

Monthly News

Volume 117 • May 2025
Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.
In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center
& Online via Zoom



Welcome New Members!



Tony Chavez
Executive Director
Dedicated In-Home Services, Inc.



Stephen Morris
CEO
Civic Education Center, Inc.



Brianne Marriott
Sr. VP/Chief Legal Officer
Community Health System

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

Letter from the President



May - The Peek into Summer

May is a month of celebrations. We begin with Mother's Day on the 11th and end with Memorial Day on the 26th. In between we begin the season of high school and college graduations and celebrations of our younger students moving ahead in their education progression. Celebrations that mark not only the end of a chapter but signal that there is something new and exciting ahead. That is the same for our Rotary family. While the 2025-26 team under the direction of President-Elect Emil is planning for their year, your 2024-25 leadership team and committee chairs are beginning to wrap up their current activities. These two months represent our annual transition period, and we plan to finish the year strong!

Our programs this month reflect our varied avenues of service. We start with Elsa Asrat on May 5 who will share with us a program she's created to help women become educated and self-sufficient in her home country of Ethiopia. There is an opportunity to join Elsa in her work and expand our international efforts in the future.

Interested in learning more about the Brewery District in downtown Fresno? Mike Cruz will join us on May 12 to discuss his efforts to start and continue to grow the Tioga Sequoia Brewing company. Sorry, no samples at the meeting!

Our final program of the month features our own Jon Dohlin, CEO of Chaffee Zoo. Jon will share plans for upcoming improvements and exhibits as well as future growth. It's always exciting to see what he and his team have in store for us all.

We will be dark on May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. This holiday, formerly called Decoration Day, has been a national holiday for 157 years. It is intended to honor and mourn those lost in military service to our country. While we still have that focus, it has taken on some other distinctions over time. It now serves as the "unofficial" start of summer. You may celebrate the day with "The Great American Race" held in Indianapolis, or a family barbeque while listening to a baseball game. There may be reflection on relatives who served our country. However your family chooses to spend the day, I hope you enjoy the time together and look forward to our gathering together again in June.

Valerie Vuicich
Rotary Club of Fresno
President 2024-25

This Month at Rotary



Elsa Asrat

Elsa has created Loving and Leading Others (LOLA), a non-profit serving HIV positive women in Ethiopia.



Mike Cruz, President of Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Co.

Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Company was founded in 2007 with a mission of producing world class beers that could bring awareness and resources to the preservation of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. Mike will join us to tell the story of this downtown business.



Jon Dohlin, CEO Fresno Chaffee Zoo

Come and hear what's new (and on the horizon) at the zoo!



Holiday - No Meeting

Memorial Day



Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: April 16, 2025

Avenues of Service

Membership

As of April 30, 2025:

- 227 active members
- 39 honorary

Secretary's Report

- The Board reaffirmed Stephen Morris for membership.
- The resignations of Andrew Janz and Gus Bonner were regrettably accepted.

Club Service Report

- The Programs Committee has slotted speakers to finish the 2024-25 year. The Committee chairs met with PE Emil Milevoj to discuss what programs he would like to showcase during his year.

Vocational Service Report

- A successful Biz Day 2025 was reviewed by the Board with many positive comments received from club members about their experiences that day.

International Service

- The International Committee will hold its first meeting on April 25. Eight (8) members have expressed interest in serving to date.

Youth Service Report

- Thirty-one (31) scholarship applications have been received as of the board meeting.

Report of the President

President Valerie reported on the upcoming District Business meeting and reviewed the resolutions on the ballot that she emailed to the board earlier for review.

Upcoming Events

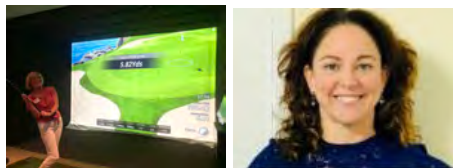
May Rotary After Hours

TBD on Date and Location
More Information to Follow



Join the Fresno Rotary Table at this upcoming
District 5230 fundraiser!

April Bell Ringers



- **Maureen Lewis x 1 ring** for her Hole-in-One at Rotary After Hours
- **Mona Cummings x 1 ring** in support of Americorps

Rotary After Hours at The Fairway Lounge



Thank you to Mike Falge of Valley Harvest Crop Insurance for sponsoring RAH in April!



Thank you to our Courageous Citizen recipients and their partners at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office!

Time to celebrate!

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



TOP ROW: Jim Thaxter: 57 years; Leon Dermenjian: 40 years; Nancy Hensel: 27 years; Jim Franklin: 23 years; Mona Cummings: 18 years; Todd Sheller: 15 years; Brad Hardie: 8 years;

BOTTOM ROW: Rick Wolf: 8 years; Jeffry Nkansah: 4 years; Courtney Shapiro: 4 years; Molly Fagundes-Johnson: 3 years; Kirstine McAllaster: 3 years; Christina Musson-Rendon: 3 years; Maxwell Orloff: 2 years;

May Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



TOP ROW: Michelle Williams - May 2; Elliott Balch - May 3; Emil Milevoj - May 4; Frank Puente - May 5; Isabel Good - May 5; Russel Statham - May 8;

BOTTOM ROW: Claude Laval - May 9; Ted Falk - May 13; Lawrence Preston - May 15; Larry Pickens - May 16; Paul Dictos - May 16; Gary Quisenberry - May 26; Katie Rigby - May 28

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East



Allan Colman
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The State of the City Recap



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