



Collaborations and Partnerships – a bit different and both important!

One focus for me as District Governor under the RI Presidential message of “*Create Lasting Impact*” has been to promote and participate in effective collaborations and partnerships, including between Rotary Clubs, between Rotary Districts, and between a Rotary Club and another organization in the community. Both collaborations and partnerships can be extremely helpful in accomplishing our goals, and they often involve leveraging complementary skills and missions to accomplish a shared desired outcome. While they are similar to each other, collaborations are often project- or opportunity-specific and may not be long-lasting. Partnerships tend to be for multiple projects and opportunities, and they are often very strategic in nature.

As we’re thinking about how we are going to improve our Clubs and our District, whether it’s growing membership, increasing our local service projects to better serve our community, increasing our public image, increasing our involvement in youth programs, increasing our donations to the Rotary Foundation, or any other laudable goal, these collaborations and partnerships can be key to our success.

Take, as an example, the **International Project Fair coming up in August. District 4110 in Chihuahua, Mexico; District 5470 in Southern Colorado;** and our District are partnering to put on this annual event to develop collaborations and partnerships for Clubs in each District. Over the years, these events have fostered successful relationships, some of which that have been in place for many years.

We are excited to be part of the International Project Fair, and we hope that you and your Club will consider participating, whether your Club has been involved in previous Fairs or is totally new to this event. Effective collaborations and partnerships are things to treasure. They don’t come about often. And these relationships can be absolutely critical to success for both our Clubs and our District.

For more information about the International Project Fair and to register for the event, please check out the link below or on our District website home page.

<https://rotary5520.org/event/international-project-fair/>

<https://rotary5520.org/>

Thank you all VERY much!
Yours in Rotary Service,

Jeff Weinrach
2026-27 District 5520 Governor
Jweinrach5520@nmia.com

1-505-400-1403





Join Rotarians from Districts 4110, 5470, and 5520 for the
2026 International Project Fair in Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico!

August 21-22, 2026

This unique event brings together Rotarians, community leaders, and project champions to explore Global Grants, hands-on service projects, and international partnerships that create lasting impact around the world.

Whether you're looking to support a project, find international partners, share a successful initiative, or discover new opportunities for service, the International Project Fair is where connections become action.

Collaborate. Share. Inspire. Create Lasting Impact.

More information, registration details, transportation logistics, and project presentation opportunities will be announced soon.

Rotary
Districts 4110,
5470, and 5520

Save the Date!

**INTERNATIONAL
PROJECT FAIR**
in Juárez

— AUGUST 21 & 22, 2026 —
JUÁREZ, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Find an international partner for your project.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE
TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Collaborate. • Share. • Inspire. • Create Lasting Impact.



Will you and your loving pet help END POLIO FOREVER?
In cooperation with the Polio Plus Society and
Rotary Zones 26 and 27

Join the Kennel Klub and give the equivalent of at least \$10 in treats every month. You and your pet can be a part of Rotary's polio eradicating effort, END POLIO NOW.

More info can be found on the Kennel Klub webpage

<https://www.rotaryppskennelklub.org/join>

2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei

The 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, brought together approximately 37,000–38,000 Rotary members and guests from more than 120 countries, creating a vibrant celebration of service, friendship, and global collaboration. Around 20,000 registered Rotarians from Taiwan attended. The Taiwanese Rotarian volunteers filled metro stations and venues to make sure attendees could easily find what they needed.

District 5520 attendees were Chinda Lucoski, Warren and Susan Goodell, Mario diGesù, Erin Connelly, Peg Crim, Michelle Brideaux, Gabriella Eaton, Laura and Rey Gonzales, Ofelia Mletzko and from District 4110, Jose Luis Carbajal

Held from **June 13–17**, the convention showcased Rotary's international reach and reinforced the organization's commitment to making a positive impact around the world. The Rotary Youth Exchange pre-convention was held on Saturday 13th. It was a fabulous event where the Rotarians, current exchange students and members of the ROTEX family came together to learn more about with the afternoon presentations and workshops on how to measure and build peace in RYE.

The House of Friendship, which showcased global fellowship, was also open on the 13th. It had a historic Taipei village where you could join a tea ceremony, learn Chinese calligraphy, indigenous traditions and participate in other experiences. You cannot help but run into members from District 5520 as well as make friends around the world. It is also a great place to learn about Rotary Action Groups and Rotary Fellowships. Rey and I took a tour with the Rotary International Travel and Hosting Fellowship afterwards. We found out they are planning tours in Egypt and Morocco House of Friendship with the 2027 Convention in Barcelona, Spain.



Even the volunteers taking your photo chat with you and become good friends.

The convention also celebrated Taiwanese culture through colorful performances, including traditional drumming, dance, acrobatics, and musical presentations. Taipei's hospitality and modern facilities provided an ideal setting for fostering international fellowship and inspiring future service initiatives.

The performers were so gracious that when I went to take a photo, they ushered my husband Rey and I to get in the photo with them.



A major highlight was an inspiring address by **Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai**. Speaking about girls' education and equality, she encouraged Rotary members to continue supporting educational opportunities for young women worldwide. Her message emphasized the power of collective action and leadership in creating lasting change.



Ofelia represented D5520 at The End Polio Now race



Throughout the convention, attendees participated in educational sessions, explored humanitarian projects, and connected with fellow Rotarians from across the globe. Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo's theme, *"Uniting for Good,"* resonated throughout the event, underscoring how friendship, trust, and collaboration can lead to meaningful service. Speaking of President Francesco, you never know who you might end up sharing an elevator with on your way to the Zone 26-27 breakfast...

This is my DGN class at the Zone breakfast:



Our 5520 District had a lovely dinner at The Brass Monkey one evening.

As the convention concluded, participants left with renewed motivation to address challenges in their communities and around the world. The event served as a powerful reminder that Rotary's greatest strength lies in people coming together to create positive and lasting change. It provided a powerful understanding of the impact of Rotary in the world and our place in creating that positive impact.

I highly encourage every Rotarian to consider going to Barcelona next year at the end of June. You can expect a wonderful experience with Rotarians from all around the world sharing goals and fellowship. Once registration opens in September, we will send out a note to let you know how to register.

Yours in Rotary,

DGE Laura Gonzales





A Nobel Prize at the Taipei Convention

At the Rotary International Convention in Taipei in June 2026, Malala Yousafzai delivered a landmark speech focused on collective action and women's empowerment.

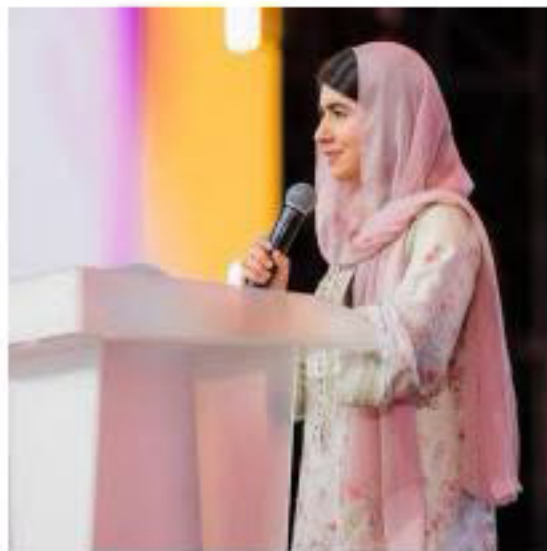
The Nobel Peace Prize laureate reminded everyone that lasting change depends on small, courageous acts by ordinary citizens.

In a very intimate way, she shared her personal struggle with mental health.

Malala revealed that she overcame the Pakistani cultural taboo to begin therapy after suffering flashbacks related to her assault by the Taliban.

She thus redefined courage: it is not only fighting without fear, but also having the strength to accept one's vulnerability and to ask for help.

This poignant testimony resonated deeply with Rotary's values of service, reminding the delegates present of the importance of combining personal resilience and international solidarity to support girls' education and equality.





Brent Bateman

Our New District 5520 Executive Secretary



Brent joined Rotary International via the Moriarty Rotary Club as a member in 1991 representing the vocation of Data Management for Sandia National Laboratories. Brent's longest serving committee is the Board of Officers followed by Club Secretary for greater than 30 years from 1993-1998 and 2001-present. Moriarty Club President in 1998-1999. Brent is a Christian first of greater than 70 years, an employed worker for greater than 60 years, a married spouse coming up on 50 years, with a National Laboratory career of 40 years and served for 7 years in the United States Air Force. Brent received his MBA-MIS Master of Business Administration with a Management Information Systems concentration degree from the College of Santa Fe at Albuquerque.

Brent's Rotary Designations are Bequest Society, District Officer, Past President, Paul Harris Fellow, PHF+1-9, Sustaining Member, and Every Rotarian Every Year.

As the District 5520 Executive Secretary, Brent maintains the vital role of smooth operations as the central point of contact for the Rotary International and District related matters of contacts, integration and issues, supports the District Governor, webpages, publishing events, administration, information, email communication, membership, secretaries learning, ClubRunner (NOVA) database support and maintenance, access rights, sign-on issues, answering phone calls and receiving physical mail.

Brent has two daughters and twin grandsons. He enjoys home life, vacation travel, and maintaining his home site acreage just beyond the City of Moriarty.

Follow us on Social Media

Rotary District 5520 Year of Cheer

Supporting El Paso and UNM Children's Hospitals

Celebrating successes, sharing ideas, and sending requests to Rotarians and friends as we support hospitalized children and their families.

Like and share as we grow this page and this project together!

Questions & stories to share:
email rachellecford@gmail.com

Rotary
District 5520

Year of Cheer!!

Now on Facebook

The purpose of this page is to collaborate together, share ideas, and celebrate the good work of Rotarians across District 5520 as we support children and families in our region.

Like and share as we grow this page and this project together!





YEAR OF CHEER



Across New Mexico and West Texas, children are getting ready for a new school year. New backpacks. Fresh crayons. Sharpened pencils. Maybe even a brand-new lunch box. Then a simple thought crossed our minds...

What about the children who will spend the first day of school in a hospital?

Perhaps they would enjoy opening a new backpack, too. Or a fresh box of crayons. Not because they need school supplies, but because they are still children.

Still dreaming Still growing Still part of the wonderful world of childhood



30 toys, books and puzzles delivered from our YOC Ambassador, Alex Ogunsanya, Albuquerque Metro Club.



48 toys donated from the generous members of Highpoint Sports and Wellness. , 4300 Landau NE Maureen and Dave Anderson are members there. Maureen asked the manager, George, if we could place a box there

Sometimes the smallest things remind a child they're still part of all the excitement waiting just beyond their hospital room.



Elijah, UNMH Children's Hospital employee picking up toy donations.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS BUILD BRIDGES FOR PEACE IN BOLIVIA



Ximena Murillo (left) organized and led this great project!

To read all about this amazing project...

[CLICK HERE](#)

Community workshop in Corocoro, Bolivia



With support from District 5520, **the Hobbs, Lovington, and Taos Clubs** sponsored a global grant to establish water in two rural Bolivian villages. These villages had not previously enjoyed access to clean, safe water. The project has transformed the lives of the villagers making their health, culture, and sustainability more secure.

With leadership from **Peace Fellow Ximena Murillo**, local Rotarians engaged several other Rotary Peace Fellows in designing and implementing the project.

Contemporaneously, the Peace Fellows conducted Peace building workshops in different parts of the country. In Bolivia's rural Altiplano, conversations about water were inevitably central to peaceful communities. In April 2026, the Peace Fellows traveled to Bolivia as part of a delegation from **United4Change Center**, working alongside Rotarians to lead activities focused on peacebuilding, leadership, and community empowerment. Through-out the trip, they witnessed firsthand how collaboration and shared purpose came to life through the **global Rotary Peace Fellowship network**.

“ Rotary believes peace isn't just the absence of war • it's the presence of justice, opportunity, and understanding. The Peace Fellowships are Rotary's way of investing in people who can make that vision real. ”



Erin Connelly
Rotary District 5520
RYLA Chair
505-660-1825

econnelly.rotary@outlook.com

Just wrapped up the annual Rotary District 5520 Youth Leadership Camp (RYLA). It was a great week of speakers, activities, adventures, challenges, awesome facilitators and a bunch of future leaders. If you want to join us next year as a facilitator or know a soon to be junior in high school who could benefit from RYLA, let me know. A special thanks to the Rotarians who make this a free opportunity for the participants. It's a wise investment in our future.

Boys' Camp - July 12-18, 2026



For many more Boys' Camp Photos go to:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HBCT4wCpfM3y27VC9>

For many more Girls' Camp Photos go to:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xrQzf7pgw30Um9EcIStb_IQHyWHKBF62

A Special Thank You as two weeks of RYLA 2026 comes to an end, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make this unforgettable week possible. Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff members, speakers, sponsors, and supporters who dedicated their time, effort, and resources to creating an experience filled with growth, leadership, and connection. A special thank you goes to the Manzano Mountain Retreat team for providing a safe and memorable environment, including the zip line experience that encouraged campers to step outside their comfort zones and build confidence. Every person who helped plan, organize, and support the activities played an important role in making this week a success.

- Jill Cook, RYLA Camp Director

Girls' Camp - July 18-24, 2026



RYLA 2026: A WEEK OF LEADERSHIP

Issue No. 32

24 July 2026

Class of 2026



THE JOURNEY DOESN'T END HERE
ONE WEEK. COUNTLESS MEMORIES. ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES.

As another unforgettable week at RYLA comes to a close, we celebrate the growth, friendships, and leadership demonstrated by every camper. Throughout the week, each cabin embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, determination, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Through leadership workshops, team-building activities, and every event in between, campers strengthened their communication, collaboration, and confidence while learning what it truly means to lead by example.

The week was filled with experiences that challenged every camper in different ways. The Reality Fair introduced real-world financial decision-making, while the Outdoor Olympics tested perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship through a variety of friendly competitions. The synchronized swimming challenge encouraged creativity, coordination, and communication, and the volleyball tournaments allowed cabins to build trust while cheering one another on. Every activity reinforced that leadership is about working together, supporting others, and giving your best effort.

As the week came to a close, the Talent Show gave every cabin the opportunity to showcase its creativity, confidence, and teamwork. Each performance reflected the dedication and collaboration that had grown throughout the week. Prima captured first place with their entertaining Wizard of Oz spinoff, leaving the audience laughing and applauding their originality and teamwork. While awards recognized outstanding performances, every cabin contributed to making the evening a memorable celebration of talent and friendship.

Although camp has ended, the lessons learned at RYLA will continue far beyond this week. Every camper leaves with stronger leadership skills, meaningful friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime. The confidence to communicate, the courage to lead, and the willingness to serve others are qualities these young leaders will carry into their schools, families, and communities. RYLA may be over, but the journey of leadership is only just beginning.



A Final Note from Jill

What a week! It has truly been a pleasure spending this time with each of you and watching you learn, grow, laugh, and lead.

As you head into your senior year, take what you learned at RYLA with you—and think about another young woman who would benefit from this experience.

Recommend her for RYLA next year and help pass it on.

Have an amazing senior year. Keep leading, keep growing, and know that I'll be cheering you on!

— Jill Cook, RYLA Camp Director

A Special Thank You

As RYLA 2026 comes to an end, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make this unforgettable week possible. Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff members, speakers, sponsors, and supporters who dedicated their time, effort, and resources to creating an experience filled with growth, leadership, and connection. A special thank you goes to the Manzano Mountain Retreat team for providing a safe and memorable environment, including the zip line experience that encouraged campers to step outside their comfort zones and build confidence. Every person who helped plan, organize, and support the activities played an important role in making this week a success.

Most importantly, thank you to all of the RYLA leaders for your enthusiasm, participation, and willingness to take on every challenge throughout the week. Your creativity, teamwork, and commitment to learning what it means to be a leader made this experience truly special. From every activity to every moment of encouragement, your energy and dedication brought the camp to life. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making RYLA 2026 a week filled with unforgettable memories, valuable lessons, and lifelong connections.







Newsletters

Each day the camper newsroom committee cranked out a daily newspaper for the campers - from high-ropes to bears and peacocks to deer. Read each newspaper to get a feel for what was happening at the camp from the mouths of the kids.



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13 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/the-ryla-boys-journal-july-13-2026.pdf

14 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/the-ryla-boys-journal-july-14-2026.pdf

15 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/the-ryla-boys-journal-july-15-2026.pdf

16 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/the-ryla-boys-journal-july-16-2026.pdf

17 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/the-ryla-boys-journal-july-17-2026.pdf



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1 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/ryla-girls-daily-1-c.pdf

2 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/ryla-girls-daily-2-c.pdf

3 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/ryla-girls-daily-3-c.pdf

4 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/ryla-girls-daily-4-c.pdf

5 - https://donpowell.biz/DistrictNewsletter/District_Newsletter/ryla-girls-daily-5-c.pdf

District Governor can't wait to get back to El Paso!!

Clare and I returned yesterday from a glorious week in El Paso visiting seven of the eight Rotary Clubs in the area. We will be back in El Paso in mid-August in conjunction with the International Project Fair being held in Juarez.

It's difficult to put into words how hospitable and welcoming everyone was during our stay. Clare and I were too exhilarated to be tired! Much of that is due to how vibrant and strong the El Paso Rotary Clubs are.

We can't wait to go back to El Paso next month!





THINK YOU ARE NOT GOOD AT PUBLIC SPEAKING?

The real truth behind a flawless TED Talk is this: it's a performance built through weeks or months of engineering, rehearsal, and ruthless editing — not natural talent or luck. What you see on stage is the final 1% of a long, disciplined process. A perfect TED Talk is the result of months of preparation designed to look like 18 minutes of effortless brilliance.

So don't get down on yourself because you can't stand up and give a brilliant speech on short notice. But as leaders you should be able to write a speech and deliver it reasonably well if you want to convince anyone to do what you want. **A great speech is built on one clear message, one meaningful story, and simple points — delivered with warmth, focus, and a closing line that leaves people thinking.**





District Interact Committee course

The revised Get Ready: District Interact Committee course is now available in the Learning Center. Complete this course to:

- Learn about your role with the district Interact committee
- Discover how the committee can develop Interact across the district
- Determine how to structure the committee, lead district Interact events, and grow and promote Interact



<https://msgfocus.rotary.org/q/12FVqmUrMfRYQXeWKjTBq9dO/wv>



LEARNING IN ACTION

DEVELOPING ROTARY LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD



The Learning and Development team at Rotary wishes all new club and district officers the best as they work to accomplish their goals, bring in new members, and provide meaningful service in their communities. We encourage you to use the Rotary Learning Center to gain knowledge to help you in your role as a club or district leader.

Course Updates

The Grant Management Seminar and Grant Management Recertification have been updated to help clubs with the global grant application process. Clubs are required to complete the Grant Management Seminar before they can apply for a global grant. They need to be recertified each year, and they can accomplish that by completing the recertification learning plan.

[CLICK HERE](#)



A rotary friendship garden is a public green space or memorial created by a local Rotary club to symbolize international goodwill, community fellowship, and peace. These spaces often feature traditional Rotary emblem designs, specialized trees from around the world, and areas for quiet reflection. History and Tradition Paul Harris Legacy: The concept began with

Rotary founder Paul Harris and his wife Jean, who planted “friendship trees” with international guests at their Chicago home and during global travels to represent world peace.



The Power of Membership

Membership in Rotary isn't merely a title. It's an opportunity. An opportunity to grow personally and professionally, to build lasting relationships, and to contribute positively to our community. It's a platform to share ideas, collaborate, and bring meaningful change to the lives of those around us.

In a time when our world seems increasingly divided, Rotary's mission brings people together. Whether it's initiating local projects or supporting international causes, Rotary members create a ripple effect, transforming the lives of countless individuals and communities.



Support the businesses that support District 5520 Programs

Solace Sexual Assault Services
We Support Survivors

SOLACE
Sexual Assault Services

Phone Number
505.988.1951

Email
info@findsolace.org

Website
www.findsolace.org

Location
6601 Valentine Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Facebook icon, Instagram icon

Solace Sexual Assault Services is a state-of-the-art facility providing all services under one roof for those who have experienced sexual violence or child abuse. Our team of highly trained advocates, therapists, and interviewers is dedicated to providing a safe, supportive environment for individuals in need and their families. Our prevention programs teach individuals about consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention, and work to change societal attitudes and norms that contribute to sexual violence. By addressing the root causes of sexual violence and equipping individuals with tools to prevent it, these programs help create a culture of respect and safety in our community.



<https://business.rotary5520.org/businesses>



★ SAVE THE DATE ★



FOLDS of HONOR
NEW MEXICO

ROTARY

Club of
Albuquerque Del Norte



FOLDS of HONOR PATRIOT DINNER

★ SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 ★

ISLETA CONVENTION CENTER

6:00 PM Cocktails | 7:00 PM Dinner • Live & Silent Auction

One Night • One Mission • Life Changing



HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE. EDUCATE THEIR LEGACY.

STAY TUNED FOR TICKET INFORMATION



To Highlight your club's impact on the community!

Hello Public Image Chairs, Club Presidents and District 5520 Leaders,

I'm excited to share that we've launched the District 5520 Story Bank at rotary5520.org/stories - a showcase of the incredible work happening across our clubs in the district.

To make this valuable for everyone - we need YOUR club's stories :)

Why submit your stories?

- Share your success District website and social media.
- Use the stories on the site to show people the huge impact Rotary has in the community
- Get community service ideas for your club.

How to submit:

Scroll to the bottom of the district homepage at rotary5520.org and click "Share a Story" or go directly to the form below. The form takes about 10 minutes and asks for:

Project details and impact

- A photo
- A memorable moment or quote
- Contact information
- What makes a good story?

[Click here for FORM](#)

The form includes:

- Recent projects (last 6-12 months)
- Measurable impact (people served, funds raised, lives changed)
- Community partnerships
- Unique approaches to service

[Click here for STORIES](#)

Every story submitted gets reviewed and published within a week. The best stories also get featured on my LinkedIn (5K+ connections) and in district communications.

For questions, please email me. Thank you for all you do!

Meredith Eisenberg

District 5520 Public Image Chair
meredith@mereditheisenberg.com

Confused? It's simple! I think

Put your club's impact on the community on stories for the world to see, and

Put your club activities, like socials, new members, speakers on Facebook for Rotary to see.

Get your club activities on the District Facebook page so we can see all that our District is doing!



CLICK THE FACEBOOK LOGO TO SEE ALL THE OTHER GREAT THINGS GOING ON IN OUR DISTRICT!

GET A FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN IN!

Save
the
Date

Celebrating Over a Decade of Fine Wines, Gourmet
Cuisine, and Unforgettable Memories

Friday, November 6th | 5:00-7:30 PM

Saturday, November 7th | 1:00-4:00 PM



Join us for the premier wine and food festival
in the Borderplex.

The 13th Annual El Paso Wine & Food Festival with our theme of
“A Toast to World Peace”
promises an unforgettable experience where culinary excellence meets
exceptional wines.



Grand Tasting Event
Saturday, November 7th | 1:00-4:00 PM

Experience the ultimate wine and food pairing at our
signature Grand Tasting Event.

Taste over 400 wines from around the world, paired with
exquisite bites from El Paso's top restaurants.

Explore a symphony of flavors designed to excite,
surprise, and satisfy every palate, creating a dining
experience that leaves you wanting more.



Chef Showdown
Friday, November 6th | 5:00-7:30 PM

Watch as 12 culinary teams from the Culinary Institute by
Southwest University compete to create
stunning dishes paired with craft beers and premium wines.
Witness the magic of top-quality ingredients and thoughtful
pairings come to life in this
exciting culinary competition!

TICKETS AT: ELPASOWINEFEST.COM



RI CONVENTION
BARCELONA 2027





8th Annual

5K

RUNWALK

DONATION \$35 - FREE T-SHIRT & MEDAL

AUG 23, 2026

08:00 AM

Union Plaza, 117 Anthony St.
Downtown, El Paso, TX.

Rotary

Club Camino Real
of El Paso



Your donation supports
open heart surgeries
for childrens in need.



DON'T LET THEIR HEARTS STOP BEATING

SHORT-SLEEVED DRI-FIT & BAG TO
THE FIRST 3000 REGISTRANTS