

# Monthly News

Volume 115 • March 2025  
 Meetings held Monday's at 12:00 p.m.  
 In-Person at Cornerstone Conference Center  
 & Online via Zoom



## Welcome New Members!



**Linda Laettner**  
 Executive Officer  
 The Foundation for Fresno  
 Unified Students



**Daniel Hartwig**  
 President  
 California Fresh  
 Fruit Association



## Congratulations to our Paul Harris Fellows!



**Rebekah Curry**  
 Business Development  
 Manager Quiring

Visit [fresnorotary.org](http://fresnorotary.org) to register you and your guest for weekly meetings!

# Letter from the President



## March - Preparing for Change

Spring is a time of renewal and change. It's hard to believe that March will usher in Daylight Savings Time on the 9th! Hopefully you will be able to adjust and enjoy the extended days and the harbinger of spring. With the blossoms on the trees and the warming weather, we are reminded of the magic that surrounds us here in the valley. I hope you can fit time into your schedules to enjoy this time of year.

As we kick off the third month of 2025, we have a full-packed schedule of programs for our club! The Program Committee has been working diligently all year to invite interesting speakers to enlighten us on a variety of topics as well as to celebrate our fellow citizens.

We begin the month with John Kabateck, State Director for the National Federation of Independent Businesses' CA chapter on March 3. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, member-driven organization that advocates on behalf of America's small and independent business owners.

On March 10 we celebrate our Public Safety Heroes. This is a great meeting to invite prospective new members as we recognize and honor members of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Fire Department, Fresno Police Department, and the CA Highway Patrol.

St. Patrick's Day on March 17 brings us Allan Pitts from Chevron USA who will discuss the future of energy in California. Mr. Pitts is the Vice President, San Joaquin Valley Business Unit.

On March 24 we welcome our new Chief of Police, Mindy Castro as our speaker. We look forward to hearing about her professional journey and her plans moving forward.

A BIG THANK YOU to the 12 businesses who said 'yes' when Vocational Service Directors Rick Wolf & Kathy Huebert approached them to host club members for Biz Day on March 31. We will not have a traditional meeting at Cornerstone but you can sign up to attend a meeting at one of the amazing locations around town. Sign-up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings or there will be a link in the Wednesday email blast if you prefer to sign-up online. I hope you take the opportunity to learn about a fellow Rotarian's business and enjoy the smaller group settings these gatherings allow. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask Rick, Kathy, Jason or me. Now, if I can just finish adding a "1" to all the contacts in my phone, I'll be ready to enjoy spring with the rest of you!

*Valerie Vuicich*

*Rotary Club of Fresno President 2024-25*

# This Month at Rotary



- **John Kabateck, California State Director**  
National Federation of Independent Business



## Public Safety Heroes

Join us as we honor the public safety men & women from Fresno Fire & Police Departments, Fresno County Sheriff's Office, & the CA Highway Patrol.



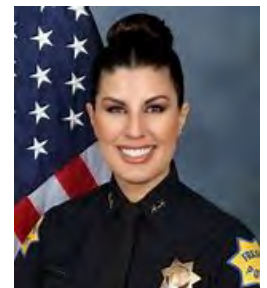
## Allan Pitts - Vice-President San Joaquin Business unit

Chevron USA



## Chief Mindy Castro

Fresno's newest police chief will join us to talk about the challenges of



## Biz Day

Meetings will be held at 12 members' business sites around Fresno.





# Updates from the Board

Board Meeting: February 19 2025

## Avenues of Service

### Membership

As of January 31, 2025:

- 224 active members
- 39 honorary

### **Club Service Report**

- The Board regretfully accepted the resignation from the Year 1 Community Service Director Deryl Shilling and Year 1 International Service Director Adam Borchard due to new jobs away from Fresno
- The Board voted to appoint Rickie Dhillon as the Year 1 Youth Service Director, Mona Cummings as the Year 1 International Service Director and to extend the service of Courtney Shapiro as Year 2 Community Service Director for the 2025-26 term
- The Club Service Directors will hold a meeting of all Club Service Committee chairs at 11 am on March 3 prior to the membership meeting.

### **Vocational Service Report**

- Biz Day on March 31 has 12 club members hosting fellow Rotarians at their place of business. Some locations have a cap on the number of members that can attend so registration is on a first come, first served basis.

### **Community Service Report**

- There are two remaining nonprofits to receive checks from the grants committee.

### **Youth Service Report**

- Camp Royal Chair Ann Abajian is still seeking Club members to volunteer to interview students for selection to Camp Royal

### **Report of the President**

Under old business, President Valerie shared the information from District 5230 for the upcoming Million Dollar Masquerade in May regarding the proceeds. They will be split 50/50 between the RI Foundation and the District 5230 Foundation. The date has been changed to May 31, 2025. The Board agreed to publicize the event and put a table of 10 together from club membership

## Upcoming events

### Rotary After Hours

Wednesday, March 26  
5:00 - 8:00 pm at  
Bog House Pub  
(Herndon & Marks)



**Thank you to the 34 Rotarians  
who rang the bell to support  
Rotary After Hours!**

**A total of \$3,900 was raised to  
help underwrite this activity.**

# February Bell Ringers



- **Jeffie Hickman x 2 rings** for Palisades Charter HS donation drive
- **Don Eskes x 2 rings** for the Fresno Clovis Prayer Breakfast;
- **Robert Golden x 4 rings** for Golden Charter receiving its building permits from the City of Fresno and starting construction on their new facility; and for their 2nd Annual fundraiser: Meet the Moment on 4/26
- **Vanna In x 1 ring** for Hope Now's Fundraiser
- **Todd Suntrapak x 10 rings** for being invited to present to the club and to support the 2024-25 year

## Rotary After Hours at Ovidio's!



The Community Projects Committee presented a check for \$1,000 to Central Valley Veteran's Employment project at the February 10 meeting.



# Time to celebrate!

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



Jim Winton: 52 years; Gerry Lyles: 51 years; Bob Williams: 46 years; Ron Sidoli: 45 years; Sterling Swartout: 34 years; Shirley Grace: 24 years  
Jeff Rickels: 19 years; Tom Licouris: 18 years; John Salmonson: 18 years; Scott Rurik: 16 years; Paul Dictos: 13 years; Darrick Duerksen: 13 years; Jon Dohlin 4 years;

## March Birthdays - Wishing you the best!



Erica Ybarra: Mar. 4; Mike Hamzy: Mar. 4; Misty Her: Mar. 5; Jazzmine Young: Mar. 7; Kathryn Wage: Mar. 8; Dale Mendoza: Mar. 9; Courtney Shapiro: Mar. 10; David Gilmore: Mar. 14; Karl DeKlotz: Mar.14; John Richers: Mar. 15; Gerald Peloian: Mar. 18; Sunny Kooner: Mar. 18; Anna Pine: Mar. 20; Jeff Rickels: Mar. 22; DebbieHunsaker: Mar. 23; Jeremy Ward: Mar. 26; Eric Klimes: Mar. 29



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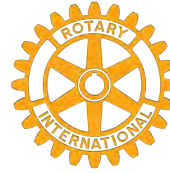
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# The Rotary Club of Fresno



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## Looking Ahead



**Victor Davis Hanson**



**Garrett Klassey**  
Fresno State  
Athletics Director



**Courageous Citizens**  
Rotarian & Fresno County  
District Attorney  
Lisa Smittcamp will introduce  
us to our communities' heroes



TBD

## Connect with us on social media!



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