

Volume 118 • June 2025
Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.
In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center
& Online via Zoom



Congratulations to our new Fresno Fellows!



Visit fresnorotary.org to register you and your guest for weekly meetings!

Letter from the President



June - The Final Countdown

I'm not sure which of these monthly columns was the most daunting to write... the very first one last July or this final installment for the June 2025 issue. Last July I wrote about the International Conference experience and the hopes and plans for our club for 2024-25. Now as I reflect upon our year pursuing "The Magic of Rotary" I am hopeful that our club is evolving and changing to meet the needs of all of you and your continued membership. We've lost some good friends and met some new ones. We were able to build upon the previous leadership's reinstatement of some of our activities and have had a successful year with COGS, our FS tailgate and the monthly Rotary After Hours events that have taken place.

I'm particularly pleased that our Interact Club at Duncan Poly has restarted and there is an enthusiastic advisor and an equally enthusiastic club liaison. Our club at University High continues to be a bright light as well. Camp Royal is continuing to build back up to its pre-Covid status and our scholarship program is making a difference in the lives of our students.

The Community Grants Committee had a huge undertaking to whittle down the number of applicants to the final twelve recipients of the \$41,460 that was available. Thank you to all the members who rang the bell this year to help grow that community grant fund for next year!

The Fresno Rotary Foundation was able to fund six applicants a total of \$62,482 plus a significant donation of \$100,000 to the Marjaree Mason Center. Your contributions to our foundation continue to have a positive effect on our community!

The most important thing I can say to all of you is thank you! Your support this year has been one of the best parts of serving as President. I appreciate the snippets of club history several of you have shared with me and your willingness to step in and help when called upon. I know that will continue into Emil's year. It has been a privilege to serve as President this year and I look forward to moving back on the other side of those stage lights for our upcoming meetings.

Last July I asked you all to be an active partner not only in making our club 'simply irresistible' but also helping to spread "The Magic of Rotary." Thank you for doing so!

Valerie Vuicich
Rotary Club of Fresno
President 2024-25

This Month at Rotary



Mike Hamzy, Fresno Rotarian

Mike will give us his annual update on the Middle East.



Mayor Jerry Dyer

Mayor Dyer will present his 2025 State of the city program.



Dr. Allan Colman

Dr. Allan Colman is a highly respected authority in leadership and business strategy, recognized as one of the top executives in the United States. His goal is to empower leaders to make a lasting impact in their own organizations.



Andre' Stephens, President, Fresno Pacific University

President Stephens will share his vision for Fresno Pacific University.



Shirley Grace, Fresno Rotarian

Regional Foundation Coordinator, Rotary Club of Fresno Past President (2008-09), and District 5230 Governor (2012-13) will join us for the passing of the gavel from President Valerie Vuicich to President-Elect Emil Milevoj.



Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: May 21, 2025

Avenues of Service

Membership

As of May 31, 2025:

- 224 active members
- 39 honorary
- The passing of Bob Williams was regretfully acknowledged.
- Pardini's is increasing the price of lunch by \$1 & Rotary International dues are going up so Treasurer Herrinton informed the board of a proposed dues increase of \$6 per month for 2025-26 that will be proposed.

Club Service Report

- The Blood Drive had 18 donations on site + 2 at the Blood Center. This was an increase for our club.
- The Program Committee will meet after the June 2 lunch to continue to fill programs for the 2025-26 year.
- Rotary After Hours will look into a possible Roger Rocka Night for our club members in July.
- Volunteers for Invocation/pledge and guest introductions are being solicited for upcoming meetings.

Community Service Report

- The applications for community grants in the 2025-26 year are closing at the end of May. We have 24 grant applications submitted so far.

International Service

- The Directors have created a work group for 2025-26. In addition to Project Nino, they are looking for a new project with an environmental or conservation focus and discussing potential fundraising ideas.

Youth Service Report

- University HS & San Joaquin Memorial HS are sending students to Camp Royal via our club's sponsorship this year.

Report of the President

President Valerie reported on the District Business meeting held via Zoom on May 3. She also shared the Executive Committee plus Ryan Jacobsen, as chair of the Foundation Board, would serve as the hiring committee to select Jason's replacement when he leaves us in June as the new CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County.

Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Emil reported that the 2026 District 5230 conference will be held in Reno, NV along with three other districts. He thanked Jon Dohlin for hosting the board retreat at the Chaffee Zoo and discussed some of his plans for next year.

May Bell Ringers



- **Ray Ortiz x 2 rings** for Leadership Fresno applications and for the current Leadership Fresno Class #40
- **Ashley Webster-Rudolph x 3 rings** for the Mayor's Award for Woman of the Year, her children, and for her dad, Gordie receiving the Leon S. Peters Award
- **Mary Cochran x 2 rings** for Her company, Metimur LLC celebrating 4 yrs. & for her mentee, Cynthia's new company Eclectic Estates
- **Michelle Cantwell-Copher x 2 rings** for her husband John's Distinguished Service Award from the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and son Quaid graduating from the US Naval Academy
- **Paul Salazar x 1 ring** for SF Giants sweeping the A's
- **Nate Gilbert x 2 rings** for Small Business Week proclamation from Fresno City Council & Duncan Interact President Vanessa getting accepted to UC Santa Cruz
- **Jazzmine Young x 1 ring** for her mother's retirement & blood donation
- **Blair Looney x 1 ring** for Bob Williams & the Rotarians who greeted him every Monday
- **Valerie Vuicich x 2 rings** for Duncan Interact and President Vanessa spearheading their renewal

Rotary After Hours at Sal's Mexican Restaurant



Thank you to Paul Salazar of Sierra Pacific Mortgage for sponsoring RAH in May!

Time to celebrate!

June Anniversaries - Thank you for your service to Rotary and our community!



TOP ROW: Neil Walden: 55 years; Pete Pierre: 49 years; Terry Stone: 43 years; John Marshall: 39 years; Jan Perkins: 39 years; David Gilmore: 33 years; Farid Assemi: 32 Years

BOTTOM ROW: Mike Hamzy: 31 years; Karen Musson: 30 years; Steve Forker: 22 years; Anna Pine: 18 years; Maureen Lewis: 16 years; Jason Hannold: 7 years; Mike Karbassi: 6 years

June Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



TOP ROW: Kristen Boroski - June 4; Bob Glassman - June 4; Ray Ortiz - June 4; Molly Fagundes-Johnston - June 5; Paula Castadio - June 6; Ann Abajian - June 8; Debra Kazanjian - June 9; John Marshall - June 9;

Middle Row: Ashley Webster-Rudolph - June 9; James Thaxter - June 10; Frank Witherow - June 10; Desrie van Putten - June 12; Lori Wilson - June 13; Leon Dermenjian - June 14; Dennis Claiborn - June 20; Tony Smith - June 20;

BOTTOM ROW: Jesus Garcia - June 21; Bob Oliver - June 21; Gagandeep Gill - June 22; Brad Hardie - June 23; Pete Pierre - June 26; Rebekah Curry - June 29; Frank Bailey - June 30; Allyson Wall - June 30

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Katherine Horstmann Huebert, LUTCF, Vice President of Employee Benefits

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