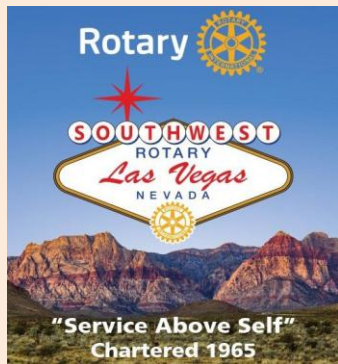


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Rotary
District 5300



Rotary
Las Vegas Southwest



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary



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Jeanne Willett



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Lori Clarke

Secretary/Treasurer

Raluca Petre

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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 8/10/26

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,

Justin Hamada

Rebecca Collett - (the newsletter is posted each

week on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#)

VISITING ROTARIANS

Today we had an impressive list of Rotarians:

Jacqueline Thornhill, long time Rotarian - invited by Toni Kern.

Nancy Anderson, visiting from the Las Vegas Club, also a guest of Toni Kern.

District Governor (Dist. 5300) 2026 - 2027, Dennis Franklin

Joining our District Governor are the following Past District Governors:

PDG Randy Pote

PDG Larry Skaggs

PDG Michael Soden

PTDG Tom Novotny

Accompanying our District Governor Dennis today is **Gino Reyes**, our **District Membership Chair**.

Also good to see **Cynthia Hamada**, our **Honorary Member** and her son, **Justin** joining us today.

GUESTS

Hunter Cain, Founder and Executive Director of The Foster Care Chamber, was a guest today along with his adopted son, **Carlos Cain**, a former Foster Youth. You may all remember Hunter as a Speaker for the Club, introduced us to the needs of the Foster Care Program. Hunter, himself, has fostered 47 foster children, over the past 19 years. In addition, he has personally adopted 13 Foster children. Wow. Incredible indeed.

Carlos Cain will be attending UNLV in August, to study Imaging Science with plans to become an X-ray Technician.

Joining Hunter today, was **Ashe Quinn, Interim AD of Scholar and Student Support at UNLV**. Some of his responsibilities include the Fostering Scholars Program (Foster students) and Hope Scholars Program (Homeless Students), among others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jeannie began the announcements with her reminder of the **September 21st SOAR awards event**. This is the Rotary-sponsored annual event to recognize our Finest in Uniform First Responders and other local heroes. She reminded us to mark our calendars to be there in support of all of our local award winners. District Governor Dennis will be one of the speakers that morning. More details to come.

President Jeannie mentioned that she is now also currently working on the **next Greenspokes event**, after the success of the last one. She is looking forward to coordinating more of these events to get our club out together socially, in her presidential year. More socials and more get togethers.

FOOTBALL TIME - Eric Colvin let us know that it is now officially football season after the recent Hall of Fame Game. He reminded us that the Club's annual football pool, that he coordinates, is our easiest fundraiser in support of our Scholarships, TLC, RYLA and our other vocational programs. At only \$5.88 per week, throughout the season, this is an easy way to be involved supporting the Club's programs, as well as, maintaining an interest in the weekly football matchups nationally. Eric will be sending out an email soon with all the details for buying a square or 2 or 3 or 4. Remember, It all goes to fund our very worthy programs.

Toni Kern announced **The Rotary Youth Exchange** is currently looking for a host family for a German student. She let us know the host family would be responsible for transportation, getting the student back and forth to Palo Verde High School. Additionally, there is a \$150 per month stipend provided by the Las Vegas Rotary Club for the student. Toni let us know that more information would be forthcoming via District email with all of the details about the youth exchange program and host family responsibilities. (attached to this newsletter)

Gino Reyes took a moment to remind us about the upcoming Leadership Summit Zoom Call this Saturday. You may have already seen emails with the details for joining the zoom call. Don't miss this Zoom Call and the chance to hear from other Rotarians, share successes, learn

And help one another To attract and retain new Rotarians.(email is attached to this newsletter)

President Jeannie reminded us of the Foster Student Dorm Room kits - with one conveniently displayed up front by the lectern. She took the opportunity to thank her volunteers for their time on a Saturday, on very short notice. These dorm room kits are a new hands-on project for the Club that President Jeannie wanted to introduce in her presidential year. It was a great success and 20 dorm room kits were completed for the UNLV Foster students just in time to begin their college journey this month.

Tom Martin, one of the Saturday volunteers, shared his experience as well. He told us that he and his wife, Donna, were not sure what to expect since this was something new for everyone. He said that it was completed rather quickly with the help of all the volunteers, especially including 2 very young volunteers which happened to be Karl's son and daughter. ALL 20 kits were completed within about 1 hour. Tom indicated that he thought this was a great project for the Club and one we could probably consider going forward.

RECOGNITIONS

President Jeanne - Thank you cards presented today to: Karl Maisner, Tom Martin, Jordana Lane, Cynthia Hamada, Toni Kern, and Rebecca Collett

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 was prepared with a joke for today. The complete joke is listed in with our photos. Thank you, Tom.

Gino Reyes indicated that DG Dennis Franklin might have a joke for us as well.

DG Dennis explained that he tries to include a joke or 2 when he is speaking to a crowd. Due to our current climate in Las Vegas he went on to joke/ suggest how very cold it was in Las Vegas compared to where he came from in California.

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

To everyone's amazement, including President Jeannie's, there were no gifts for the President today. Probably just as well since there really wasn't much time with such a busy agenda today. Someone mentioned that she had a gift out in the car but President Jeannie elected to save it till next week, in the interest of time.

DRAWING

Today's raffle winner was Carlos Cain. Always great when a guest wins the cash. Although he won the prize, he was still unwilling to take the mic and say a few words.

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.

PROGRAM

Our program today was presented by **District 5300 Governor, Dennis Franklin**

DG Franklin began by introducing himself and his journey to become a Rotarian.

He shared that he has already visited about 12 clubs so far into his year., and continues to be amazed by what Rotary Clubs are capable of doing.

He shared an example of a Chino Hills Rotary Club of only 9 members. In short, those 9 members who are of Filipino descent, chose to help an island in the Philippines that was ridden with an outbreak of rabies. They set out to team up with other Rotarians in the Philippines in order to tackle this serious situation. By spaying and neutering dogs and cats they have been able to make a significant impact. They now have a goal of eradicating rabies entirely from that island in the Philippines by 2030. Their vision past 2030 includes moving on to the next island and then the next. That is the power of Rotary.

DG Dennis shared a few stories that included his daughter's story about how Rotary impacts young people, their paths, and ultimately as adults making a huge impact and contribution back to Rotary and their communities.

When speaking about the direction of the District, DG Dennis shared a story about membership and how a Rotary Club supporting the Corazon Project decided to invite Interact members along with their parents to participate as volunteers. Of course, the impact of that experience on the parents was memorable and led to some of those parents becoming Rotarians.

DG Dennis emphasized the point that we can leverage membership in Interact Clubs or Rotaract Clubs and continue the logical progression to lead these young members to ultimately become Rotarians as adults. A simple strategy to consider.

DG Dennis reminded us to invite people to our programs. If they are not invited, they will not become Rotarians.

DJ Dennis closed with a reminder of the District Conference to be held in Laughlin, Nevada in concert with Rotarians in Laughlin - and it promises to be a great event on the Colorado River. Don't miss this one.

Quick action allowed us to seize the moment for the perfect photo opportunity to include all of the visiting Past District governors to pose with DG Dennis and President Jeannie. Great photo. Thank you, Past District Governors, for showing up to support our new District Governor, Dennis Franklin.

CONCLUSION

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



Hello ROTARIANS,

I wanted to encourage any and all of our Rotarians to join us at our **District 5300 All Member Leadership Summit** that will be held on Zoom **this Saturday, August 15th, from 9:00–11:00 a.m.**

Together, we'll be exploring what almost everyone tells me is the biggest concern for their club - membership. I have asked each of our chairs to share how their committee will address one simple concept: How can they use their area of responsibility to help every Rotary club become the place that people want to be.

Whether you're a new member or a longtime Rotarian, you'll want to hear the practical ideas and resources that we'll be sharing, because if we can help make your club the place people want to be, they'll show up, they'll want to come back, and they'll be excited to make the experience available to others. Your club will then have more resources, more manpower, and more financial ability to make an impact on your community and the world.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Here's the link to register:

<https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77932792>

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

This Rotary Year we have two inbound exchange students, both sponsored by the Las Vegas Rotary Club - one of whom, *a 15-year-old boy, Justus Sebastian, from Germany*, is in need of two host families for the following periods of time:

- November 1 through mid-February
- Mid-February through May

Justus likes classical music and plays the cello as well as piano. He has competed in music contests and wants to continue in orchestra during his exchange year with the cello. His father is Head of Tax in a banking association and his mother is a University Professor and Researcher in English language.

Each host family will welcome Justus into their home for about one-third of the school year (see available periods above) offering a life-changing experience not just for the student—but for the host family as well! The host family need not be a Rotarian or have school-aged children to participate—just a warm heart, an open mind, and a ***home in the Palo Verde High School District***. Hosting an exchange student is a unique, rewarding way to build international friendships, share cultures, and gain a new perspective on the world—all without leaving home. Host family adults/parents are also expected to exercise general parental supervision over the student just as you would your own children and involve him or her in daily household chores and activities.

However, most host families' involvement with their student does not stop at room and board. The families often share their native background while also learning about their visitors' culture. This does not mean that you have to arrange elaborate entertainment but simply make the student a part of your family. Give him or her the opportunity to share in the same aspects of your family life that most teenage students experience in your culture.

Host families provide (1) a private or shared bedroom, (2) three meals a day, and (3) transportation to and from school for their exchange student(s). The Las Vegas Rotary Club will provide a monthly stipend/allowance to the exchange student in the sum of \$150 to use for miscellaneous needs/activities. Most importantly, the host family provides a safe, welcoming environment and a place as a member of their family.

Exchange students unlock their true potential to:

- Develop lifelong leadership skills
- Learn a new language and culture
- Build lasting friendships with young people from around the world
- Become a global citizen

We have the Application and a letter written by Justus for you to see if you are interested. If so, please reach out to PE and District RYE Chair Mike Cudiamat (mcudiamat@yahoo.com) and/or Solea Rae (camillasolearae@gmail.com), Co-Chair of the RYE program, included on this email.

If you are unable to host, perhaps you have friends, neighbors, church members, or people at work that might be interested. If applying, there is a home inspection and background check that will be conducted.

Thank you for your support of the program and thank you for considering this opportunity.

Toni Kern
2026-27 District 5300 Area Governor - Area 10
Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest
southwestrotary@cox.net
www.lvswr.org Cell: (213) 509-3082

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.



