

## **Area 8 Highlights**

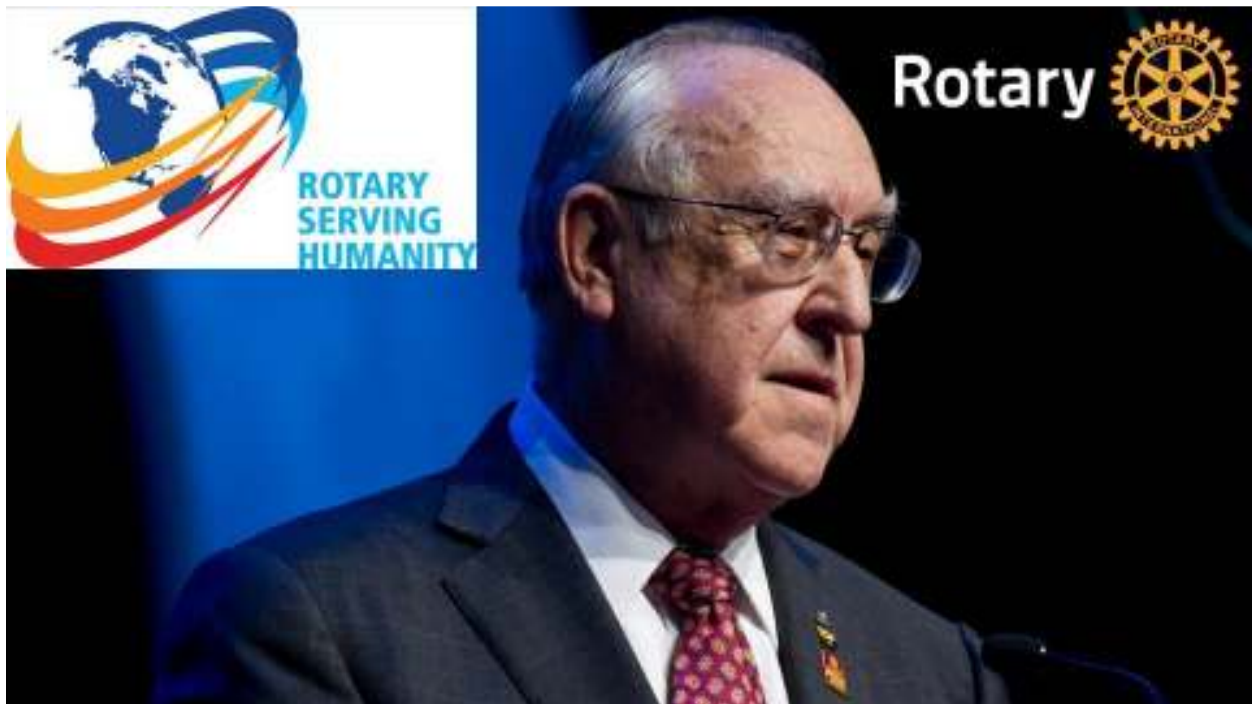
All Area 8 clubs are meeting on a regular basis with 2 clubs meeting with a Hybrid format (Sparks Centennial Sunrise and Reno Centennial Sunset) with the other 6 clubs meeting virtually via Zoom. All the clubs are trying social events either monthly or occasionally. Most of these events are outdoors.

### **World Polio Day**

Area 8 is having an all-Area World Polio Day Event where we will be gathering for a Zoom meeting to hear PDG Dave Bianchi talk about Polio Plus and its benefits to other diseases. We will then walk for one hour and then re-gather on Zoom to learn how much money was raised from the event. The club with the highest per capita giving will win a prize. All participants will be asked to seek donations and to donate themselves.

### **Virtual Foundation Celebration with PRIP John Germ**

We will be holding our Virtual Foundation Celebration (normally Foundation Dinner) on Nov 20 and our Speaker will be PRIP and Current Polio Plus Chair John Germ. We will be asking everyone in attendance to donate at least \$25 to Polio Plus. We will open attendance to all Rotarians in our District. We will be advertising this event in more detail soon.



## Sparks Centennial Sunset

The Rotary Club of Sparks Centennial Sunrise's biggest fundraiser of the year was held at the Red Hawk Golf and Resort on September 19. This year's signature cause is a **grant program for local small businesses impacted by COVID-19**. The theme underscores the Club's pledge to **reinvigorate the local economy**. In past years, the Club has used funds to support local youth, veterans, homeless, and parks – but 2020 is **unprecedented** and the Club is responding by **helping our local economy thrive**.

Grant applications are now available for businesses located in the City of Sparks with 10 or fewer employees. The grant awards are targeted to help with operating expenses as businesses such as salons, restaurants, and retail stores recover from several months of shutdown or severely curtailed business. Rotary President Kristopher Dahir comments, "Businesses have been generous to us over the years to support our fundraisers, and this is our opportunity to give back. We know that businesses create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and enhance well-being for the community." Grant applications can be submitted through October 31<sup>st</sup>, and awards of up to \$500 for each business selected will be announced in November.

Rotarians have been out and about Sparks to provide application forms and to purchase gift certificates from small local businesses that were included in the fundraiser raffle. "It's been a great way to increase our visibility in the community while promoting our Club and supporting struggling businesses," Dahir said. Grant applications can be obtained from Ricci Rodriguez-Elkins at [relkins@kw.com](mailto:relkins@kw.com).

## Sparks

Sparks past president Ed Lawson was sworn in as the mayor of the city of Sparks. Sparks RC has a massive project jointly with the city of Sparks to build an all-inclusive playground (suitable for everyone to utilize irrespective limitations). They have met with the design team for the all-inclusive playground and are in the middle of finalizing plans. The hope is that the park, Playland, will be up and running by spring. Their Mad Money raffle is about to start. Anyone wanna buy a ticket?

## Reno Central

The club donated \$5000 to Wooster High School for computers for students. Reno Central is also starting to plan their Fundraiser which will be in the spring. Details will be advertised soon. Reno Central also donated 48 backpacks to the emergency Colt Closet at Wooster High School.

Reno Central Donations - Left to right, Kathy Fraser, cochair of Youth Services for Reno Central Rotary, Oliver Grosz, President of Reno Central Rotary, Leah Keuscher, Principal of Wooster High and Trina Olden, Vice Principal in charge of technology for Wooster High School.



Left to right-Amelia Seibert, Senior at Wooster, Tracie Seibert, President of Wooster Boosters and Kathy Fraser, Co-Chair of Youth Services for the Rotary Club of Reno Central.



## Reno South

The Reno South Rotary Community Fund completed a District Matching Grant in the amount of \$4,000 through a partnership with the Education Alliance of Washoe County to purchase and distribute 16 laptop computers to students in the Washoe County School District in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This project allowed students in need of technology to "attend" school and continue their education, which was previously unavailable to them due to their lack of access to a home computer.

Members of the Rotary Club of Reno South gathered at the Bearmat Picnic Area of Galena Creek Park to attend the Annual Family Picnic on Saturday, September 12th, despite the poor air quality which the Reno area was experiencing from the California wildfires. This was their third attempt to hold a social gathering during this pandemic era due to Covid-19 regulations. Then, after being informed of the ban on use of the outdoor grills in the Bearmat Picnic Area, the club members finished the Annual Family Picnic in the backyard of a very generous member who opened his home to the club members.

The Achievement Beyond Obstacles (ABO) Scholarship Program of the Reno-Sparks Area 8 Rotary Clubs awarded \$47,000.00 in scholarship funds to 30 First-Year and Continuing students for the 2020-2021 academic year. As the fall 2020 semester approached, one continuing student finished her degree requirements at UNR during the summer session and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in August. An additional five students deferred attending college/university classes until the spring semester, while the remaining 24 scholarship recipients began or continued attending their respective institutions of higher education when the fall semester resumed. The colleges and universities which these ABO scholars are attending range from Truckee Meadows Community College, Carrington College and Lake Tahoe Community College to Saint Louis University, Utah State University, the University of Texas at Austin and, naturally, the University of Nevada, Reno. These ABO scholarship recipients also range from first-year freshman to students completing their graduate studies earning MBA degrees. The ABO Scholarship Committee is actively planning to work with this year's high school seniors who may be eligible for scholarship funds next academic year while remaining actively engaged with this year's first year and continuing scholarship recipients.

## Reno Midtown

Midtown has still been having regular meetings by Zoom with great success. Our attendance is on par with our pre-COVID meetings, averaging about 15 attendees per meeting. It has allowed us to have speakers from outside of the Reno-area, expanding our reach and education. We have also taken advantage of the summer weather by interspersing several outdoor field trips and outdoor socials, for example we did a mural/sculpture tour of downtown Reno and a mini-golf social.

On the fundraising front, we held a successful End Polio Run-a-Thon where our individual runners secured sponsors toward Polio Plus, then we ran a socially distanced 178 miles (mimicking the cancelled Reno Tahoe Odyssey). It was as successful monetarily as our previous run-a-thon fundraisers and kept the continuity of our annual polio fundraising event in place.

We are currently working toward submitting our District Grant toward a beautification project at Vaughn Middle School that will improve the appearance of the campus, increase school & community pride, improve the access to the sidewalk for students and clear the sightlines at the intersection for safer cross-walks. We are planning this as a multi-club grant with the Reno Downtown Club and look forward to hands-on service days soon.

We were fortunate to enter this year with a tidy surplus, we budgeted for a "New Projects Fund" and committed to making this a year of spending out into the community. We acknowledged that fundraising was going to be challenging this year and addressed that by simply foregoing fundraising for the club and focusing on putting our surplus out into the world. We created a new procedure for club members to propose new projects and are keeping our spirits up by giving, and not worrying about taking in for this year.

Midtown has started a little social program called Rotary Playdates. Individual Rotarians meet for small group activities, usually less than 5 people (game night, fishing, movie night, etc). We share the photos in our weekly meeting Powerpoint. Because we cannot do big group socials, this is a way to encourage deeper bonding between members, while still sharing with the group.



Sparks Centennial Sunrise

