



DISTRICT 5130 HARMONIC HAPPENINGS

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Far West Fest - Reflections on an Amazing Year

Hello, District 5130! Whether you were able to attend in Reno or not, you ALL were there in spirit May 1-3, as we celebrated your Rotary Clubs and some special individuals as well. We had 5 Districts and over 700 people attend. Wow!

The bowling tournament to benefit Polio Plus on night one was especially entertaining. Most notable was the Cow/Dairy-themed, Rotary Club of Petaluma - with the winning costume entry. Moo-valous! And thank you, Cassie Pitkin, for being the Far West Fest Bowling Chair and head cheer cow.

On Saturday morning, our District hosted the screening of "Soldiers of Song" - including a Q&A session live with the producer/director, Ryan Smith. This is all part of Peace and Conflict Resolution efforts in our Rotary Zone and around the world. Check it out here (including where you can stream the film): [Soldiers of Song \(2024\) - IMDb](#). There were many other educational sessions available too, all focusing on different areas of Rotary and Club projects, both in local communities and around the world. The House of Friendship showcased dozens of booths, and also featured your lovely area gift baskets, with raffle money used to defray the overall cost of the event. Thank you from the bottom of my DG heart for your efforts.

Our awards ceremony was in the afternoon, and you have all officially graduated! See your Rotary Club winners and individual yearbook recognitions in this newsletter, and please note that Club awards were for those Clubs that submitted awards paperwork by the April deadline. That being said, each and every Club in this District achieved great things and I couldn't be prouder as your District Governor. You made this year truly memorable and the most cherished of my Rotary career. Music and my rubber ducks made a showing too - keep paddling like h**l underneath, as you glide along the surface and Unite for Good, now and in years to come. And if you introduced music into your meetings and projects, keep being Musical Mavericks to commemorate our 2025-26 Rotary year.

Our "King and Queen of the Prom," and two Rotarians of the Year were AG Marilyn Lira of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East/West and Tom Tellez, current President of the Rotary Club of Arcata Sunrise. Both of these outstanding Rotarians have given so much to their Clubs, their communities, and all those who call them friends and family. Well deserved, you two amazing humans! (con't pg 2)



Thank you to our major Rotary Foundation donors, pictured below, and all of you who were on the Far West Fest planning committee, especially my trusty chairwoman, Isabelle Accornero. You are my hero and I could never have pulled this off without you.

We will be honoring all of our Youth Exchange Ambassadors on the Rotary Epic Day of Service, May 16th. See the flyer below and please join us if you can. I thought they deserved their own special ceremony, away from the craziness of Reno and the Far West Fest!

Enjoy these photos, keep up the passionate and life-changing work, and here's to embarking on our next chapter together under DG Jeff Kolin on July 1st. Hope to see some of you in Taipei as well. Cheers!



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Overcoming Obstacles Awards Program Sebastopol Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Sebastopol recently hosted its 16th annual “Overcoming Obstacles” event, recognizing inspiring local students who have faced personal challenges with strength, perseverance, and determination. The program celebrates young people who continue to rise above difficult circumstances while making a positive impact in their schools and community. The heartfelt event highlighted powerful stories of resilience and the importance of encouragement, mentorship, and community support.

Read the full article here: https://open.substack.com/pub/sebastopol/p/rotarys-overcoming-obstacles-16th

Rotary Superlatives & Far West Fest Fun!

Get ready for a fun trip down memory lane with these creative and playful Rotary “yearbook-style” presentations shared at Far West Fest! 🎉 From “Most Likely To…” club awards to hilarious and heartfelt individual superlatives, the presentations celebrated the amazing spirit, service, friendships, and personalities that make Rotary so special. Filled with humor, recognition, and lots of Rotary pride, the slides brought energy and laughter to the event while honoring clubs and members throughout District 5130. Click the link below to view the full presentations from Far West Fest!

[Most Likely to Awards!](#)

[Club Awards Presentation](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS
CALENDAR | ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5130





CELEBRATION OF PEACE- ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE
An evening full of recognition, peace, and inspiration

WHAT TO EXPECT

- 🕒 Parade of the Flags
- 🗣️ Inspiring speeches from:
 - Inbound students
 - Rotex members
 - DG Kristine Redko
 - RYE District Chair
- 🏆 Awarding the RYE Peace Ambassador of the year!
- 🎤 Student performance of a song for peace

YOU ARE INVITED!

RSVP [Click here](#)



WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 16TH
WHERE: POLLY KLASS THEATER, PETALUMA
4 PM - 6:30 PM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS




Rotary
 District 5130


KRISTINE REDKO
 DISTRICT GOVERNOR
 2025-2026
 Rotary Club of Sonoma
 Mountain Twilight
 ☎️ 707-535-6427
 ✉️ kshoya@aol.com



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