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Message from Greg Sund 5470 District Governor 2023-24

“Join or Die” – The Importance of Belonging

I recently discovered a website launched by graduate students who had studied with Harvard professor Robert Putnam, author of the book, “Bowling Alone” (1999). Putnam’s second book, titled “Upswing,” was published a couple of years ago. On the aforementioned website <https://putnamdoc.com>, you can view a movie trailer that presents Dr. Putnam’s assertion that our society is healthier when we join groups and is in danger when we don’t. It’s my understanding that the movie highlights Rotary as one solution. The promotion/movie? is called/entitled? “Join or Die.” The website offers the public the opportunity to arrange a local showing of the movie. I encourage clubs to consider this as a way to promote the advantages of joining groups and organizations. I think this movie would be an excellent recruiting tool and I hope you do too.

District 5470 Book Club Update

In February, our book club completed its discussion of the book entitled “The Bill of Obligations”. Participants want to continue the discussions so we are looking for our next book. I really enjoyed our four sessions during which we discussed aspects of our previous book selection and how Rotary clubs could promote the teaching of civics in their community. Some book club participants plan to start the education process with a focus on building awareness of the U.S. citizenship test, which is comprised of 100 questions that test one’s knowledge of the U.S. Government. I want to stress that civics is more than knowledge of facts. Civics is the instruction of roles and responsibilities of citizens and hopefully instilling a love of Country. Rotarians who did not participate in discussions about the first book but are interested in the next one, please write me at greg.sund@gmail.com.

Epic Day of Service Slated for May 18

In a recent newsletter article, I asked District Rotary Clubs to perform a service project on or about May 18, 2024. If Rotary Clubs choose to do service projects, including fundraisers at that time, those activities could be used to promote Rotary and what we do to a larger audience. If your club wants to participate in this effort, please register your project on the website epicdayofservice.org.

Inaugural Rotary Women in the Rockies Weekend Conference Registration Is Open!

Calling All Rotary Women!

Let's Enhance Your Impact and Influence in Your Club and Community!

- The first-ever Women in the Rockies Conference will be held July 26-28, 2024 in Westcliffe, CO.
- Spend a weekend with like-minded Rotary women who will attend discussions on embracing your impact in your club or community.
- Identify the women in your past who were service-minded and inspired your own service
- Strengthen your skills in overcoming challenges and adversities in a service organization
- Network with women from all over Colorado as you enjoy the beautiful mountains surrounding the Wet Mountain Valley views
- Shop from local artisans who will bring their wares
- Listen to our own Colorado leaders share their successes with service in Colorado

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! The low rate of \$200 will cover meals and administration costs. Lodging is available in a variety of ways.

[Register HERE](#)

[Lodging - Visit Custer County – Westcliffe, CO and Silver Cliff, CO](#)

Sponsorships are also available.

To become a sponsor or get your questions answered, email PDG Becky Smith at beckysmith.rotary@gmail.com.

Upcoming Club Events

A La Mode by the Grand Junction Rotary Horizon Sunrise Club - April 4

A La Mode was first created by club member Claudine Bogart in 2009. The event is well known in the community and continues to draw large crowds (250+) every year and through the funds raised, provides a huge impact on the community and several non-profits that the club supports. There are 10-12 local chefs that provide bite size desserts, competing for recognition and awards for the top 3 chefs. Tickets will be available on line or in person. For more information contact Theresa Horvat, 970-640-0139, tmhorvat@icloud.com.

Run For The Wall by The Rotary Club of Limon - May 18

Run For The Wall is the Largest and Longest Organized Cross-Country Motorcycle Run of its kind in the World. The Rotary Club of Limon feeds the riders dinner as they come into town, and we feed them breakfast on their way out of town. Want to join in the fun and help? Contact Delon Fox at delonfox@yahoo.com.