



Las Vegas
Rotary
Club



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

October 8, 2026

MAURICIA BACA **STATE DIRECTOR, NATURE CONSERVANCY IN NEVADA**



Mauricia Baca's first outdoor experiences were with her dad, who hiked with her on his back in the mountains of Mexico. Mauricia returned to The Nature Conservancy in Nevada in November 2020 to serve as State Director after previously serving as the chapter's Truckee River Project Director and Southern Nevada Project Director from 2005-2009.

Since 2010, she served as the Executive Director of Get Outdoors Nevada, formerly known as the Outside Las Vegas Foundation. Mauricia has served on numerous committees as part of her commitment to public service, most recently serving on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee. In June 2020, she was appointed to serve as a member of the State of Nevada's Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation. She has served as chair of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Advisory Council, as a member on the Transportation Resource Advisory Committee for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, on the City of Henderson's Park and Recreation Board, as part of the Transportation Task Force for Southern Nevada Strong, Vice-Chair for the Las Vegas Healthy Communities Coalition Natural & Built Environment Committee, and on the Bureau of Land Management's Mojave-southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Committee.

Prior to coming to Nevada, Mauricia served as a trial attorney in the United States Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division for four years. While in law school, she interned for groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund. She has worked as a community organizer advocating for mass transit with the New York Public Interest Research Group, and she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon after graduating from Vassar College.



Upcoming Speakers

10/15	Ken Winana, Winans Investment, Las Vegas Western Wall street
10/22	TBD
10/29	Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada Senator
11/05	International Service – Rotarian Panel

Our Club's Accomplishments

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

- 09/21, the SOAR Awards supported since 2000 by Southern Nevada Rotary Clubs. Representing our club were 11 members.
- 09/22, two Rotarians volunteered for Breakfast/Snack time with books at Hollingsworth ES in a partnership with STWNV, 70 students/siblings and 68 parents attended and received a book to take home.
- 09/29, 6 Rotarians volunteered for Breakfast/Snack time w/books at Beckley ES serving 83 children and 49 parents, dispensing 100 books.
- 09/29, the inaugural Discover Rotary Membership event was a success with 25 in attendance. Hat's off to the recruiting committee!

Check it out!

Spread The Word Nevada has Book & Buddies. You can become a mentor and make a lasting impact on a child's life. Check out the website: <https://spreadthewordnevada.org/programs/books-and-buddies/>

WHAT IS ROTARY?

2026 - 2027

**Rotary International President
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria**

**District 5300 Governor
Dennis Franklin
Rotary Club of Glendora**

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.

THE LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB'S MISSION:

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

LAS VEGAS ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS 2026-2027

President

Greg Maguire

President Elect

Michael Cudiamat

Immediate Past President

Janice Lencke

Secretary

Susan Ziobro

Treasurer

Rita Burton

Elected Directors

Nancy Anderson

Larry Cohn

Debra Howard

Antoinette Monroe

Eric Schimmoeller

Shawn Sennett

Sarah Thornton

Andrew Thurlow

Todd Walter

Susan Ziobro

Past President

Representative

Karen Whisenhunt



President's Message

Service in Action

As we move deeper into fall, I want to take a moment to recognize just how much our Las Vegas Rotarians have been doing.

Over the past month, our Club has been everywhere. We welcomed prospective members at **Discover Rotary Day**, volunteered at the **Ronald McDonald House** and **Salvation Army**, supported our **Canned Food Drive**, volunteered at the **Las Vegas Motor Speedway**, and continued supporting programs like **Rotary Youth Exchange** that extend our impact far beyond Las Vegas.

And we aren't slowing down!

This evening, October 8th, is our Family Fun, Golf Putting Tournament & BBQ at Angel Park. This is always a great evening of Rotary fellowship, but more importantly, the proceeds directly support our program and the experiences we provide for our exchange students throughout the year. Come out, bring your family and friends, and enjoy a great evening with your fellow Rotarians.

October still has plenty ahead, including **Green Our Planet, Highway Cleanup, World Polio Day, our Halloween Party, and Breakfast/Snacktime With Books at Beckley Elementary.**

This week we also kick off one of the most special traditions of our Rotary year, our annual **Santa Clothes** program. It is another tremendous opportunity for our club to make a direct and lasting impact on children in our community.

None of this happens by itself.

To everyone who has **cooked a meal, served a family, sold raffle tickets, collected cans, chaired an event, donated, brought a guest, showed up early, stayed late, or simply asked, "How can I help?", thank you.** You are what makes our Club work.

There are many more opportunities ahead. Find your place. **Show up. Get involved. Bring someone with you.**

That is how we **Create Lasting Impact.**

Greg Maguire

Greg Maguire

President, Las Vegas Rotary Club 2026-2027

Member Spotlight

Sultan Falanga Sula Pene Nyundu



Sultan Falanga Sula Pene Nyundu is a traditional ruler, cultural diplomat, international business executive, and humanitarian. As Sultan (Sultani) of Dungu Oshiye, in the Territory of Kibombo, Province of Maniema, Democratic Republic of the Congo, she carries forward her ancestors' legacy through service, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.

In 2006, she founded Global Finance Link Group, Inc., an international consulting and investment facilitation firm based in Las Vegas. As President, she connects investors, financial institutions, governments, and strategic partners with opportunities throughout Africa and other developing economies.

Her commitment to service also led her to establish Homeland Care International in 2005 to expand educational opportunities, improve healthcare, and support community development for women and children affected by conflict across Africa. In Southern Nevada, she serves as a Grant Council Member for MGM Resorts International, reviewing grant proposals that support local nonprofit organizations.

Sultan Falanga serves as Ambassador for the United States and Canada for the Forum of Kings, Queens, Sultans, Sheikhs, Princes, and Traditional Leaders of Africa. She also serves as the United States Representative of the National Alliance of Traditional Authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fostering collaboration among traditional institutions, governments, the African diaspora, and international partners.

Previously a member of the Iowa City Noon Club, she has expressed interest in serving on the Las Vegas Rotary Club's International Committee.

October Rotarian Birthdays

Peter Giacona	10/1	Markus Bohi.....	10/13	Solèa Rae.....	10/22
Elliott Harris	10/3	John Richard Awguagbaka...	10/14	Richie Barrera	10/24
Brock Fraser	10/13	Shawn Noorda	10/16	Jorina King.....	10/26

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Social and Special Events

October

Community Economic Development Month

Thursdays 12:15 pm Weekly meeting, Lawry's the Prime Rib
Unless stated below, weekly meetings will be on Thursdays

10/08	05:30 pm	Putting Tournament, Angel Park
10/10	06:15 am	One Drop for Water Volunteer Arrival
10/13	24 hours	United States Navy 251st Birthday
10/14	07:30 am	Green Our Planet
10/15	12:15 pm	Paul Harris Presentation
10/15	01:35 pm	Board of Directors meeting
10/17	08:00 am	Rotary Leadership Institute
10/24	24 hours	World Polio Day – Rotary International
10/24	04:00 pm	Beckley ES Fall Festival
10/24	06:00 pm	Halloween Party, a 25 Club Fundraiser
10/27	07:30 am	Breakfast/Snack Time with Books at Beckley ES
10/27	06:00 pm	Annual Past Presidents Meeting
10/29	11:30 am	Education Committee Meeting before general mtg.

Weekly Showcase

Spread the Word Nevada and Breakfast with Books

Spread the Word Nevada (STWN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving literacy and encouraging a love of reading among children in Nevada. Founded with the belief that every child deserves access to books. The organization works with schools and communities to provide books and literacy experiences to young readers. Through its programs, STWN helps children develop important reading skills while discovering the joy and imagination that books can bring.

One of the organization's programs is **Breakfast with Books**, an initiative that combines literacy with a welcoming breakfast experience. The program brings students together to enjoy a snack while spending time reading and exploring books. Students are able to choose books that interest them, giving them an opportunity to develop their own reading preferences and build confidence as readers. The relaxed environment also makes reading a fun and positive experience rather than simply another school assignment.

Breakfast with Books can have an important impact on students because access to books plays a major role in developing literacy. When children have books of their own and are encouraged to read regularly, they have more opportunities to practice vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills. If interested, sign up to be a part of this rewarding experience.

STWN demonstrates how community organizations can support schools and families by making literacy resources more accessible. Through Breakfast with Books and other literacy initiatives, the organization encourages children to read, learn, and imagine. By placing books in the hands of young readers and creating enjoyable opportunities to read, STWN helps build stronger readers and supports a brighter future for Nevada's children.

CORRECTION! Please accept our apologies for an error in last week's Wheel, October 1, 2026, page 3, Weekly Showcase featuring the Las Vegas Rotary Foundation. The heading "Rotary International – Grants Paid" was inadvertently added, missed in the editing process and incorrect. The Las Vegas Rotary Foundation is a separate, independent local foundation, from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. It proudly administers local grants and annual programs in support of our community, in addition to the work we support through The Rotary Foundation. We apologize for the oversight and appreciate your understanding.



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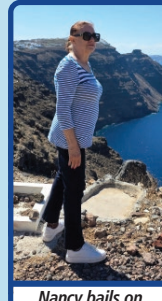
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Rotarians in Action



Ichnia adopts Solitude (buddy) bench program



Nancy bails on Putting Tournament to go to Greece



Liz and first lady Cynthia take time off to make wine



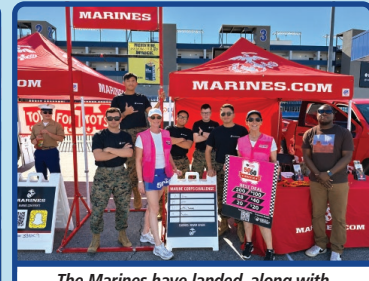
Mr Las Vegas meets Mr Las Vegas Rotary and first lady



PP's hanging out at the Knights game



Rotarians in Action - Speedway Charities



The Marines have landed, along with Rotarians - Speedway Charities

Scribe Notes

October 1, 2026 – President Greg opened the meeting at 12:15pm. **Dr. Michael Williams** gave the Invocation; **PP Brock Fraser** led us in song; and **PP Jim Hunt** led the Pledge of Allegiance as Sergeant-at-Arms. **President Greg** thanked those covering the luncheon duties and introduced the Head Table.

We welcomed *Visiting International Rotarians* from China and German; **Annee Nounna, Antoinette Monroe, Andrew Thurlow**, and **Dr. Michael Williams** welcomed personal guests; and we welcomed one potential member as a *Guest of the Club*.

The club congratulated members celebrating *Birthdays in October*. **President Greg** drew attention to the *President's Message* in the Wheel, *October Is A Great Month To Be Anywhere*; the *Rotary Across the Nation* and *Across the World* spotlights the Rotary Clubs of Santa Fe, NM, and of Halifax, Canada; the *Member Spotlight* features **PP Tom Thomas**; the *Weekly Showcase* highlights *grants awarded in our community, programs and the financial position of the Las Vegas Rotary Foundation*. A moment of silence was recognized for the victims and families of 1 October.

Announcements: **Solea Rea** reported on today's *25 Club Meeting*; and reminded us of the *Halloween Party* on October 24. **Andrew Thurlow** reported on the successful *Discover Rotary Membership Event* on September 29, and the new streamlined membership application procedures. **Susan Ziobro** reminded us of the volunteer opportunity at the *NASCAR Race Event* this weekend. **PP Karen Whisenhunt** again encouraged all members to complete the *Rotary Youth Protection Program*; and reminded us of the *Golf Putting Tournament and BBQ* on October 8. **Larry Goldstein** again called for volunteers for the committee to organize the new *Business Plan Competition* for High School Students. **Antoinette Monroe** reminded us of the next *Highway Cleanup* on October 17 at 9 am. **Randall Brody** invited members to join the next *International Friendship Exchange Trip to Southern India* on January 7-17; and **Liz Rothwell** announced the *Club Trip to Ireland* March 25-April 3, that still has slots available. **PP Janice Lencke** reminded us of the *Taste of Rotary Picnic* on November 7. **Deb Howard** noted the October 15 deadline for members to nominate participants for the next *RYLA* weekend on December 4-6. **PP Jim Hunt** announced the next *Cigar Social* at his home on November 14. **President Greg** reminded us of the *Rotary Leadership Institute* on October 17.

Brian Sorrentino briefly presented the performance of the *Las Vegas Rotary Foundation* since inception, underscoring its importance for the club's work serving our community.

PP Janice Lencke led the induction of new Member **Sultan Falanga**, supported by the sponsor **Andrew Thurlow**.

Larry Rouse won the raffle, but not the Jackpot; and **PP Jim Hunt** won the Lawry Bucks.

Our Speaker, **Dina Babsky**, Director of Economic and Urban Development for the City of Las Vegas, described the ongoing Revitalization of the Historic Westside and the planned Revitalization of the Arts District.

President Greg closed the meeting at 1:30pm.

Photos



President Greg with guest speaker Dina Babsky



Andrew and guest of the club



Welcome new member Sultan Falanga



Bob presents banner to German guest from China



New member Sultan Falanga and her business partner



Elliott and RYE student Justus - Go Knights



Bob presents banner to German guest



RYE Student Justus



Discover Rotary Membership Event Group Photo



Welcome to the head table.



Anil and guest of the club Michael



Welcome visitors Warren and Heidi



Lunch and Learn Discover Rotary Group



RYE Student Justus - Go Rebels



Annee shares a meeting with BFF from Paris



Beautiful lunch by Curator Catering at Discover Rotary event

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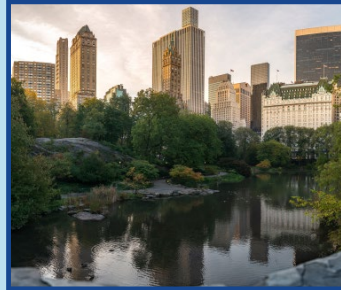
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New York City From Club No 6 to Global Service

New York, New York has a notoriety and aura shared by only a few other locations in the world. The Rotary Club of New York was organized on August 24, 1909, with 15 charter members. It was Rotary's first club on the East Coast. Member John Frick designed Rotary's first lapel pin, and club delegates helped draft the constitution and bylaws adopted by Rotary's first national association.

The club's response to September 11 remains one of its most consequential local efforts. Supported by Rotarians worldwide, its World Trade Center Disaster Relief Fund raised nearly \$1.5 million. The money assisted affected families and organizations, expanded emergency facilities at NYU Downtown Hospital, and helped purchase a new ambulance. Club members also volunteered at Ground Zero and hosted rescue workers and victims' families.

Its newer projects address everyday needs across the city. Food Sospeso, launched in 2025, adapts the Italian tradition of purchasing something in advance for a stranger. Participating restaurants and donors provide meals for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, beginning in Harlem. The club also supports annual toy distributions in Spanish Harlem. In 2026, it provided funding and volunteers for InTandem Cycling, which creates tandem cycling opportunities for people who are blind, have low vision, or cannot ride independently.

Internationally, the club has supported Malaika Kitchens in rural Kenya, where 12 school kitchens now provide more than 4,000 meals each day. The program trains local cooks, purchases food from nearby suppliers, and involves families in covering ongoing expenses. This locally managed model is designed to improve school attendance, concentration, and learning while supporting the surrounding economy. In September 2026, the New York Rotary Foundation also approved a \$10,000 grant for disaster relief in Nepal.

The club meets several times each month at varying locations, including the Union League Club and the UN Church Center. Because the schedule and venues change, visitors should consult the club's current calendar before attending. The club does not publicly list a verified membership total.

Rotary
Across the World



The Rotary Club of Cape Town

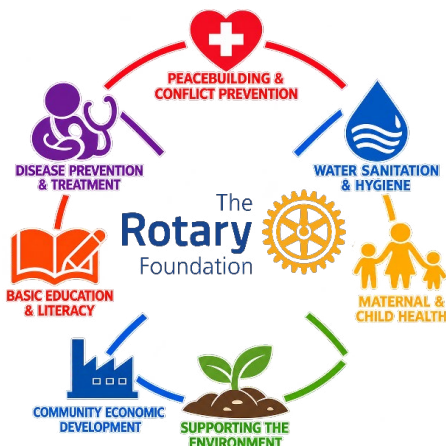
Perched between the dramatic slopes of Table Mountain and the sparkling waters of Table Bay, Cape Town is one of the world's most breathtaking cities. Often called the "Mother City" of South Africa, it offers a remarkable blend of natural beauty, rich history, and cultural diversity. The Rotary Club of Cape Town, chartered in April 1925, it is the oldest Rotary club in South Africa and the "Mother Club" of District 9350. During the past century, the club has helped establish numerous neighboring Rotary clubs while playing an important role in the development of Cape Town. Among its early accomplishments were helping found the Cape Town Community Chest, supporting the city's first dental clinic, and contributing

to the creation of the Cape Point Nature Reserve Society.

One of the club's most meaningful ongoing initiatives is its Adopt a Learner program. Working with four primary schools in the Atlantis community, the club provides selected students with school uniforms, shoes, stationery, raincoats, and assistance with educational outings. Rather than offering one-time support, Rotarians commit to helping these children throughout their primary school years, giving them the resources and confidence to succeed in the classroom. It is a simple but powerful example of how sustained investment in young people can create lasting change.

The club also supports the House of Youth in Salt River, where volunteers help provide meals, after-school educational programs, hot showers, clothing, and other essential services to people experiencing homelessness and hardship. By partnering with community organizations, the Rotary Club of Cape Town continues a century-long tradition of addressing local needs with practical, compassionate service.

If you would like to visit the Rotary Club of Cape Town, they meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Royal Cape Yacht Club on Duncan Street in Cape Town.



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Where Rotary Clubs Meet Southern Nevada, District 5300

1. Las Vegas Rotary Club

- **Where:** Lawry's The Prime Rib
- **When:** Thursdays @ 12:00–1:30 PM

2. Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club

- **Where:** Lawry's The Prime Rib
- **When:** Mondays @ 12:15–1:30 PM

3. Downtown Las Vegas Rotary Club

- **Where:** Omelet House
- **When:** 1st–3rd Tuesdays @ 7:30 AM

4. Las Vegas WON Rotary Club

- **Where:** Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse
- **When:** 1st & 3rd Fridays @ 5:00 PM;
2nd Friday @ 12:00 PM

5. Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club

- **Where:** Red Rock Country Club
- **When:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 7:00 AM

6. Las Vegas Red Rock Rotary Club

- **Where:** PKWY Tavern (varies)
- **When:** Tuesdays @ ~6:30 PM

7. Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club

- **Where:** Varies
- **When:** 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM

8. North Las Vegas Rotary Club

- **Where:** Gold Mine Tavern (may vary)
- **When:** Fridays @ 7:15 AM

9. Henderson Rotary Club

- **Where:** Varies
- **When:** Tuesdays @ 12:00 PM

10. Henderson After Hours Rotary Club

- **Where:** Grape Street Cafe & Wine Bar (varies)
- **When:** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM

11. Green Valley Rotary Club

- **Where:** Wildhorse Golf Club
- **When:** Rotating Thursdays (AM & PM)

12. Boulder City Rotary Club

- **Where:** Boulder City (varies)
- **When:** Tuesdays (midday)

13. Boulder City Sunrise Rotary Club

- **Where:** Boulder Creek Golf Course
- **When:** Thursdays (morning)

Make Up Meetings
Rotary Clubs of
Southern Nevada
District 5300



REASONS TO VISIT ANOTHER ROTARY CLUB



Expand Your
Rotary Network



Discover
New Ideas



Learn About
Community Impact



Find Partnership
Opportunities



Experience Different
Club Cultures



Hear Outstanding
Speakers



Strengthen Rotary
Fellowship



Stay Inspired and
Motivated

Rotary Clubs of Southern Nevada
District 5300

14. Pahrump Valley Rotary Club

- **Where:** Artesian Cellars Winery (plus rotating)
- **When:** Midday + 4th Tuesday @ 6:00 PM

15. Mesquite Rotary Club

- **Where:** 150 N Yucca St, Suite 26, Mesquite, NV
- **When:** Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM

16. Moapa Valley

- **Where:** University of Nevada Extension
1897 North Moapa Valley Blvd Building B
Logandale, NV 89021
- **When:** Wednesday, 07:00 AM - 08:00 AM

Outside of Our District

(but in Southern Nevada)

17. Laughlin–Bullhead Rotary Club

- **Where:** Aquarius Casino Resort
- **When:** Wednesdays @ 12:00 PM

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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?



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Jorina King



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE

Las Vegas
Rotary
Club **VS** **Kiwanis**

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is one of our club's two signature projects. For over 50 years the Las Vegas Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club have gathered together at Thanksgiving in a friendly competition to help restore community food pantries at the Salvation Army, in a time for the Holidays.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

These figures are staggering: Nearly 17% of Southern Nevada's population struggle with food insecurity. 18% of our senior population is affected. 25% of CCSD students are on peak assistance programs. If they are out of school, they miss meals.

DONATIONS WELCOME



Kiwanis kicked us to the curb last year. We need to return the favor this year!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE and HALLOWEEN PARTY

Halloween Party hosted by Antoinette Monroe
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 6:00 P.M.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE CANNED FOOD DRIVE THROUGH THE SALVATION ARMY
Visit our website at www.LasVegasRotary.com to make a donation.

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Rotary Web Sites

Las Vegas Rotary Club – www.lasvegasrotary.com
Rotary District 5300 – www.district5300.org
Rotary District 5300/Club Data Base and Ignite – www.dacdb.com
Rotary International – www.rotary.org



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