

Monthly News

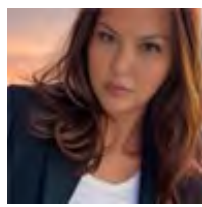
Volume 113 • January 2025
 Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.
 In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center
 & Online via Zoom



Welcome New Members!



Jared Holaday
 Operations Associate
 Portfolio Advisors, Inc.



Tania Bechara-Keiser
 Founder & Exec. Director
 Cypress Independent Living
 Services

Upcoming Events

April 4-7 - District 5230 Conference/Cruise
<https://www.rotary5230.org/district-conference>

Rotary International
 Conference in Calgary,
 Canada Registration open!
<https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>

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

Letter from the President



January: New Beginnings in 2025

Welcome back! I hope your holiday break from Rotary was a great time to connect with friends and family. The beginning of a new year is such a hopeful time! Some of us set resolutions for things we would like to achieve (or change) and it's a good opportunity to reset and look at our lives with fresh eyes. Our Rotary Board is no different and we are looking for programs, projects and volunteer opportunities that will give us a fresh perspective on our role in the community. We are always open to hearing from our members and encourage you to share those ideas with us.

Our Club's first meeting of the year is traditionally a program on the economy, and we are fortunate to have Dr. Joseph Penbera this year. Many of you may know Dr. Penbera from his time as Dean of the Craig School of Business at Fresno State. This will be a great meeting to invite friends and/or potential new members to attend.

January 13 will feature Anja Raudabaugh from Western Dairies to enlighten us about bovine avian flu and its effects on the dairy industry in California. This is a timely topic for our region.

We will be dark on January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

We end the month with our fellow Rotarian Vanna In. Vanna is the Executive Director for Hope Now and will share his journey with us.

At the December 16 meeting at the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame, member Debra Rush rang the bell for January's National Anti-Human Trafficking Month. Stay tuned for more information on an awareness event that Breaking the Chains is organizing this month that our club is invited to participate in.

As we begin 2025, I look forward to the adventure of the next six months as we explore new topics and celebrate our members and others in our community. Thank you for being a member of the 'friendliest Rotary Club in Fresno' and helping to spread the magic of Rotary throughout our community!

Valerie Vuicich
Rotary Club of Fresno President 2024-25

This Month at Rotary



Dr. Joseph Penbera- Economic Outlook for 2025
Dr. Penbera has a distinguished record in both the public and private sector, and as a university professor and executive. He has been identified as “one of the top economists in the nation” by Knight Kiplinger, editor/publisher of The Kiplinger Magazine, the oldest business publication in the U.S.



Anja Raudabaugh, CEO Western United Dairies will discuss the avian flu and its effects on agriculture.



Holiday: No Meeting
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Vanna In, Executive Director of Hope Now
Club member, Vanna In will share his story: From a Life of Crime to Community Service.



Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: December 18, 2024

Avenues of Service

Membership

As of November 30, 2024:

- 231 active members
- 39 honorary
- +4 so far during President Valerie's Year!

Club Service Report

- Programs are scheduled through February 2025
- It was noted that club meeting attendance is currently averaging 100 people per meeting so far this year!

Community Service Report

- Community Service Director Courtney Shapiro reported that all grant recipients' dates have been set for check presentations with the club.
- Courtney will review the grant applications to identify possible Rotarians In Action projects for the coming months.

Youth Service Report

- Scholarship Chair Michelle Williams is contacting our 2024 recipients to remind them to submit their fall transcripts by January 15 to receive their checks. She is also updating the application for the 2025 cycle.
- Camp Royal Chair Ann Abajian has sent letters to our Club's sponsored schools to get the 2025 selection process started.

Report of the President

President Valerie presented the board with a copy of the 2024 Rotary International Council on Resolutions and the results of the resolutions that passed.

Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Milevoj shared that he is now registered for PETS training in San Jose, CA. He also met with the District Assistant Governor, Jeff Dippel (our liaison to the District Governor).

Your Involvement Counts!

Service Project Warming Kits Thank you



A note from Diane Carbray:
Hi Ashley and all,
The kids all received their warming Kits right before Christmas!
Our Staff sorted them and put together to spread by age to all 14 Clubs. This was fun!
Thank you again so much!



December Bell Ringers



- **Paul Dictos x 2 rings** for free Property Owner's Program from Fresno County Assessor's office
- **Nathan Gilbert x 2 rings** for career move to BBB, Birthday, and 20-year anniversary with his wife
- **Ryan Geil x 2 rings** for his family and New Member Introduction to our club
- **Todd Sheller x 4 rings** for induction into Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame
- **Gordie Webster x 3 rings** for 50 years anniversary at the Business Journal
- **Marty Martinez x 1 ring** for volunteer service opportunity with Veterans and Christmas Trees
- **Ray Ortiz x 1 ring** for Leadership Fresno Class 39
- **Debra Rush x 2 rings** for January National Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- **Richard Verducci x 1 ring** for Leadership Fresno Class 39

Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation

December 16th, 2024 was Leadership Fresno day at the Rotary Club of Fresno.

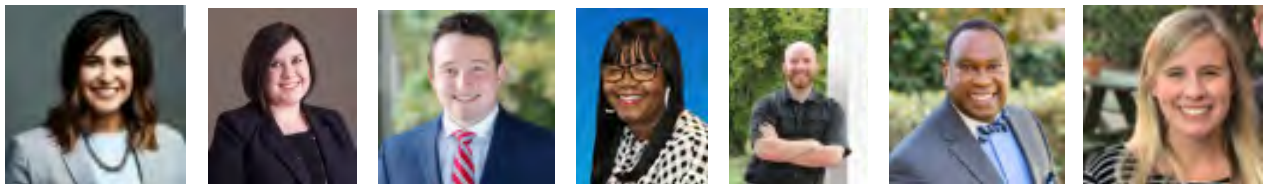
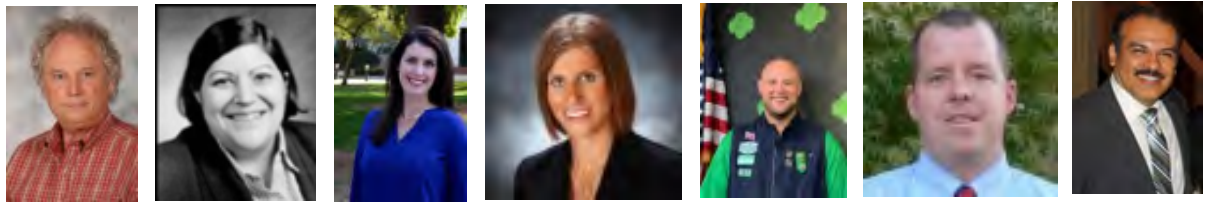
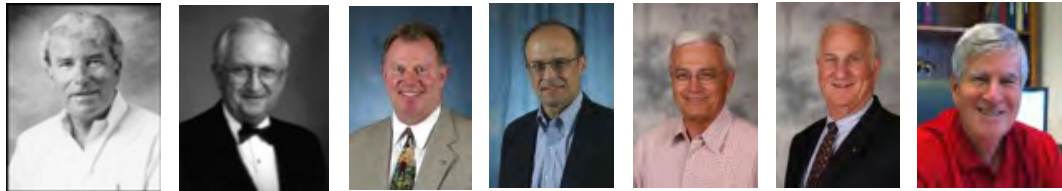
Members of Class 39 presented their service project supporting Valley Teen Ranch.

Our club surprised the LF class members with a check for \$5,000 to kick off their fundraising efforts.



Time to celebrate!

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



Claude Laval: 62 years; Dick Herrinton: 48 years; Gordie Webster: 46 years; Charles Oliver: 45 years;
Gerald Peloian: 44 years; Bill Lucido: 42 years; Robert Glassman: 41 years
David Hodge: 38 years; Debra Kazanjian: 29 years; Nicole Linder: 14 years; Sheila Frowsing: 5 years;
Russel Statham: 5 years; Jeremy Ward: 4 years; Cesar Lucio: 3 years
Lisa Oliveira: 3 years; Katherine Rigby: 3 years; Blake Zante: 3 years; Yolanda Randles: 2 years; Taisto
Smith: 2 years; Tyrone Roderick Williams: 1 year; and Kristina Solberg: 1 year

January Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



Jan Perkins: Jan. 2; Paul Salazar: Jan. 4; Ryan Jacobsen: Jan. 7; James Kus: Jan. 10; Wilma Hashimoto: Jan. 11; Bill
Stewart: Jan. 11; Katie Zenovich: Jan. 12; Robert Mangano: Jan. 13; Kacey Austin-Tibbetts: Jan. 15; David Dickerson:
Jan. 15
Andrew Janz: Jan. 15; Michael Winton: Jan. 17; Bob Shiralian: Jan. 18; Daniel Maychen: Jan. 19; Corey Jackson: Jan.
20; Bob Comstock: Jan. 23; Sterling Swartout: Jan. 25; Gary Lowe: Jan. 26; Neil Walden: Jan. 26; Gordie Webster: Jan.
29; Rick Wolf: Jan. 30

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The Rotary Club of Fresno/Rotary Monthly
News (Publication No. USPS 442-710)
is published monthly by
The Rotary Club of Fresno
PO Box 11904, Fresno CA 93775

POSTMASTER:
Send all address changes to:
The Rotary Club of Fresno/Rotary Monthly
News Jason M. Hannold - CEO
PO Box 11904, Fresno CA 93755
Office: (559) 519-6260
office@fresnorotary.org

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The Rotary Club of Fresno



Periodical
Postage Paid at
Fresno, Ca 93706

Looking Ahead



Gurminder Sangha

Field trip to Fresno
City College's West
Fresno Campus



Presidents' Holiday No Meeting



Alan Pitts

Chevron - The Future of
Gas, Oil & Energy in CA



Todd Suntrapak

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