and it becomes very expensive to build buildings with enough filtration controls to keep from making the air quality worse.

Thanks so much for continuing our club’s history of excellent luncheon speakers. Please join us again.



---

## CONCLUSION

We concluded with the Four Way Test.



# Red, White, & Blue



**\$10,000 in gold awarded!**

Participation requires \$100 DONATION



**Raffle Prizes  
Live & Silent Auctions!**

**Thursday, May 26th, 2022 from 6pm to 9pm**

**Celebrity Cars Las Vegas**

**7770 Dean Martin Dr #301, Las Vegas, NV 89139**

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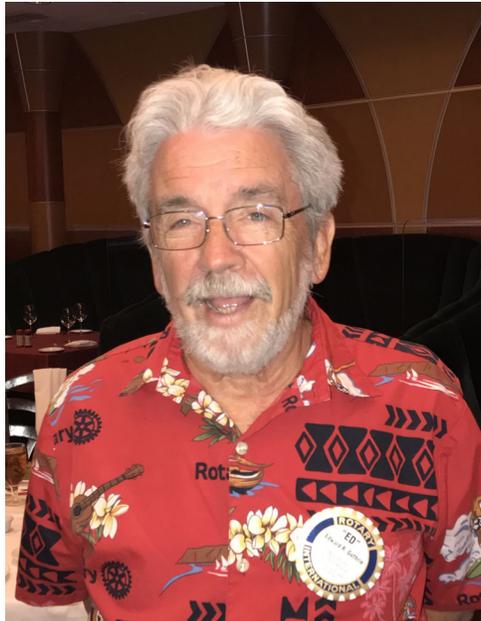
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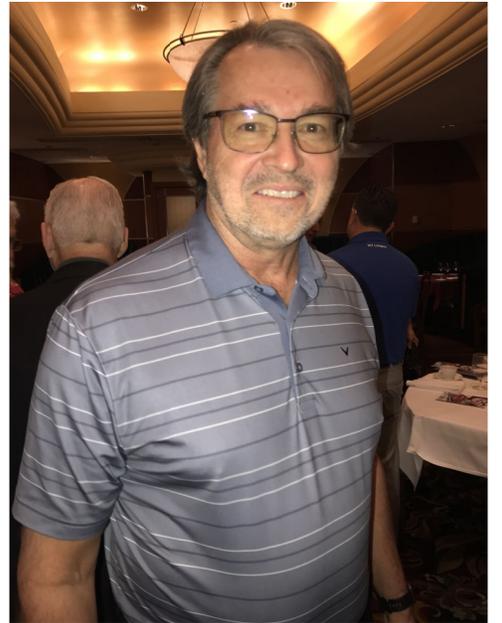
Phone: (702) 499-5465

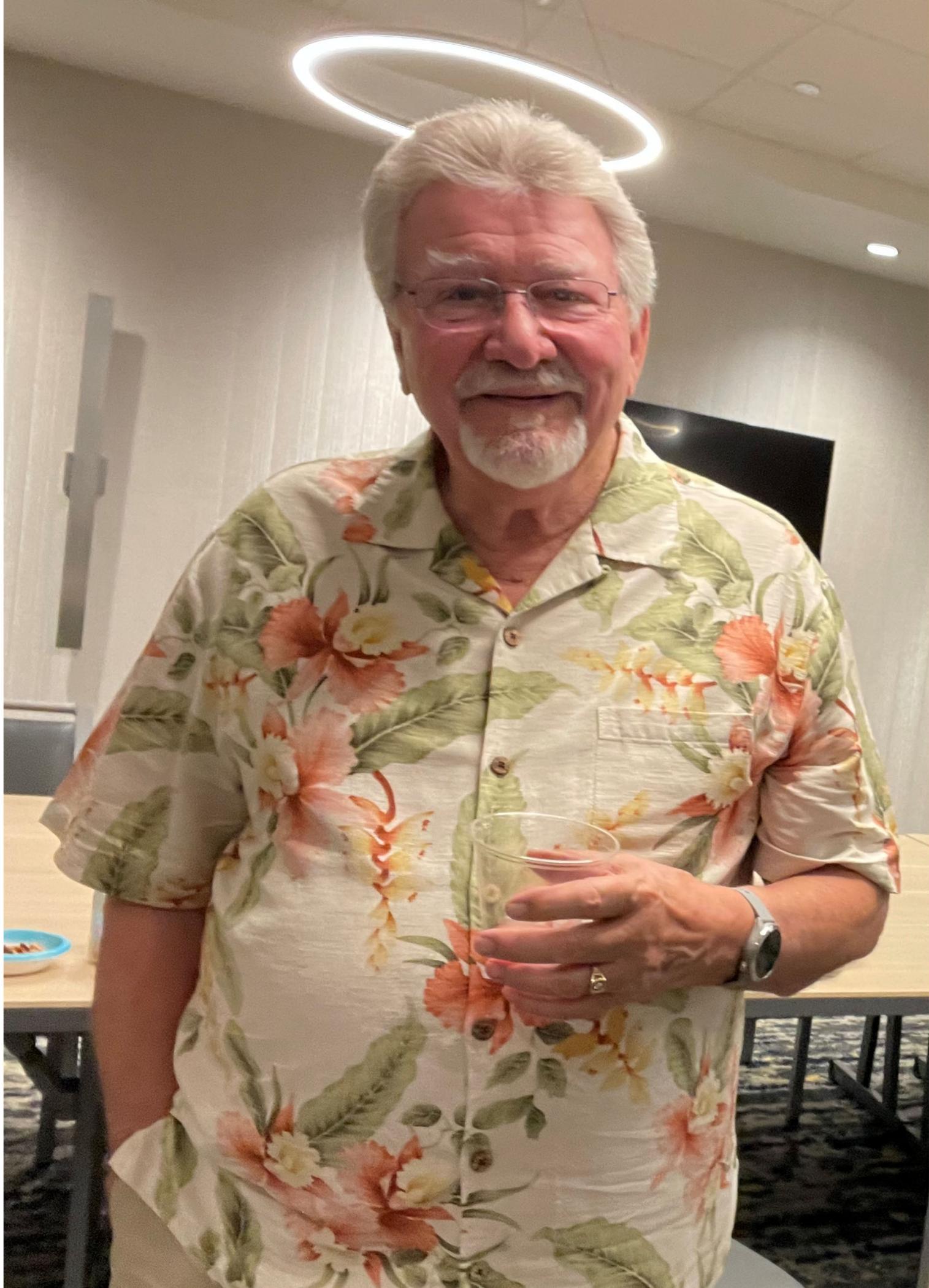
Email: [gustilop@gmail.com](mailto:gustilop@gmail.com)



















## DISTRICT 5300'S NEW ROTAPLAST MISSION



*Saving Smiles...Changing Lives*

**Medellin, Columbia  
July 24 – August 5, 2022**

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Help us fund this mission with club and individual contributions. Any amount is appreciated. Your donation will change children's lives.

Donations should be made out to:

**"Rotary District 5300"**

Indicate "Rotaplast" on the memo line.

Send donations to:

**Rotary International District 5300  
10624 S. Eastern Ave. Ste. A-16  
Henderson, NV 89052**

### QUESTIONS

Questions or to schedule a club program, contact:

**Roger Schulte, Co-chair**  
District 5300 Cleft Lip Committee  
909-532-0673  
rogerschulte@gmail.com

### VOLUNTEERS

We have 4 non-medical volunteer positions for this mission open to Rotarians and Rotaractors. The cost: roundtrip airfare with the group from San Francisco, insurance, and a background check.

Applicants need to:

- Complete the attached Interest Form
- Submit a short personal statement addressing: "Why you might be interested in joining a Rotaplast team and what skills you would bring to the team."
- Review the Rotaplast website: [www.rotaplast.org](http://www.rotaplast.org) about various positions.

Email the interest form and personal statement to:

[rogerschulte@gmail.com](mailto:rogerschulte@gmail.com)

BY

**MAY 29, 2022**



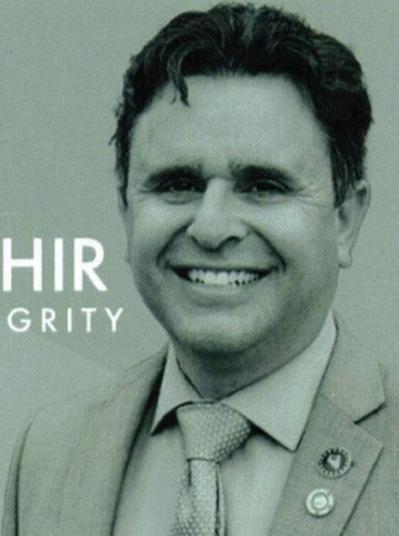
**Volunteer for District 5300's Rotaplast Mission  
Medellin, Columbia  
July 24 – August 5, 2022  
NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM**

Rotarians/Rotaractors from District 5300 will be needed to fill 4 non-medical volunteer positions. Individuals interested in volunteering as non-medical volunteers should review the Rotaplast website: [www.rotaplast.org](http://www.rotaplast.org) about various positions, complete this form, and return it along with a personal statement by May 28, 2022, to Roger Schulte. (At this point do not complete the non-medical volunteer form on the Rotaplast website.)

Name of Interested Volunteer:	Name of Rotary/Rotaract Club:
Volunteer Address:	
Email:	Phone:

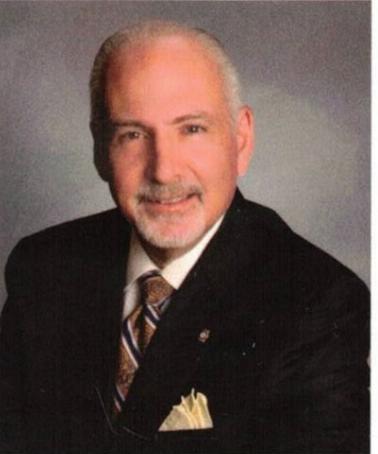
Non-medical volunteers should accompany this interest form with a short personal statement (no longer than 250 words) which addresses: Why they might be interested in joining a Rotaplast team and what skills they would bring to the team. These positions will be filled by active District 5300 Rotarians/Rotaractors. Selection will be based on team compatibility and skills needed for the mission. Those who have never been on a Rotaplast mission are encouraged to apply. Travel costs to and from San Francisco to Medellin arranged through Rotaplast are the responsibility of the non-medical volunteer as well as insurance and a background check. Extended personal travel at the conclusion of the mission is possible. Medical volunteers should contact Roger Schulte.

**Questions:** District 5300 Rotaplast Committee  
 Roger Schulte, Co-chair, [rogerschulte@gmail.com](mailto:rogerschulte@gmail.com) 909-532-0673  
 Robin Smith, Co-chair, [redzlife2@yahoo.com](mailto:redzlife2@yahoo.com) 702-460-5080  
 Tony Scheppmann, [tncscheppmann@gmail.com](mailto:tncscheppmann@gmail.com) 702-460-5723  
 Drexel Smith, [drexel.smith@drexelconsultinggroup.com](mailto:drexel.smith@drexelconsultinggroup.com) 951-202-2012  
 John Chase, [jchase5300@gmail.com](mailto:jchase5300@gmail.com) 702-497-3328  
 George Rosenbaum, [grosenbaum68@gmail.com](mailto:grosenbaum68@gmail.com) 702-371-6824



**KRISTOPHER DAHIR**  
LEADERSHIP. TRUST. INTEGRITY

[KDAHIR.COM](http://KDAHIR.COM)



**Rotary** 

**Steve Arnowitz**  
District Governor 2017 - 2018

448 4th Street  
Monongahela, PA 15063  
(412) 389-2096  
[nevets4484@yahoo.com](mailto:nevets4484@yahoo.com)

District 7305

**DAHIR**  
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

✉ [KRISTOPHER@DAHIR.NET](mailto:KRISTOPHER@DAHIR.NET) ☎ 775-770-0360



**Honoring Our Past While Educating Our Future - Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza**  
by Naomi Skelton

(SPARKS, NEVADA) – The year was 2014. While working on the South East Connector bridge in Sparks, NV, City Councilman Ron E. Smith had the idea of adding flags along the regional roadway to honor U.S. military veterans. The six-lane connector would intersect Veterans Parkway on the south, and it seemed a fitting addition to the project.

Smith spoke to a fellow Naval veteran and member of Rotary International, Bill De Carbonel, and the idea began to grow into creating something special that would memorialize the names of fallen soldiers in a more dynamic way. As fate would have it, Kristopher Dahir was running for a seat in the five-member council for the first time. He would become great friends with Councilman Smith (who would later be elected the Mayor of Sparks in 2018). Dahir would be vital in the formation of the non-profit organization that would

develop a Veterans Memorial Plaza to not only honor and serve the many Nevada veterans who sacrificed for our country but also educate coming generations on why it is important to remember them.

The two men were alike in many ways, and Councilman Smith was eager to mentor Kristopher. They began to share life stories and quickly discovered their similarities. Both were dedicated family men, married to their wives for decades and were prone to doting on their children.

When it came to fulfilling their civic responsibilities, both men were avidly committed to serving others. Dahir had followed a calling on his life that started at the early age of eight and began pastoring at the age of nineteen. He still remains a pastor thirty years later. In addition to this vocation, Kristopher is a professor, a Rotarian, and the president of a local Bible college, amongst many other service-related positions. Smith served on many local boards and commissions, as well, and continually pushed for better transportation and infrastructure within the city of Sparks to better the lives of the citizens there.

Another common strength between the two men was the ability to enthusiastically raise funds for worthy causes. The pair would travel all over their region to speak and present the need for funding to complete the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza (NVMP).

“Ron was so passionate about getting the Plaza built. He was a United States Navy Veteran that served in Vietnam. When we would present, he would get choked up and start crying. I would always end up finishing the conversation.” Councilman Dahir remembers fondly. “We laughed about that. Here I am, the sensitive and caring pastor, and he’s the one crying all the time. It just meant that much to him.”

Although both men were skilled in fundraising, there were many hills to climb in garnering the money to construct the plaza the way the team of board members envisioned it. Over the next eight years, they would experience a roller coaster of emotions. At one point, they were under the impression that they had a large donation from a foundation, only to be disappointed when told later that they decided ‘not to get into the memorial business.

After the architectural plans had been drawn up, prior to them starting construction, a major flood occurred revealing that the site was in a flood zone. Mitigating

the issues that would arise in that location would cost millions of additional dollars. The director of parks of the City of Sparks approached the foundation with an idea to move the plaza to the Sparks Marina. This offer was incredible, as they now had a new long-term lease in an ideal, highly trafficked area, however they would have to restart the process and repay their architects. By this time, many people had already donated and even bought bricks to contribute to the project. The pressure to deliver was monumental.

Once they commenced construction at Sparks Marina Park all efforts were intensified. The park boasts a 77-acre Helms Lake, which is one of the best public swimming holes in the area. Fishing is permitted along the pier, and comfortable picnic areas are plentiful. Boating and scuba diving are just a couple of the recreational activities enjoyed by visitors to the area.

Just as it seemed that things were beginning to fall into place and move forward, Mayor Ron E. Smith was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2018. Although he was facing the biggest fight of his life, Smith never stopped working. While undergoing chemotherapy, Mayor Smith never missed a beat, according to his daughter, Jennifer Carvalho. In fact, he only missed one Sparks City Council meeting throughout his two-year battle with cancer. Remaining steadfast in his determination to see his vision through, Mayor Ron Smith continued to help and work to fundraise for the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza.

In the meantime, the world came to an unimaginable standstill in March of 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic struck. This meant no more fundraising presentations. No more meetings. People were in shock and struggling to maintain a semblance of normalcy. Donations ground to a halt for months on end.

Mayor Ronald E. Smith succumbed to pancreatic cancer on August 19, 2020, after a lifetime of service to others. He passed peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family.

“I often say that I am carrying another man’s flag. The NVMP was truly the heart and mind of Ron and so many of the people on our team. I will do all that I can to assure that it is completed correctly,” Councilman Kristopher Dahir states emotionally.

Kristopher and the board members knew that they were at a place that they could not stop. They were

focused on honoring the promises that they had made to the community, and Dahir refused to allow Mayor Smith’s intentions to be tainted in any way. It was going to happen, one way or another.

Q&D Construction, a multi-faceted general contractor with exceptional experience in all areas of commercial building since their inception in 1964, reached out to the NVMP team. They told Councilman Dahir that they wanted to take the project on, and they would do so whether the foundation had the money yet or not. This was the miracle everyone had been waiting on.

Councilman Dahir and the team forged forward with three major goals in mind. The first was to honor Nevada’s fallen service men and women from all branches of military since 1864. The second goal was to use the NVMP to educate future generations on what it means to sacrifice for the freedoms we all currently enjoy as American citizens. Thirdly, the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza is created to be a gift to veteran groups and provide a safe place to gather for ceremonies, awards, simple reflection, and enjoyment. These honored groups will never be required to pay to use the facility.



In honor of Mayor Ronald E. Smith, the plaza will include the Ron E. Smith Education Path. This is an essential part of the building plan and sets the NVMP apart from many existing veteran memorial structures. It will be a walking path that will surround the plaza, featuring several kiosks that will highlight Americas involvement in wars and the journey of Nevada becoming a state up until present day. This education path will be a fantastic learning tool for generations to come.

The Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza has been a true labor of love for all involved. Every person who works for NVMP is a volunteer, with only one part-time paid employee. The donors have been the backbone of the entire project, with one family donating \$250,000 as a matching gift this past December 2021. \$700,000 has already been spent to get the memorial to its current state, and the ultimate goal is to raise another \$500,000 before its completion.

On June 23rd, 2022, the 6th annual fundraising dinner will be held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV. The purpose of the dinner is to celebrate the completion of the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza, honor the memorials that are already functioning throughout Nevada, and show how the NVMP will be

joining in their legacy of honor. There are expected to be 400-500 people in attendance, including veterans, community supporters, elected officials, business owners and concerned citizens. Many dynamic speakers will take the stage, and there will be live entertainment throughout the night. A silent auction will also be held. Everyone is invited to attend the event with the costs of tickets starting at \$150 for an individual or \$1000 for a sponsored table of eight people.

If you would like to purchase tickets for the dinner or sponsor a table, there is still plenty of time to do so. NVMP is also requesting donation gifts to be offered during the silent auction. There are many ways to support the foundation. For more information on different levels of sponsorship, how to be included on the donor wall, and further details regarding the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza, please visit our website at <http://nvmp.us> or call (775) 235-6885.

*If you are interested in having your story shared with our readers, please call **Joseph C. Abraham** directly at (702) 306-2394.*

**Calendar of Events**  
**Rotary District 5300 - Calendar for Las Vegas Southwest**

DATE	TIME	CLUB	EVENT NAME	LOCATION / COMMENTS
<b>May - Youth Service Month</b>				
May Sat 21 22	09:00 AM	Las Vegas Southwest	Las Vegas Southwest - Board Retreat	Board Retreat for Paul Gustilo's year.
May Mon 23 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Weekly Club Meeting	Speaker - Milan Devetak ECDC African Community Ctr. (Refugees)
May Thu 26 22	06:00 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Las Vegas Southwest - Gold Raffle	The <b>Gold Raffle</b> will be held on Thursday, May 26 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. More details to follow.
May Mon 30 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Dark for Memorial Day	Dark for Memorial Day
<b>June - Rotary Fellowships Month</b>				
Jun Mon 06 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Weekly Club Meeting - Scholarship Presentations- Fred conducting	Scholarship presentation. Fred Fukumoto will be conducting the meeting. Speaker - Michael Turner Human Trafficking
Jun Mon 13 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Weekly Club Meeting	Speaker - Lindy LaRogue Lady Rebels Basketball (Mtn. West Champion)
Jun Mon 20 22	11:00 AM	Las Vegas Southwest	Monthly Board Meeting	Board Meeting
Jun Mon 20 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Weekly Club Meeting	Speaker - Angela Baker - American Heart Association
Jun Thu 23 22	06:27 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	District Conference	District Conference is scheduled for June 23, 2022 – June 25, 2022, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, CA. Click <a href="#">here</a> for details and registration.
Jun Fri 24 22	11:00 AM		2021-22 ANNUAL DISTRICT 5300 CONFERENCE 6/24-6/26, 2022	<b>Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa 44-400 Indian Wells Lane Indian Wells, CA. 92210</b>
Jun Mon 27 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Dark for Debunking	Dark for Debunking
<b>July - New Leadership Month</b>				
Jul Mon 11 22	12:15 PM	Las Vegas Southwest	Las Vegas Southwest Weekly Club Meeting	Speaker will be Joe Wittenwiler - craft talk on new business



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- Personal financial statement (for anyone w/ ownership of 20% or More)



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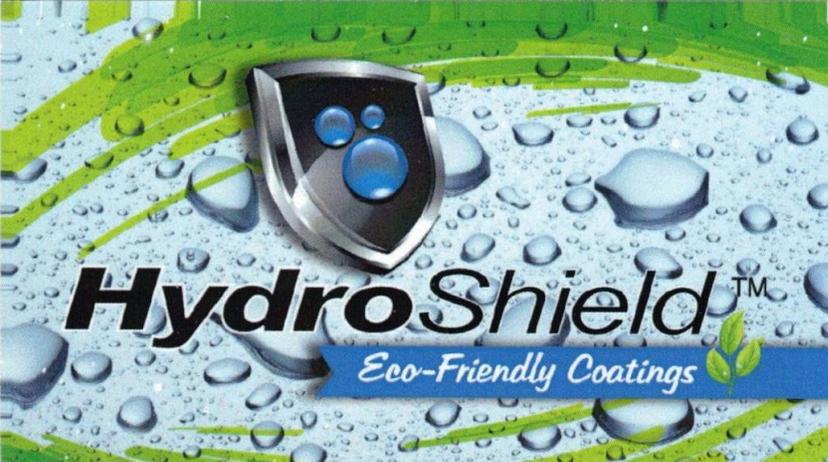


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