

Rotary
District 5130



Building Bridges -
Connecting Communities

Together, we build understanding,
expand opportunities, and create *lasting change.*

Monthly Newsletter

September 2026

District Governor Jeff Kolin



District Governor's Message

Welcome to September, Rotary's month focusing on Basic Education and Literacy. Across the district, Rotary clubs are providing support for reading, learning, and literacy projects here at home and around the world. Projects large and small build local and global relationships that create lasting impacts. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library project provides a monthly age-appropriate book to families, dictionaries, and the Book of Why project for third graders shares Rotary's commitment to learning.

Let's ask ourselves, where is there a learning or literacy need in our community that Rotary can help address? What club has a successful project or program that we could learn from and adapt? How can we leverage our resources and work with partners to increase our impact? Educators, non-profits, and families are all potential partners.

Basic education and literacy programs can be linked to community events like the Cowboy Poetry Festival planned to take place at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. Ferndale, Fortuna, and Fortuna Sunrise Rotary clubs are working together to sponsor a youth literacy project: "Buckaroo Book Roundup" storytelling using cowboy and western-themed literature, every child receives a book after participating in the program.

Let's continue to help open doors through learning, create opportunities that last and have fun doing it.

Jeff Kolin, District Governor

Rotary District 5130

District Leader Showcase - Ann Gospe



District Governor Nominee

My life of service was developed through the example set for me by my parents. They raised me with a deep-seated belief that giving, helping, and working to create a better world is core to a life of purpose – and I was blessed to find Rotary to help me live out that passion.

I began my professional life as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and served during Operation Desert Storm. After my military service, I built a career in sales and event management. Today, I consider it a privilege to be a full-time volunteer, dedicating my time to serving our community and the world through Rotary and other organizations.

I officially joined Rotary in May 2013. Over the years, I've discovered a passion for working with youth and international service. We have hosted and supported over 20 exchange students through the years.

I met my husband Jeff through a fellow Rotarian. We have two adult children living in Santa Rosa and Italy, and we live in Santa Rosa with our son, a high school senior and a founding member of his school's Interact Club, continuing the family's commitment to Rotary service. We call traveling our "drug of choice" and can be found exploring the world together as often as possible.

End Polio Now Torch Relay Update

The **End Polio Now Torch Relay** begins October 2 in Crescent City and travels through District 5130 before culminating in Petaluma on October 24—**World Polio Day**. This year's relay carries an extraordinary piece of history: **Torch No. 0244**, the original Olympic torch carried by Catherine Aileen "Cathy" Ritter during the 1984 Olympic Torch Relay.

More than 40 years later, Cathy's torch will travel again, passed from club to club and community to community. Believed lost for nearly two decades, the torch was remarkably rediscovered by Cathy's family just as plans for the District relay were taking shape. Cathy passed away in 2025, making this journey a meaningful tribute to her life, courage, and spirit of service.

The torch's new purpose has an especially personal connection for Cathy's father, **Bob Rogers**. A polio survivor, Bob joined Rotary in 2007 and became involved in Rotary's worldwide effort to eradicate the disease that affected his own life. Now, the torch his daughter once carried to support charitable causes will help advance Rotary's promise of a polio-free world.

Our goals are to **raise \$50,000 for Rotary's PolioPlus Fund, engage 1,000 participants, and increase public awareness**. Everyone can participate by walking, riding, volunteering, donating, or attending a local event.

A tremendous **thank you** to our participating clubs, leaders, organizers, and volunteers. Together, we will carry Cathy's torch, honor her legacy, and move closer to a world where no child suffers from polio.

<https://rotary5130.org/polio-newsletter/world-polio-torch-relay-2026/>

Story submitted by Renee McKenna, Torch Relay Chair

World Polio Torch Relay Communications

The District 5130 World Polio Torch Relay will travel from Crescent City to Petaluma from October 2–24, culminating on World Polio Day. Our goal is to present one coordinated District-wide story while helping clubs promote their local events and torch handoffs.

Participating clubs should 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.

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. Join us for the September 8 Zoom workshop to preview these tools and the Digital Public Image Guidebook. (Zoom link on page 6)

Story submitted by Maggie Padovani, District Public Image Chair

Lake County Rotary Mastermind Meeting

The Boards of the Lakeport, Kelseyville, and Clearlake Rotary Clubs held a successful Lake County Rotary Mastermind meeting. We gathered at our event space barn for an evening of potluck and brainstorming. Tables of eight were deliberately mixed across clubs — no two members from the same club sat together.

Each table chose a facilitator, usually doubling as note-taker, whose job was to keep the discussion on track and make sure no one interrupted or spoke over another member.

Every person had one minute to raise an issue their club was facing, followed by two minutes from each tablemate to offer a solution or idea. Declining membership, recruitment, and fundraising came up across every club, but each also brought unique challenges that benefited from a fresh set of eyes.

Afterward, I collected the notes from each table and compiled them into a summary document, which I sent out to all club members.

The response was overwhelmingly positive — enough that each club now wants to host a mastermind of its own throughout the year. Kelseyville will host in January, and Clearlake in June, ahead of the next season.

The real payoff, though, was the halo effect: members from different clubs got to know each other on a deeper level. It's a simple, gregarious exercise — and a worthwhile one.

Story submitted by Mark Lipps, Assistant Governor for Area 6

Rotary Clubs of Arcata and Arcata Sunrise Award \$22,750 to Food for People During their Annual Golf Fundraiser and Charity Social

These two Rotary clubs have once again demonstrated the power of community service. This event benefited *Backpacks for Kids*, Food For People's weekend hunger relief program. Donations will provide nutritious food for 65 children at Arcata schools experiencing food insecurity at home.

Held at Baywood Golf and Country Club, the event brought together local businesses, community leaders, golfers, volunteers, and residents for a day of friendly competition followed by a Charity Social featuring a silent auction, Dutch raffle, and Adventure Raffle.

Generous sponsorships, enthusiastic participation and countless volunteer hours made this year's fundraiser one of the most successful to date.

"One of the greatest strengths of our community is its willingness to come together to help neighbors in need," said the event committee. "This event is about much more than golf. It's about investing in our children and making sure they have the nourishment they need to succeed. We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a part in making this year's fundraiser such a success."

Story submitted by Brian Lovell, Assistant Governor for Area 1



Upcoming Events at a Glance

Worlds Polio Torch Relay Public Image Toolkit Workshop: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 via Zoom
(see flier below for Zoom link)

World Polio Torch Relay: October 2-24, 2026 spanning the district

RYE Golf Tournament: Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 1:30pm at Foxtail North Golf Club in Rohnert Park

Petaluma Gap Wind and Wine Festival: Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 1pm at Gambonini Family Ranch in Petaluma

Foundation Luncheon South: Sunday, November 15, 2026 at the Healdsburg Golf Course

Foundation Luncheon North: Sunday, November 22, 2026 at the Elks Lodge in Eureka

District Training Assembly: Saturday, April 3, 2027 at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center

District Conference: May 7-9, 2027 at Konocti Harbor Resort in Kelseyville

Newsletter Submissions Welcome

Do you have interesting activities or events happening in your club or District committee? Is there something you'd like to see included in future newsletters?

For the October newsletter, send submissions to Maggie Padovani, District Public Image Chair at mpadpr@gmail.com. The deadline is September 28th.

For all other newsletters, send your ideas to Julie Montgomery at julielovesrotary@gmail.com. They will be reviewed by District Governor Jeff Kolin. Stories are limited to 100 words, and accompanying photos are encouraged. Write your story in a Word document with the photos attached to the email separately (don't put the photos in the Word document). Content is due the last Monday of the month for inclusion in the following month. Thank you!

YOU'RE INVITED

WORLD POLIO TORCH RELAY PUBLIC IMAGE TOOLKIT WORKSHOP

A practical Zoom workshop for Club Public Image Chairs,
Club Presidents, relay coordinators, and participating Rotarians



WHAT YOU'LL HEAR & LEARN

- How to use the Torch Toolkit and its live resource links
- Ready-to-use social media graphics, templates, and copy
- Media outreach and local promotion guidance
- Action photography and torch-handoff storytelling
- What clubs need to do now

ONE DISTRICT. ONE TORCH. ONE MISSION: END POLIO NOW.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

DATE

September 8, 2026

TIME

5:30 PM

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 879 8500 5385

Passcode: 274217

BE READY TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB'S TORCH RELAY!



Rotary

District 5130



END
POLIO
NOW

TOGETHER, WE
END POLIO
FOR GOOD.

WORLD POLIO DAY

OCTOBER 2-24, 2026

One Day. One World.

A POLIO-FREE FUTURE.



END
POLIO
NOW
TORCH RELAY

DISTRICT 5130



OCTOBER 2, 2026

TO

OCTOBER 24, 2026



UNITE



ADVOCATE



DONATE



ERADICATE

Pass the Torch. Spread Hope. **End Polio Forever.**



BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT.
EVERY STEP BRINGS US CLOSER.

#EndPolioNow

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)

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

 **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



Sign up at
ye5130.org/golf



SAVE THE DATE

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROTARY!

ROTARY FOUNDATION CELEBRATIONS

★ Celebrating District Projects & Generous Rotarians ★

TWO SPECIAL LUNCHEONS

FOUNDATION LUNCH

★ **SOUTH** ★

📅 Sunday, November 15, 2026

🕒 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

📍 Healdsburg Golf Club
Healdsburg, CA

FOUNDATION LUNCH

★ **NORTH** ★

📅 Sunday, November 22, 2026

🕒 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

📍 Eureka Elks Lodge #652
Eureka, CA

★ *Registration details coming soon* ★

SAVE THE DATE!

Rotary
District 5130



Lakeside Jam



BUILDING BRIDGES,
Connecting Communities

•  **MAY 7-9, 2027** •



KONOCTI HARBOR
— RESORT —

Kelseyville, CA