



Monthly Newsletter

October 2026 | District Governor Jeff Kolin

District Governor's Message



Jeff Kolin
District Governor, Rotary District 5130

Dear Rotary Family,

October is Economic and Community Development Month, a reminder that healthy people are essential to strong families and thriving communities. That is why our work to end polio belongs so naturally in this month's conversation.

I returned from the Rotary Zones 26 and 27 Institute energized by one central message: people connect with Rotary when they experience its impact. Rotary International President-elect Larry Lunsford challenged us to grow to 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by Rotary's 125th anniversary in 2030. Reaching that goal requires more than recruitment; it means inviting people into meaningful service.

From October 2 through World Polio Day on October 24, District 5130 clubs are doing exactly that through the End Polio Now Torch Relay, carrying one torch and one mission from Crescent City to Petaluma.

The relay features a custom-designed community torch and highlights the story of PDG Bob Rogers, a polio survivor, longtime Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Sebastopol, and chair of our District End Polio Now Committee. Bob's experience reminds us why Rotary's promise to the children of the world still matters.

Get involved: Invite new and prospective members, Interactors, Rotaractors, families, community partners, and local leaders to walk or ride a segment, attend a handoff, carry the torch, share a photograph, or make a contribution.

I ask every District 5130 club to take part and share the story through club newsletters, websites, social media, and local media. Participation raises

awareness, and contributions bring us closer to the day when no child will suffer from this preventable disease.

This October, let us carry Rotary's promise forward together.

Service Above Self,

Jeff Kolin

District Governor, Rotary District 5130

This article was created with the assistance of AI and edited by Jeff Kolin, District Governor.

Leadership Spotlight



Leadership Spotlight on Bob Rogers

Past District Governor and District 5130 PolioPlus Chair

Rotary Club of Sebastopol

For Past District Governor Bob Rogers, Rotary's commitment to ending polio is deeply personal.

A polio survivor himself, Bob understands the lifelong impact of this devastating disease. His experience has inspired decades of dedicated Rotary service and a steadfast commitment to protecting future generations. Today, he continues that work as District 5130 PolioPlus Chair, educating Rotarians, encouraging support for eradication efforts, and reminding us why Rotary must remain committed until polio is eliminated worldwide.

In 2022, Bob received The Rotary Foundation's Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World for his efforts to promote polio eradication. In 2023, he was one of nine recipients of The Rotary Foundation's International Service Award for a Polio-Free World, recognizing his significant active personal service toward the goal of polio eradication.

Bob's connection to this year's World Polio Torch Relay is also rooted in the legacy of his late stepdaughter, Cathy Ritter. In 1984, Cathy participated in a community torch relay through South Lake Tahoe as part of a local fundraising effort. Her involvement reflected the generosity, hope, and community spirit that continue to inspire this year's relay.

In Cathy's memory, the World Polio Torch Relay will carry that spirit forward as a community relay torch travels through Rotary District 5130. From Crescent City to Petaluma, Rotarians, Interactors, community members, and supporters will come together to walk, run, bike, ride, and participate in local ceremonies, all united by the goal of ending polio.

For Bob, the relay brings together his personal journey as a polio survivor, his leadership in Rotary, and Cathy's enduring legacy. It is both a tribute and a call to action.

Bob's story reminds us that Rotary's promise to the children of the world is more than a campaign. It is a commitment shared across generations. Through his leadership and tireless advocacy, Bob continues to inspire District 5130 to move forward with determination, compassion, and hope toward a polio-free world.

District 5130 Project Spotlight

District 5130 Restoration Project Featured by Rotary International

Rotarians, Interactors and community partners take action along the Russian River



A hands-on environmental project in District 5130 has reached an international audience. *Rotary* magazine, Rotary International's website and Rotary's Facebook page recently featured local efforts to remove *Arundo donax* - an invasive giant reed that crowds out native plants, reduces wildlife habitat and can intensify wildfire risk along the Russian River.

Working with Russian Riverkeeper, about 30 Rotarians, Interactors and community members gathered along the river to cut and clear dense stands of *Arundo*. The work allows native cottonwoods and willows to recover, helping restore shade, cooler water and healthier habitat for fish and wildlife.

The article highlights District 5130 Environmental Committee Chair Barbara McChesney of the Rotary Club of Windsor, who described the project as a meaningful way for people to turn concern about wildfire and the environment into practical action. It also features Milo Kluse, president of the Interact Club of Healdsburg High School, whose members embraced *Arundo* removal as their next service challenge.

This national and international coverage shows the power of strong storytelling: a local project can inspire a much wider audience when service, partnership, youth engagement and measurable community impact come together.

Read the complete story: <https://on.rotary.org/3TMqcmF>

World Polio Torch Relay Update

Renee McKenna, World Polio Torch Relay Chair

Following guidance from District legal counsel, the relay will not use or carry the original 1984 Olympic torch or use Olympic-related language or imagery. Clubs should remove or pause earlier materials containing those references and should not distribute, repost, print, or pitch them to the media.

The relay will continue October 2-24 with a generic, custom-designed community torch and revised District-approved materials. Its purpose remains unchanged: bringing communities together, raising awareness, and supporting Rotary's commitment to ending polio.

Participating clubs should use only the updated graphics and messaging; share confirmed event details, donation links, contacts, and local media information; and designate someone to capture action photos and short videos, especially images of the torch being carried or passed.

Please share this direction with social media administrators, webmasters, newsletter editors, event coordinators, photographers, media contacts, and fundraising coordinators. Updated materials will be shared with participating clubs.



World Polio Club Events Timeline

October 2-24, 2026

Rotary District 5130

10/2 | 2-3:30 PM

Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting –
Battery Point Lighthouse, Crescent City
Crescent City

10/3 | 9 AM-12 PM

Arcata Plaza Torch Run
Arcata and Arcata Sunrise

10/3 | 12 PM

Waterfront Trail Event – Eureka
Eureka

10/3 | 2 PM

Apple Harvest Festival –
Fortuna/Ferndale
Fortuna/Ferndale

10/3 | 4 PM - 8 PM

Harvest Moon Festival – Willits
Willits

10/4 | 12 PM

Veteran's Park next to Dazey's -
Garberville
Garberville

10/7 | 6:30 PM

Rotary Trivia Night at Northspur
Brewing – Willits
Willits

10/10 | AM

MacKerricher Beach to Old Mill site at
Cypress - Fort Bragg
Fort Bragg

10/10 | 8 AM - 4 PM

Downtown Marathon – Ukiah
Ukiah/South Ukiah

10/10 | 4 PM

Torch Relay Through Town to Rotary
Park – Mendocino
Mendocino

10/11 | AM

Community Torch Relay – Gualala
Gualala

10/11 | 10 AM

Xabatin Community Park, Lakeport
Lakeport

10/11 | 12 PM

Downtown Kelseyville
Kelseyville

10/11 | 2 PM

Austin Park, Clearlake
Clearlake

10/11 | 2 - 4 PM

Kennedy Park, Napa
Napa, North Napa, Napa Sunrise

10/13 | 10 AM

Farmers Market – Healdsburg
Healdsburg, Healdsburg Sunrise

10/15 | 1:30 PM - 5 PM

Vine Trail Walk, meet at Lincoln
Avenue, Calistoga
Calistoga

10/17 | TBD

Vine Trail & Harvest Festival – St.
Helena
St. Helena

10/17 | 9 AM -12 PM

Interact Walk – Foothill Regional Park,
Windsor
Windsor

10/18 | 10 AM

Peace Pole Meet-Up & Rotary Bike Ride
– Analy High School, Sebastopol
Sebastopol Sebastopol Sunrise

10/18 | 1 PM -5 PM

Community Walk Santa Rosa Junior
College to Railroad Square
Santa Rosa

10/24 | 10:30 AM -1 PM

Community Torch Walk & Closing
Ceremony – Miracle League Field,
Lucchesi Community Center
Petaluma, Petaluma Sunrise, Petaluma
Valley

Public Image Update

Maggie Padovani, District 5130 Public Image Chair, 2026-2027

Meet Our Public Image Area Team

I am pleased to welcome the newest members of our District Public Image Team:

Name	Rotary Club	Area and Role
Laura Lasseter	Rotary Club of Garberville	Area 3 PI Area Team Representative
Margaret Black	Rotary Club of Mendocino	Area 4 PI Area Team Representative
John Burns	Rotary Club of Petaluma Valley	Area 10 PI Area Team Lead
Kristine Redko	Rotary Club of Sonoma Mountain Twilight	Area 11 PI Area Team Lead
Kathy Flamson	Rotary Club of Calistoga	Area 12 PI Area Team Advisor

They are working with clubs in their Areas to support World Polio Torch Relay promotion, share resources, identify media opportunities, and help capture the relay's impact.

Connecting Rotary and the Media

On August 27, a Sonoma County Area Rotary Clubs (SCARC) panel featured Bruce Castleberry, Executive Editor of The Press Democrat, and Past District Governor Tom Boylan. We discussed building stronger media relationships and telling community-centered stories about the people and partnerships behind Rotary service.

Strengthening Rotary's Public Image Through Communication and Collaboration

October brings an important opportunity to strengthen Rotary's visibility and share our impact across District 5130.

World Polio Torch Relay PR Overview Strategy

The PR and Social Media Communications Plan and World Polio Torch Relay Public Image Toolkit provide consistent messages, media templates, sample social posts, photography guidance, and other ready-to-use resources. Tactics include:

- Districtwide Send2Press release and media pickup to expand awareness of Rotary's End Polio Now campaign and the October 2-24 relay.
- Continued outreach to local newspapers, radio stations, community publications, and digital news outlets using District-approved messaging.
- Local club press releases, media alerts, Facebook event pages, PSA outreach, and coordinated social media promotion.

- Action photos and short videos shared promptly after local relay events and torch handoffs to build momentum across the District.

PI Area Team Member Recruitment

We are recruiting PI Area Team representatives and seeking candidates for Area 1 North Coast, Area 2 North Coast, Area 5, Area 6 Lake County, Area 7 Northern Sonoma, and Area 8 West Sonoma. If you are interested in this role, please contact Maggie Padovani at (408) 799-0455.

Vocational Service Update

Peter Hoberg, District Vocational Service Chair

Vocational Service is often overlooked or taken for granted as a Rotary Avenue of Service. But it may be Rotary's most important superpower. It is inspiring to see how much your clubs help people in the community as they discover, develop, and apply their vocational talents in service to others.

Many of you are already involved in mentoring, coaching, career days, scholarships, and other vocational service activities. I encourage you to highlight and celebrate existing efforts and maybe initiate something new to take it up a notch. Here are a few ideas:

- Invite a vocational speaker from the local workforce development agency.
- Get plugged in to other government or nonprofit efforts to train and develop the workforce.
- Find a special way to recognize members of the community who are leading efforts through their vocation, like teachers or firefighters.

Allocate funds for a grant or scholarship. There are many more ideas listed on the new Vocational Service Page on our District website. The District is working with a nonprofit to establish a new Next Step Grant program for young people in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties to get a jump-start in their careers.

Peter Hoberg is your District Vocational Service Chair. Please contact him at peter.hoberg@att.net to exchange ideas and learn more. We will celebrate Vocational Service Month in January 2027. But let's celebrate Rotary's superpower all year long.

The Rotary Foundation

David Mark Raymond, Chair



We have so much to celebrate! In the 25-26 Rotary Year, total giving from 5130 Rotarians to The Rotary Foundation improved by an additional 80% over the 24-25 year. Your generosity is so welcome and needed. Thank You! You are amazing! Your investments are already at work helping our world to be a better one.

We, your District 5130 Rotary Foundation Committee, are happy to report that 43 clubs in District 5130 are participating in 33 Rotary Foundation District Grants in this 26-27 year. Clubs, combining their own contributions, cooperation agreements with other clubs, their community contacts, and The Rotary Foundation, have developed approximately \$230,000 total to be invested in this year's District Grant projects. Roughly 1/3 of the projects are international, 2/3 are local.

Great news! On September 18th we received notification that this year's District Grants are all approved! Congratulations everyone! Let's give a big shout out to our recently expanded TRF District Grants Team: Bonny Landers, Doug Landin, Shauna Lorenzen, and Terry Dereniuk for their fabulous work in supporting clubs in developing and submitting their grants.

Our District Foundation Events will occur on November 15th South, and November 22, North, 1:00-4:00. We will have drawings for club gift baskets as in past years. Drawing tickets will be \$20 per ticket, then six tickets per \$100 for contributions made from July 1, 2026 up to the event dates. Details to follow. As a special incentive to contribute through Rotary Direct, Rotarians who are signed up for Rotary Direct get drawing tickets for all paid or pledged amounts through June 2027.

Want a consultation or a speaker to support your club's TRF Giving? Contact us at <https://rotary5130.org/leadership/>

Foundation impact in District 5130

43

clubs participating

33

District Grants

\$230K

project investment

District Grant projects

About two-thirds local

One-third international

District Events

Event	Date, time, and location
World Polio Torch Relay Opening Ceremony	Friday, October 2, 2026, 2:00-3:30 PM Battery Point Lighthouse and downtown businesses, Crescent City
World Polio Torch Relay	October 2-24, 2026 across District 5130
Shashlik & Beer Ukrainian BBQ Fest	Sunday, October 4, 2026, 1-4 PM at Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol. Tickets: \$75 in advance.
RYE Golf Tournament	Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 1:30 PM Foxtail North Golf Club, Rohnert Park
Petaluma Gap Wind and Wine Festival	Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 1:00 PM Gambonini Family Ranch, Petaluma
Foundation Luncheon South	Sunday, November 15, 2026 Healdsburg Golf Course
Foundation Luncheon North	Sunday, November 22, 2026 Elks Lodge, Eureka
District Training Assembly	Friday-Saturday, April 2-3, 2027 Ukiah Valley Conference Center, Ukiah, CA
District Conference	May 7-9, 2027 Konocti Harbor Resort, Kelseyville

District Event Flyers

October 2, 2026

World Polio Torch Relay Opening Ceremony



October 2-24, 2026

End Polio Now Torch Relay



October 4, 2026

Shashlik & Beer



District Event Flyers Continued

October 17, 2026

RYE Golf Tournament

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Saturday, October 17th
 Rotary Youth Exchange Foxtail North Golf Club

Sponsorships are Available:

- Hole Sponsor \$250** (display name/logo on T box/bunker)
- Putting Sponsor \$500** (display name/logo in putting contest area)
- Registration Sponsor \$500** (display name/logo at registration area)
- Driving Range Sponsor \$750** (display name/logo on driving range)
- Golf Cart Sponsor \$1,000** (display name/logo on each cart)
- Lunch Sponsor \$1,000** (display name/logo on lunch box)
- Dinner Sponsor \$1000** (display name/logo at dinner banquet)
- Bag Sponsor \$1,500** (display name/logo on bag)
- Golf Towel Sponsor \$1,500** (display name/logo on towel)
- Ball Sponsor \$1,500** (display name/logo on golf ball)
- Insulated Metal Mugs Sponsor \$1,500** (display name/logo on mug)

Date: Saturday, October 17th, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm shotgun start
Location: Foxtail North Golf Club
 100 Golf Course Drive
 Rohnert Park

Entry fee: \$200 per player
 (Includes lunch & banquet dinner.
 Dinner guests \$48/each)

4-person teams, scramble format

Prizes for closest to the pin and accuracy drive

Putting contest entry: \$10 - \$50 prize for 1st place

Sweepstakes tickets: 5 for \$20 to win golf rounds at top courses

Contact: Halder Ajina at
 golf@ye5130.org or
 707-499-6219

Sign up at
 ye5130.org/golf

October 24, 2026

Community Walk and Closing Ceremony

Rotary District 5130 **END POLIO NOW** A Healthier World for Brighter Tomorrows

**WORLD POLIO TORCH RELAY
 COMMUNITY WALK
 AND CLOSING CEREMONY**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
 Hosted by Rotary Clubs of Petaluma

COMMUNITY WALK
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
 Along Lynch Creek Trail to Prince Park and return to Miracle League Field.

CLOSING CEREMONY
12:30 PM
 Miracle League Field at Lucchesi Park

LOCATION
 Miracle League Field at Lucchesi Park
 Petaluma, CA

Communities in Motion for a Polio-Free World

Healthy Communities. Brighter Futures. A Polio-Free World.

END POLIO NOW

November 15 and 22, 2026

Rotary Foundation Luncheons

SAVE THE DATE
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROTARY!

ROTARY FOUNDATION CELEBRATIONS
 Celebrating District Projects & Generous Rotarians

TWO SPECIAL LUNCHEONS

FOUNDATION LUNCH	FOUNDATION LUNCH
SOUTH	NORTH
Sunday, November 15, 2026	Sunday, November 22, 2026
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Healdsburg Golf Club Healdsburg, CA	Eureka Elks Lodge #652 Eureka, CA

Registration details coming soon

April 2-3, 2027

District Training Assembly

Rotary District 5130

DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY
APRIL 2-3, 2027

SAVE THE DATE

Ukiah Valley Conference Center, Ukiah, California

A day of learning, fresh ideas and Rotary fellowship

Explore practical ways to strengthen your club.

**FRIDAY NIGHT KICKOFF
 DTA FELLOWSHIP DINNER**
 Kick off the weekend with fellowship, good food and fun!
 Ukiah Golf Club clubhouse
 599 Park Boulevard, Ukiah, CA 95482

FEATURED SESSIONS INCLUDE

- Creating a Vibrant Club
- Rotary Outside the Box
- Motivational Sessions
- Public Speaking Sessions
- Additional Sessions and Resources

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON...
www.rotary5130.org

District Event Flyers Continued

May 7-9, 2027

District 5130 Lakeside Jam



Newsletter Submissions Welcome

Share club and District committee activities, events, and story ideas. Stories should be limited to 350 words, and accompanying photos are encouraged. Please attach photos separately from the Word document.

The October newsletter was submitted by Maggie Padovani, District PI Chair.