



Las Vegas  
**Rotary**  
Club



**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

November 26 2025

## Jhone Ebert

### *Superintendent of the Clark County School District*



Jhone Ebert brings over three decades of experience, passion, and proven leadership to her Superintendent of the Clark County School District (CCSD) role. A longtime Southern Nevada resident and CCSD educator, Superintendent Ebert has dedicated her career to ensuring that every student—no matter their background or zip code—has the opportunity to succeed in school and life.

As Superintendent of CCSD, the fifth-largest school district in the nation—Ebert brings deep experience and a strong track record of improving educational outcomes across Nevada. She approaches her role with a clear focus on expanding college and career readiness opportunities, advancing innovation and equity in classrooms, and fostering a culture where every employee feels valued and every student has the support they need to thrive.

Before being selected as Superintendent in 2025, Ebert served as Nevada's Superintendent of Public Instruction, overseeing the academic progress of nearly 500,000 students across the state's 17 school districts. Under her leadership, Nevada transformed its 54-year-old education funding formula into a more equitable, student-focused model—the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. Her tenure also saw bold investments in teacher recruitment and retention, as well as expanded access to career and technical education. She positioned Nevada as a national leader in computer science education, ensuring that more than 95% of high school students had access to foundational coursework that prepares them for the future.

## **Our Club's Accomplishments**

### **Good People, Doing Good Things, for People in Need.**

- *In true Rotary spirit, Kathy Mahon stepped up in a big way—purchasing the two rodeo tickets generously donated by PP Tom Thomas for an impressive \$1,200, all in support of Santa Clothes.*
- *In preparation for this year's Santa Clothes celebration, our club proudly presented JCPenney with \$61,000 to support the December 4, 2025, shopping day—ensuring hundreds of children will step into the holidays with warmth, dignity, and joy.*
- *Guest speaker Timothy Keener generously donated NFR memorabilia, inspiring a competition that raised \$1,550 for Santa Clothes—thanks to the generous bids of Bob Werner, Nikki Junium, Dan Adamson, and PE Greg Maguire.*

## **Check It Out!**

Beyond donations and fundraising, our Club logged 7,269 volunteer hours last year—about 63 hours per member, a reminder of our Rotary impact.

## **WHAT IS ROTARY?**

**2025 - 2026**

**Rotary International President  
Francesco Arezzo**

**District 5300 Governor  
Gilda Moshir**

*Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders who work to address critical issues like promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, and growing local economies.*

*Rotary clubs around the world foster fellowship, encourage high ethical standards, and work to advance goodwill and peace.*

## **Upcoming Speakers**

### ***Las Vegas Community***

|       |               |   |
|-------|---------------|---|
| 12/04 | DARK          | Santa Clothes   |
| 12/11 | Robbie Brown  | LV Search & Rescue; Deputy Commander Community Outreach |
| 12/18 | David Cheiken | Fisher Bros., Head of Real Estate                       |
| 12/25 | DARK          | Due to: Holiday Break                                   |

### ***The Future of Learning***

|       |               |  |
|-------|---------------|--|
| 01/01 | DARK          | Due to: Holiday Break  |
| 01/08 | Diana Bennett | Rebels-EmpowHer - Founder                                      |
| 01/15 | Sherry Morrow | Alliance with Nevada State Medical Association, Past President |
| 01/22 | Ciara Byrne   | GoP Financial Literacy   |
| 01/29 | Contestants   | 4 Way Speech - Club level                                      |

### ***Vegas The Fast Track***

|       |                  |  |
|-------|------------------|--|
| 02/05 | Chandra Allison  | The Sphere, Sales & Service                                |
| 02/12 | Shawn McCoy, PhD | UNLV Lied Center Real Estate, Director Associate Professor |
| 02/19 | Steve Hill       | LVCVA, CEO & President, The Boring Company                 |
| 02/26 | Contestants      | Dan Stover Music Competition – Club Level                  |

## **THE LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB'S MISSION:**

***Teaching Youth to Succeed through Literacy, Education & Life Skills Development***

**LAS VEGAS ROTARY  
CLUB OFFICERS 2025-2026**

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**President Elect**

Greg Maguire

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Kirk Alexander

**Secretary**

Melanie Muldowney

**Treasurer**

Rita Burton

**Elected Directors**

Nancy Anderson

Niki Brunetti

Larry Cohn

Don Holland

David Jones

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Brian Riley

Sarah Thornton

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## President's Message



As we celebrate the 71st year of the Las Vegas Rotary Club and Kiwanis coming together in friendly competition and shared purpose, Thanksgiving offers us a meaningful moment to pause and reflect. It is a time to express gratitude for the opportunity to serve others—locally and globally—through initiatives that strengthen our communities and support those most in need.

**I am thankful for...**

- Our unwavering commitment and impact on community projects.
- Our dedicated Rotary community.
- Our club's continued success in living our mission: *Teaching Youth to Succeed through Literacy, Education & Life Skills Development.*
- The ability to look back on 2025 with so many proud and meaningful memories.
- The opportunity to serve our club.

This season reminds us of our core value of *Service Above Self* and encourages us to recognize the collective impact we've made.

Together, we continue to create positive change and strengthen the spirit of service that defines our organizations.

*Janice*

## Say Hello!

**Meet Branton Blount**



Get ready to welcome someone who knows how to keep the lights on and the mission moving. **Branton Blount** is the President & CEO of Beach Electric, where his team powers projects across the Las Vegas Valley. Before wiring up Southern Nevada, **Branton** spent more than two decades in military and federal service — leading high-impact investigations, managing executive protection for top U.S. defense leaders, and serving as both a U.S. Army veteran and Naval Intelligence Officer. In short: if it required calm, precision, or national security, **Branton** was your guy.

But he's not just about operations and electrical currents. In 2018, he co-founded The Bearing Group, a commercial real-estate investment firm with multifamily holdings in multiple states. He holds a B.S. in Political Science and remains a passionate advocate for veterans and community causes — which makes Rotary a perfect fit.

At home, life is powered by an entirely different energy source: three kids under seven. Between running a business, coaching sports, traveling as often as possible, and keeping up with little feet, Branton jokes, "Time for fun??" Fortunately, he brings that good-humored spirit with him.

Please join us in giving Branton a warm Rotary welcome!

## Rotary Etiquette Essentials

**The Art of Welcoming Guests**

Proper Rotary etiquette goes beyond a warm handshake — it's about making every guest, speaker, and visitor feel welcome the moment they arrive. Hospitality is one of Rotary's oldest traditions, which is why Rotary Clubs have official Greeters: to ensure no one walks in unnoticed. Before each meeting, know who the speaker is and, when possible, introduce yourself with a genuine **"We're glad you're here."**

We wear name badges for a reason: they're invitations. When you spot a temporary badge, say hello, learn what brought them to Rotary, and help them feel at ease. People remember how we make them feel — respected, included, and inspired.

**Rosalee Hedrick**

Vice President  
Business Development Officer  
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# Volunteer and Event Highlights

V - Volunteer Opportunity

## December

|           |                |   |  |
|-----------|----------------|---|--|
| 12/04     | 7:30am-10:00am | V | Santa Clothes                                      |
| 12/04     | 6:00pm-10:00pm |   | Holiday Party                                      |
| 12/5-12/7 | All Week-end   | V | RYLA   |
| 12/10     | 6:00pm-8:00pm  |   | 25 Club Graduation, Randall Brody's home           |
| 12/11     | 12:15pm        |   | Guests of the Club: Beckley, Dearing & McCall ES   |
| 12/11     | 5:00pm-9:00pm  | V | Opportunity Village Magical Forest                 |
| 12/16     | 2:30pm-4:30pm  | V | Christmas Toy Distribution with the Salvation Army |

## January

|       |               |   |                           |
|-------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| 01/10 | 9:00am        | V | Highway Clean-up & Brunch |
| 01/11 | 1:00pm-3:00pm |   | Viticus Group VIP Tour    |

## February

|       |        |   |   |
|-------|--------|---|---|
| 02/17 | 7:30am | V | Beckley - Breakfast/Snack Time with Books     |
| 02/24 | 8:30am | V | Hollingsworth Breakfast/Snack Time with Books |

**DID YOU KNOW!**

If you miss a meeting or want to revisit a moment, you can watch full past meetings anytime on our Club's YouTube channel.

Rotary Event Virtual Clipboard



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## November Rotarian Birthdays

|                       |       |                        |       |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Shawn Sennett.....    | 11/9  | Linda Peterson.....    | 11/17 |
| Nareg Aghjayan.....   | 11/11 | Christina Bishop.....  | 11/18 |
| Robert Salameh.....   | 11/11 | Antoinette Monroe..... | 11/18 |
| Russell A. Swain..... | 11/12 | Anil Melnick.....      | 11/28 |
| Thomas A. Thomas..... | 11/13 | Hank Huang.....        | 11/30 |
| Larry Goldstein.....  | 11/15 | Toni Kern.....         | 11/30 |
| Michael Johnson.....  | 11/15 |                        |       |



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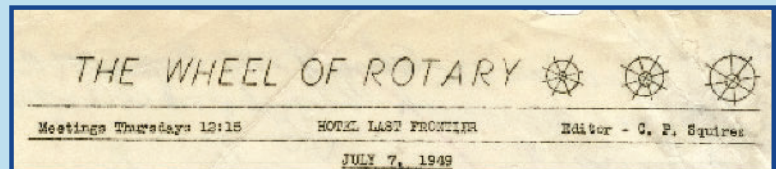
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## Rotary History

From the beginning, the Las Vegas Rotary Club has understood the value of telling its own story, and our longtime newsletter, *The Wheel*, has helped us do just that. The earliest preserved issue—then titled *The Wheel of Rotary*—dates to July 7, 1949, and is housed in UNLV's Special Collections. Sometime after 1955, the name was shortened simply to *The Wheel*, but its purpose and spirit remained unchanged.



Much of that early spark came from Charles "Pop" Squires, one of the city's original storytellers. Later editors kept the momentum going, and in 1998 **PP Jim Tucker** gave *The Wheel* a full Las Vegas makeover—multipage, full color, and polished. District 5300 clearly noticed: we brought home the "Best Newsletter" Award for 2016–2017.

Today, under President Janice Lencke, *The Wheel* is still doing what it does best—capturing our history, celebrating our people, and sharing weekly gems like "Did You Know?", "Say Hello!", "Rotary Etiquette Essentials," and "Check It Out!" It remains our club's living memory and friendly narrator, reminding us where we've been, who we are, and the impact we create when we *Unite For Good*.

## Scribe Notes

**November 13, 2025 – President Janice** opened the meeting at 12:15pm and noted that November is Rotary Foundation Month. **Jimmelle Trijo** gave the invocation; **Shawn Sennett** led us in singing *Happy Birthday* to the Marines on their 250th Anniversary; and **Jack Romano** as Sergeant-at-Arms led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Marine Birthday cake was ceremoniously cut using a Navy Sword. **President Janice** thanked all who helped in today's meeting and introduced the guests at the President's Table. She also noted that **PP David Thorson** has been named District Governor Designee; and **PP Tom Thomas** has been honored as a Faith Leader.

**PP Toni Kern**, **Carey Grohs**, **Larry Cohn** and **PP Steve Casey** introduced guests. Announcements: **Carey Grohs** provided an update on Santa Clothes. Backpack Stuffing happens on November 22 at the Boy Scout Field. **Stu Lipoff** reported on Career Day at Hollingsworth ES. **Elliott Harris** reported that a new member orientation and elections of the 25 Club officers for the next period six months were held at the 25 Club meeting last Thursday. **Tina Bishop** reminded of the Breakfast with Books double-header next Tuesday. **PP Steve Linder** recalled the Salvation Army Christmas Toys event on December. **Liz Rothwell** updated on the preparations for the Holiday Party. **David Jones** reminded that RYLA happens on the first December weekend. **Rosalee Hedrick** recounted the successful visit to the Mabel Hoggard Math and Science Magnet School. **President Janice** noted **PP Tom Thomas'** donation of two tickets to the National Finals Rodeo for mentioned auction, and 3 tickets to the Agave Affair Culinary evening were available. Finally, **Sarah Thornton** briefed on progress updating the Club's website—donations can now be made through the site, and a new District Initiative, *ComeSeeWhatWeDo.Org*, lists the ongoing events of all District Clubs. **Larry Cohn** announced the proposed formation of a Las Vegas Rotary Club Pickle Ball club.

**PP Tom Krob** announced the selection of six candidates for the four slots on the Club's Board. Online elections run from November 17-24, with results to be announced on November 26. **PP Jim Kohl** and **Carey Grohs** presented JC Penney with \$61,500 for Santa Clothes. **PP Jim Kohl** also recognized **Jimmelle Trijo**, **Larry Rouse**, and **Deb Howard** as Tiberti Fellows. **President Janice** announced that **Jack Romano** was the Member in the Spotlight in this week's *Wheel*. **Bert Reiner** won the raffle, but not the Jackpot, and **PP Randy Donald** won the Lawry Bucks.

**Rosalee Hedrick** introduced this week's speaker, Timothy Keener, President of Las Vegas Events, who gave a detailed overview of the forthcoming National Finals Rodeo celebrating its 40th anniversary in Las Vegas this year. Timothy also donated several items, including a pair of tickets to Rodeo performances, which **PP Russ Swain** promptly auctioned off, raising \$1,550 for Santa Clothes. **President Janice** presented the speaker with a copy of the Club's Centennial Book and announced a donation in his name to the Just One Project.

**President Janice** noted that we are Dark next week and adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

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# Pictures



*WE ARE LOOKING AT YOU! NFR Auction  
led by PP Russ Swain and Rosalee Hedrick*



*NFR Auction - PP Russ Swain and Bob Werner*



*Narig Aghjayan*



*President Janice with Rotarians celebrating Marines 250th Birthday*



*PP Steve Linder & Jack Romano blow out the candles*



*Jimmelle Trijo-Tiberti Fellow with  
President Janice and PP Jim Kohl*



*President Janice, PP Jim Kohl & Carey Grohs  
present Santa Clothes checks to JCP*



*Cane Brothers! - Bob Werner,  
Jerry Engel & John Seibel*



*President Janice and Speaker Tim Keener*



*Visiting past Rotarian - Ted McAdam*



*PP Tom Krob & President Janice*

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Lets Do This!

2025

Las Vegas Rotary Club  
Annual Canned Food Drive

80.1%  
\$10,015 raised of \$12,500 goal

\*2024 Contr bution - \$28,000

## Weekly Showcase

### Thanksgiving the Rotary Way

Rotary and Thanksgiving have long shared the same heart: gratitude, service, and the belief that feeding people truly matters. Long before "food drives" were fashionable, early Rotarians were delivering Thanksgiving baskets, turkeys, coats, and anything families needed to stay warm and fed.

Here in Las Vegas, that spirit continues through our friendly Canned Food Drive rivalry with the Kiwanis Clubs. Each fall, we compete to fill local food pantries and support the Salvation Army's efforts to feed neighbors in need. It's civic pride, a dash of bragging rights, and the shared hope that the real winner—the Salvation Army—wins again.

Even though many clubs go dark during Thanksgiving week, Rotarians rarely do. The holiday becomes a time to reflect on gratitude, celebrate service milestones like progress against polio, and embrace fellowship. And, of course, there's the classic Rotary legend: the Rotarian who spent Thanksgiving volunteering at a soup kitchen and proudly counted it as a make-up—proof that service is the truest form of attendance.

**SURPRISE & DELIGHT** – I am intimidating, tasty, and can fly. What am I? If you know the answer, come to the podium.

### A Heartfelt thank you from Hollingsworth

Good morning, We LOVE the Rotary! You are amazing and we appreciate all the support we receive! I also appreciate that you take pictures at each event! You truly are amazing individuals, and Hollingsworth truly feels blessed to have such a strong partnership with you! Have a blessed day! Staca Sadie, Principal

### Santa Clothes Ornament Fundraiser

Each year, the Las Vegas Rotary Club's *Santa Clothes* event brings pure holiday magic to children who might otherwise go without. Imagine the smiles as a child—many shopping for the very first time—gets to choose a warm winter coat, a new pair of shoes, and outfits for every occasion. In the afternoon, the excitement continues as they play and interact with UNLV athletes at Engelstad Scout Park, hosted by the Las Vegas Area Council. For one joyful day, their needs and happiness become our mission.

But the number of children we serve depends entirely on the funds we raise. This year, we're offering a new and meaningful way to support this cherished tradition: **the Santa Clothes keepsake ornament**.

Each ornament purchased helps give a child the gift of dignity, confidence, and warmth for the season. At just \$15, it's a small price to make a big difference—and a beautiful reminder of what *Service Above Self* looks like at Christmastime. **Purchase yours today**—your tree will sparkle, and so will a child's smile.



## Member Spotlight

### Todd Walters, Scout Executive/CEO for the Las Vegas Area Council



If you've ever wondered what "Be Prepared" looks like in real life, meet **Todd Walters**, our Las Vegas Rotary Club member whose résumé reads like a greatest-hits tour through Scouting America. Todd began his Scouting career in Baltimore as a district executive and steadily climbed through North Florida, Cincinnati, and Central North Carolina before serving as Area Director for the entire Central Region. Today, he's the Scout Executive/CEO of the Las Vegas Area Council — responsible for everything from membership and fundraising to governance, strategic planning, and we assume, the occasional perfectly tied knot.

A proud McDaniel College grad, Phi Delta Theta alum, and former wrestler and rugby player, Todd brings equal parts grit, charm, and "let's get this done" energy. He and his wife, Lisa, have two adult children and a shared love for the outdoors — boating, traveling, fishing, and the kind of pheasant hunting that guarantees excellent campfire stories.

**Fun Fact:** Todd is also one of the behind-the-scenes magicians of our annual **Santa Clothes** adventure, opening the field for Santa himself and helping create a day filled with games, laughter, and pure holiday joy for the kids we serve.



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# Rotarians in Action



Hollingsworth ES Career Day - Stu Lipoff, Dan Adamson & Tina Bishop



Pickleball: Don Holland, Linda Peterson, Larry Cohn, Judith and Jim Kohl



Elementary School partners - Stu Lipoff, Kathy Mahon and Michael Williams



President Janice, the Queen, holds the mighty Navy sword!



Hollingsworth Career Day: Dan Adamson wowing the kids

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## Rotary Web Sites

Rotary.org – Rotary International

District5300.org - District 5300 Site

[www.dacdb.com](http://www.dacdb.com) – District/Club Data Base



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