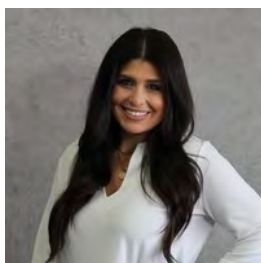


Monthly News

Volume 114 • February 2025
 Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.
 In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center
 & Online via Zoom



Welcome New Members!



Natalie Dodson
 Director of Community
 Development Valley CA
 Teaching Fellows
 Foundation



Katie Wilbur
 Executive Director
 RH Community Builders

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

Letter from the President



February: Opportunities for the Workforce

While February might be the shortest month of the year, our club has packed it with a very full schedule! Rotary International celebrated Vocational Service in January. However, for our schools, colleges, and training programs, February is Career Technical Education (CTE) Month. We are pleased that Gurminder Sangha, Dean of the Fresno City College, West Fresno Center will host our first meeting of the month at his site. We hope you will join us to hear about the programs offered and partnerships with the business community that support this campus. For those who can stay, a tour of the campus will be available at the end of the meeting.

Continuing in the CTE vein, our February 10 meeting will feature Kurt Madden, CEO of Career Nexus. We last heard from Kurt in 2021 when Career Nexus first launched, and he will provide an update on the success of the program and the student internships that connect qualified students with employers in our region.

Presidents' Day is on February 17 and our club will be dark in observance of the holiday.

We finish February with a focus on the health of children in our region with Valley Children's Healthcare CEO, and Fresno Rotary member, Todd Suntrapak on February 24. Todd will share an update on the healthcare landscape for pediatrics and our hospital systems.

Rotary After Hours returns this month on February 19 from 5-8 pm at Ovidio's. Our chair, Paul Salazar, and his committee are looking for sponsors for the remainder of the year. If you, or your company, are interested, reach out to Paul, Jason or me.

You have seen the check presentations from our club grants committee as well as our Foundation at our weekly meetings. We have been working to identify possible Rotarians In Action volunteering opportunities with these agencies. Most recently, members assisted Wings Advocacy in sorting out Amazon donations and assisting in the delivery of furniture to clients. Junior Achievement requested assistance with a job simulation activity and our member, Superintendent Copher, asked for volunteers to assist with the Fresno County Academic Decathlon Super Quiz on February 1. If you have any volunteer opportunities you would like to share, please let Jason or me know. We have many members who are asking for service activities and want to accommodate them as best we can.

Looking ahead to March, Vocational Service Directors Rick Wolf and Kathy Huebert are organizing Biz Day when our members meet at various business locations across the city hosted by a fellow Rotarian. Please make sure to connect with them (or respond to their call).

I appreciate the enthusiasm I see each Monday as we gather as Rotarians seeking to expand the Magic of Rotary in our community.

Valerie Vuicich

Rotary Club of Fresno President 2024-25

This Month at Rotary



Gurminder Sangha - FCC West Campus/CTE programs
Mr. G will share the vision of the West Campus and it's programs providing technical training to community college students.



Kurt Madden, CEO Career Nexus
Kurt will provide an update on the successful internship programs that have been developed in partnership with the Fresno DRIVE initiative.



Holiday: No Meeting
President's Day



Todd Suntrapak, President Valley Childrens' Healthcare
Club member, Todd Suntrapak will provide an update on the status of pediatric care in the Valley.



Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: January 15 2025

Avenues of Service

Membership

As of December 31, 2024:

- 229 active members
- 39 honorary
- +2 so far during President Valerie's Year!

Club Service Report

- It was noted that club membership has added 15 new members and lost 13 members for a positive gain of 2 members to date.
- The Board regrettably accepted the resignation from the Year 1 Youth Service Director position by Anna Pine. A replacement will be on the February Board agenda.
- There will be outreach to the former members of two recently dissolved Rotary Clubs, Fresno Sunset and Fresno Airport, to invite them to attend one of our meetings.

Vocational Service Report

- Roberto Mendoza, Interact Advisor from Duncan Poly Technical High School attended our club meeting on January 6th and they are ready to restart their Interact Club. It was noted that Nathan Gilbert will be the club liaison to help get them ramped up and back operating again.
- It was noted that Biz Day will be on March 31st and Rick and Kathy are working on selecting the 10 sites to host our club members

Youth Service Report

- Scholarship Chair Michelle Williams is dating the application for the 2025 cycle.
- Camp Royal Chair Ann Abajian is asking Club members to volunteer to interview students for selection to Camp Royal.

Report of the President

Under new business, President Valerie shared the sponsorship request from District 5230 for the upcoming Million Dollar Dinner in May. The Board requested additional information regarding the proceeds of the event and took no action at this time.

Upcoming Events

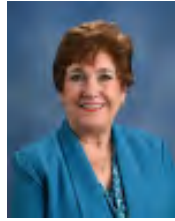


Rotary After Hours

Wednesday, February 19
5:00 - 8:00 pm at
Ovidio's (Bullard & Marks)

Sponsored by
Ryan Geil Consulting

January Bell Ringers



- **Dave Hadden x 2 rings** for how he met Joe Penbera
- **Valerie Vuicich x 1 ring** for District 5280 LA fire response

\$2,500 - Community Projects Committee



Emergency Clothing Closet

- New Clothing
- Shoes, Socks, Underwear, & PJ's
- Diapers and Wipes
- Formula
- Lice Medication
- Extracurricular Activities

The committee presented a check to Angels of Grace at the January 13 meeting.



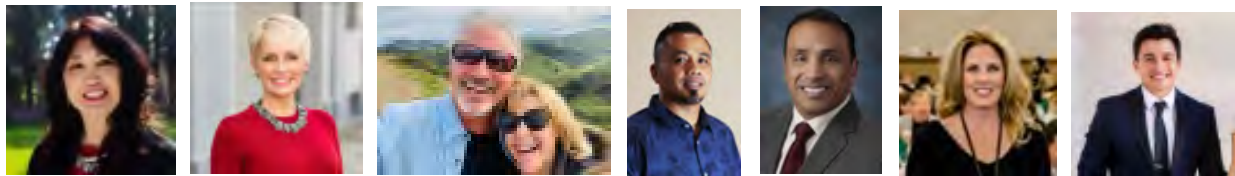
A \$2,100 check was presented to Edison Youth Activities to purchase uniforms and sports equipment for the league.



A check for \$4,500 was presented to Boys & Girls Club to repair a long concrete opening and crack in the cement floor at the West Fresno Club

Time to celebrate!

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



Frank Witherow: 45 years; Gary Renner: 45 years; Richard Shehady: 41 years; Doug Armye: 27 years;
Paul Duckworth: 26 years; Dale Samuelian: 26 years; Paula Castadio: 21 years
John Richers: 17 years; Frank Bailey: 16 years; Serop Torossian: 13 years; Roger Slingerman: 8 years;
John Coakley: 6 years; Michael DerManuel, Jr.: 6 years
Wilma Hashimoto: 6 years; Kacey Auston-Tibbetts: 3 years; Mark Carlson: 2 years; Vanna In: 2 years;
Eric Klimes: 2 years; Mariah Walton 2 years; and Jesus Garcia: 1 year

February Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



John Baerg: Feb. 1; Shelly Lether: Feb. 4; Mike Snell: Feb. 4; Dick Herrinton: Feb. 7; James Kim: Feb. 7; Marty
Martinez: Feb. 8; Edward Gonzalez: Feb. 9; Garry Griesser: Feb. 9; Doug Jensen: Feb. 10; William Oliver: Feb. 12;
Ryan Geil: Feb. 14; Serop Totossian: Feb. 14; Dominick Berarducci: Feb. 20; Clifton Wahlberg: Feb. 20; Ron Stumpf:
Feb. 24; John Salmonson: Feb. 26; Richard Verducci: Feb. 26; Sara Mirhadi: Feb. 28

Please show your support to our newsletter sponsors!



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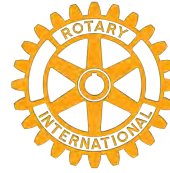
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Looking Ahead



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TBD



Biz Day

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