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Rotary
District 5300



Rotary
Las Vegas Southwest



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary



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Jeanne Willett



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Lori Clarke

Secretary/Treasurer

Raluca Petre

Immediate Past President

Rebecca Collett

Directors

Ken Cox

Amber Fuhrman

Jordana Lane

Karl Maisner

Tom Martin

Executive Secretary

Melissa Brooks

Committee Chairs

Community Service-Paul Gustilo

Int'l Service-Scott Baranoff

Vocational Service-Fred Fukumoto

Foundation-Greg Mottau

Club Service-Tom Martin

Membership-Bruce MacKenzie

Social Media - Shaun Ochsner/

Newsletter-Keith Thomas

Programs-Eric Colvin

Interact Club-Paul Gustilo

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

Club Phone-702-870-4655

Check us out on our website
www.lvswr.org and on Facebook at
/lasvegassouthwestrotary

#VegasStrong

Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Newsletter

8/03/26

Conducting:

Invocation and Pledge:

Photos:

Mic duty:

Newsletter:

President Jeanne "Rotary Genie" Willett

The Distinguished, Mr. Ron Reynolds

Tom Martin - see attached or click here,

Rebecca Collett - (the newsletter is posted each
week on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#))

VISITING ROTARIANS

Visting today from the Las Vegas Rotary Club (aka The Big Club) was Janice Lencke, their Immediate Past President.

Janice was a guest of our newest member, Toni Kern. Welcome, Janice.

GUESTS

Robyn Novotny came as the special guest of Past District Governor, Tom Novotny.

Robyn was able to join us one last time for lunch before returning back to school in her honorable profession as a Special Ed Teacher for Clark County Schools.

I believe some of us refer to these amazing teachers as "angels".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pres. Jeanne chose to be first with announcements today. She reminded everyone of the upcoming hands-on project on 8/8/26, this Saturday. We will be meeting at **Karl Maisner's** office to assemble "dorm kits" for foster kids who are moving in to their college forms. Location of Karl's office is 6615 S Eastern Ave, Suite 105, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Time to be there is noon. President Jeanne planed to follow up with an email to Club members with more details and also asked members to sign up in the Red Binder today.

Pres. Jeanne also reminded up all of the upcoming SOAR event on 9/21/26 and to sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend in support of our local First Responders.

Bruce MacKenzie reminded us of the upcoming visit from our new District Governor, Dennis Franklin, next week. Bruce also made mention of the smaller volume of zoom calls and emails that he has noticed.

Toni Kern wanted to make us aware of the **Leadership Summit Zoom Call scheduled for 8/15/26**. She asked us to look for an email with details. Toni added that everyone could sign up on Dacdb to be a part of the Zoom Meeting. The call is designed to provide Clubs with new ideas and a chance to collaborate with other Clubs. President Jeanne also added that she would be sure to forward information to all Club members, as well.

The most special announcement of the day was still to come via Jack Woodcock.

RECOGNITIONS

President Jeanne called upon a few Club Members to recognize what they have been doing lately that should be shared with everyone. With that in mind she called on:

PDG Tom Novotny – shared that he has been staying very busy with his grandkids and following them around from sporting event to sporting event. He is obviously very proud of their accomplishments and abilities. A lot like Grandpa at their age.

Amber Fuhriman shared her recent travels to Idaho to include camping as well as a Family Reunion. Apparently, this camping spot has been visited for many, many years once her mother chose to organize it as a Family Reunion – to include everyone. Amber also shared that this would be Shaun's first opportunity to meet her family and gauge his survival (no pressure). The location included an impressive shooting range. Well, it seems as if it all went very well for Shaun. Guns, ammo, family, adult beverages – what could go wrong?

Shaun Ochsner added that he also had an assignment not too far from the camping spot, Day Mountain Ranch Resort, for rodeo season at the Morgan City Fair. Sounds like next weekend is another rodeo weekend field assignment for Shaun. Nothing more exciting than a rodeo.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

2025-2026 calendar - ATTACHED BELOW. Note that the 2026-2027 meeting dates, dark dates, and board meeting dates come directly from DacDB.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Tom Martin – this one received a significant number of groans today. You decide.

A horse walks into a bar and says: 'On a right triangle with sides X, Y, and Z, if X and Z are perpendicular, which side is opposite the right angle?' The bartender says Y, the long face.

GIFTS FOR THE PRESIDENT (Pres. Jeanne's recommended gift is coffee mugs.)

President Jeanne received gifts today from Amber Fuhriman and Shaun Ochsner (coffee cups from their recent travels)

She also received a "genie" key chain from Rebecca in spite of no recent traveling to speak of.

Photos are included via the link.

DRAWING

today's winner. – Tom Lewellyn won the cash today. Congratulations, Tom!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Click [here](#) to see the presentation made to our club by the Southwest Rotarians who traveled to Xpujil, Mexico in 2006 to build water cisterns.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION – TONI KERN

Today we were all honored to be officially introduced our newest member, **Toni Kern**, complete with the formal presentation by our very own Jack Woodcock. **(her story and bio are attached)**

As a Rotarian since 2017, Toni was sponsored by Past District Governor, Tom Novotny, to transfer her Rotary Membership to our Club – Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club.

Our Club enthusiastically welcomes Toni Kern to our "family" and to years of fun, friendship and service to others.

Thank you, Toni, for choosing our Club.

PROGRAM

Our program today was presented by **Amber Colbert, *Museums Administrator, Clark County***

Amber Colbert, Administrator of Clark County Museums—including the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum—for an engaging presentation titled "Desert Skyways: A History of Clark County Aviation." This talk offers a fascinating journey through the unique history of aviation in our community, beginning with the first flight on May 7, 1920. Amber will guide participants through key milestones, from the early days of aviation that helped shape the region, through the boom of mega resorts, to the ongoing growth and expansion of Clark County. Discover how aviation has played a pivotal role in building the vibrant community we know today.

Although history was not always a passion for Amber Colbert, her interest blossomed after working summers in the fascinating ghost town of Bodie State Historic Park. Shortly after earning her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University, Amber was able to further explore her love for both history and natural resources as a Nevada State Park Ranger at Valley of Fire.

Eager to gain more experience in the museum field, Amber left Valley of Fire State Park to become the manager of the science and nature department at Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada. However, missing the blend of history and outdoor spaces, Amber transitioned to the Clark County Museum, beginning as a Cultural Specialist. After five years of dedication, she was promoted to Museums Administrator for Clark County in October of 2021.

In her current role, Amber oversees the Clark County Museum in Henderson, the Searchlight Historical Museum in Searchlight, and the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum located in Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas. Her broad expertise and passion for connecting communities with their heritage have strengthened the museum's outreach, educational programs, and exhibitions.

CONCLUSION

We concluded with the 4-Way Test led by **President, Jeanne (Genie)**



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.

TONI KERN

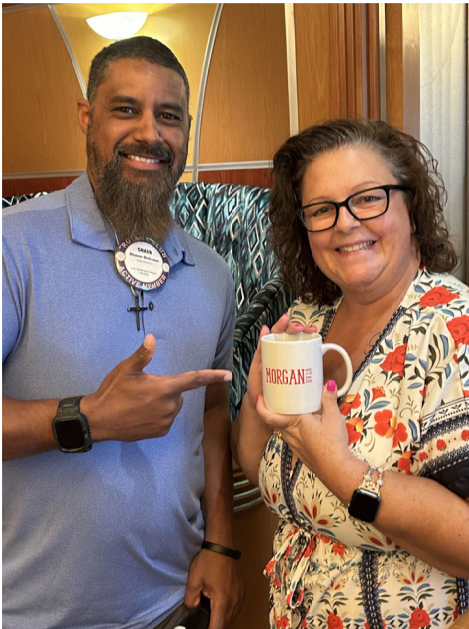
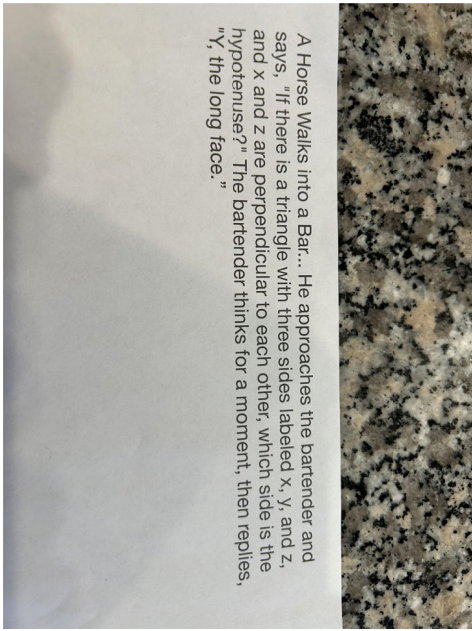
(213) 509-3082

Toni_kern@msn.com

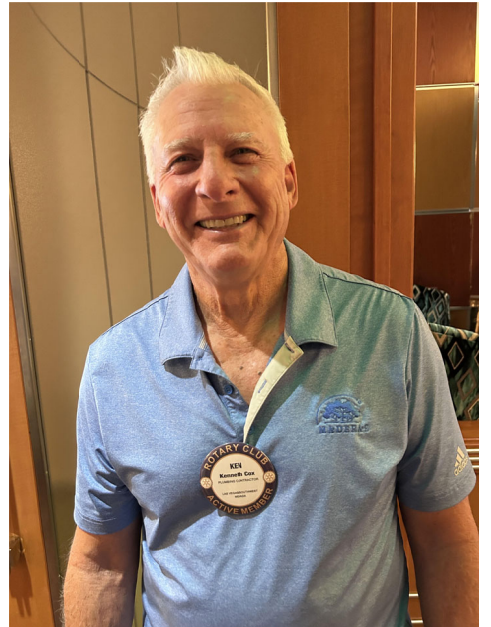
TONI WAS BORN IN LOS ANGELES AND RELOCATED TO LAS VEGAS IN 1964 WITH HER MOTHER, STEPFATHER, AND OLDER SISTER. HER STEPDAD PURCHASED AND DEVELOPED SEVERAL LOCAL BARS. SHE WENT TO RUBY THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ROBERT E LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WILLIAM E. ORR JR. HIGH, AND GRADUATED IN 1972 FROM VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL. SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE TYPICAL CHEERLEADER AND PRECISION POM POM GROUPS BEFORE HEADING TO UCLA IN 1972 FOR UNDERGRADUATE WORK. BEFORE EMBARKING ON COLLEGE, SHE WORKED FOR SOME OF THE FAMILIAR NAMES IN THE COMMUNITY BACK THEN. HERB KAUFMAN IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF WONDER WORLD ON MARYLAND PARKWAY; SHE WAS A RUNNER FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROY WOOFER; SHE WAS A "BELLS FOR BELL" IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT REX BELL WHEN HE RAN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY. SHE WORKED AS A LEGAL SECRETARY FOR ROBERT MILLER IN THE LEGAL ADVISORS' BUREAU OF THE OFFICES OF SHERIFF RALPH LAMB JR. AFTER 2 YEARS OF COLLEGE, SHE TOOK TIME OFF FROM UCLA AND RETURNED TO LAS VEGAS AS A LEGAL SECRETARY INITIALLY FOR ROBERT ARCHIE, ESQ. WHO REPRESENTED BARNELL BISHOP WHICH WAS A NOTORIOUS CASE OF A MURDERER WHO BURNED PEOPLE TO DEATH. SHE THEN WORKED FOR RICHARD "DICK" WEISBART WHEN THEY FORMED ARCHIE & WEISBART ON 6TH ST. WHERE HER OFFICE WAS THE "KITCHEN' BREAKFAST NOOK" OF A HOUSE CONVERTED TO A LEGAL

OFFICE WHERE HER BIGGEST RESPONSIBILITY WAS COLLECTIONS ON BEHALF OF SUNRISE HOSPITAL. SHE THEN DECIDED WORKING FOR \$600/MONTH WAS NOT FOR HER AND RETURNED TO UCLA WHERE SHE GRADUATED IN 1977 WITH A BA IN ECONOMICS. SHE TRIED BUSINESS LAW AS A MAJOR BUT COULDN'T GET A COBOL PROGRAM WRITTEN SUCCESSFULLY SO SHE CHANGED TO ECONIMICS. HER FIRST JOB OUT OF COLLEGE, EVERYONE'S DREAM, WAS A MANAGEMENT TRAINEE WHATEVER THAT MEANT, AND ENDED UP IN THE CLAIMS DEPT AT LIBERTY MUTUAL IN LOS ANGELES ON WILSHIRE BLVD ACROSS FROM THE LA BREA TAR PITS. SHE STARTED AS A FIELD CLAIMS ADJUSTER, WAS ALMOST KIDNAPED, ENDED UP BEING ROBBED OF HER INSTANT CLAIM CHECKBOOK IN THE FIELD, TO BEING A CLAIMS SUPERVISOR, BEFORE CHANGING TO BECOMING A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, SHE HANDLED CASES ON BEHALF OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES, SELF- INSUREDS LIKE NORDSTROM, BULLOCKS WILSHIRE, AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE HER FOCUS INVOLVED CASES AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES INCLUDING POLICE/ SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS IN CIVIL MATTERS FOR EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THIS IS WHERE SHE MET HER HUSBAND, A RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHILE INVESTIGATING SOME CRIMINAL CASES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK EVOLVED INTO AN OFFER BY THE OWNERS OF THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATION BUSINESS TO FINANCE HER LEGAL EDUCATION. SHE WORKED FOR THEM IN THE DAYTIME AND LAW SCHOOL AT NIGHT, WITH THE LAST TWO YEARS OF LAW SCHOOL WORKING AS A LAW CLERK

FOR A PROMINENT DEFENSE FIRM INSTEAD OF THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATION FIRM. THEY REPRESENTED MUNICIPALITIES, INCLUDING COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CITY OF PASADENA, AND MANY MORE WHERE SHE LEARNED ALL ABOUT ESCALATION OF FORCE, USE OF A PR 24 VS. A STRAIGHT STICK, K-9 WORK, AND SO MUCH MORE. SHE CONTINUED THERE AS A LAWYER AFTER PASSING THE CALIFORNIA BAR IN 1987 WHERE A 5'0" FEMALE WAS ONE OF FEW IN THE UNCHARTED TERRITORY OF DEFENDING COPS IN COURT. AFTER 30 TRIALS IN 4 DIFFERENT FIRMS, SHE FINALLY RETIRED FROM FORMAL ACTIVE PRACTICE AT THE END OF 2014 AND RETURNED TO LAS VEGAS, SHE HAS BEEN BACK SINCE 2015. SHE DABBLES WITH OCCASIONAL CONTRACT WORK FOR AN ATTORNEY IN CALIFORNIA FROM HER LAST TRIAL INCLUDING THE OCCASIONAL VIRTUAL COURT APPEARANCE OR DEPOSITION. HER ROAD TO ROTARY EVOLVED FROM BEING THE "SIGNIFICANT OTHER" OF A ROTARIAN IN DISTRICT 5280 WHERE THEY ATTENDED ROTARY EVENTS, CONVENTIONS, ETC. SHE BECAME A MEMBER IN ROTARY IN 2017. SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING HER ROTARY JOURNEY OF SERVICE, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE BEST CLUB, OUR CLUB, LAS VEGAS SOUTHWEST ROTARY CLUB.









Desert Skyways: A History of Clark County Aviation

