



IMPACT

NEWSLETTER



A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND GIVING

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to reflect on all that we are grateful for — the connections we share, the work we do together, and the blessings that fill our lives.

Now more than ever, it's a time to come together and support those in need — from ensuring food security in our community to lending a hand through service and compassion. Every act of kindness makes a difference.

Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with gratitude, warmth, and the joy of giving. We are truly blessed to serve together. Happy Thanksgiving from your Rotary family.



Stacie Thorlakson
President

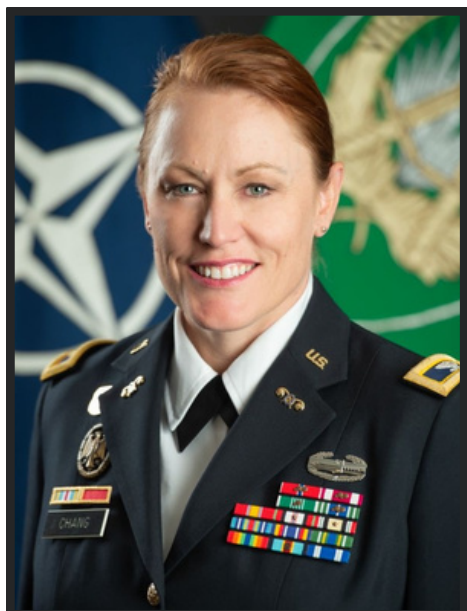
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In This Issue

Pg 2: November Guest Speaker
Pg 3: Hopelink - Community Project
Pg 4: Emerging Rotary Leaders
Pg 5: Pumpkin Patch Fun
Pg 6: Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER



EARC Meeting - November 11

Join us Tuesday, 4:30pm held at
Compass Real Estate, the Bravern
Shopping Center in Bellevue.

Remember to bring food and/or non-
food items for our community service
project, supporting Hopelink.

Col. Juanita Chang was a senior leader in the United States Army whose distinguished career spanned more than two decades of service, strategic communication, and global engagement. Throughout her career, she was entrusted with high-profile responsibilities that shaped how the Army connected with the American public, international media, and allies around the world.

She previously served in key public affairs leadership roles at the Pentagon, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and multiple joint and coalition headquarters. Her work took her into complex operational environments including Iraq and Afghanistan, where she had advised senior commanders, strengthened multinational partnerships, and ensured accurate, timely information sharing during rapidly evolving missions.

Col. Chang was widely recognized for her ability to translate complex operational realities into accessible narratives that built public trust and supported service members and their families. She led large, diverse teams responsible for media relations, crisis communication, digital strategy, and community engagement. Her strategic insight and steady leadership helped navigate challenges ranging from combat operations to humanitarian response and disaster-relief messaging.

Beyond her operational impact, she was a mentor, educator, and champion for emerging leaders in the fields of public affairs and strategic communication. She actively supported professional development programs, fostered innovation in storytelling, and stood as a role model for those aspiring to serve both their nation and their communities.

Her service left a lasting influence on the Army's communication enterprise—strengthening relationships across government, industry, and allied nations, and setting new standards for strategic outreach and transparency in military operations.

SUPPORT HOPELINK – BRING ITEMS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

MOST-NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- Canned meals
- Canned meats – tuna, chicken, etc
- Healthy cereal/oats
- Fruits & veggies
- Grains
- Soups and broths
- Non-dairy milk
- Cooking oils
- Spices
- Salt and pepper
- Sugar – white and brown



hopelink

MOST-NEEDED NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Baby items – wipes, food pouches, diapers
- Hygiene items – toothpaste & brushes
- Paper Items – TP & paper towels
- Household Items – clorox wipes, reusable bags

EMERGING ROTARY LEADERS: IGNITING LEADERSHIP AND CONNECTION



I had the opportunity to attend the **Emerging Rotary Leaders (ERL)** program, held October 22–25 at the Clyde Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event brought together passionate Rotarians from Zones 26 & 27 for several days of inspiration, collaboration, and leadership growth under the theme “Our Rotary Journey Continues: Embracing Our Legacy, Empowering Our Future.”

The program combined visionary discussions, skill-building sessions, and plenty of meaningful fellowship.

“ERL reignited my passion for service,” I shared during the week. “It opened new friendships, inspired collaboration with other clubs, and sparked fresh ideas to enhance our impact in the community. The path is endless — let’s all unite for good!”

Throughout the sessions — from Ideas Worth Exploring to panels with senior leaders — we shared innovative projects, exchanged insights, and deepened our commitment to Rotary’s mission of service above self.

Many referenced, “We are a leadership organization — and we do service.” and a call to action to focus on growing the next generation through Interact, Rotaract, and hands-on partnerships with youth organizations.

District Governor Jeff Borek encouraged all of us to continue the journey:

“I hope Rotarians across District 5030 take advantage of opportunities like this — including our upcoming District Conference in Walla Walla. It’s an affordable way to join over 300 fellow Rotarians for learning, laughter, and fun.” Learn more and register at igniterotary2026.com.

Let’s keep the spark alive and continue empowering our Rotary future together.

EASTSIDE ACTION ROTARY CLUB AT THE BELLEVUE URBAN GARDEN



On Saturday, October 18, 2025, EARC members gathered for a morning of service at The Bellevue Urban Garden (tBUG).

Despite the misty fall weather, the spirit was bright as we played and worked in the pumpkin patch—feeling like kids again among the vines and orange hues. It was a joyful reminder of the simple pleasures of giving back and reconnecting with nature.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support a sustainable food source with a flair of creativity for our community to enjoy!

Hope to see you in the fields again next year! 🎃



UPCOMING EVENTS

Online
Calendar

November

11: EARC General Meeting held at Compass Meeting Room + Bring Goods or Clothes

11: Veterans Day

20: Hunger Strike 2.0 - Trivia Night + Rotary District 5030 Live Podcast, 6pm - 8pm

28: Happy Thanksgiving

December

02: EARC Board Meeting via zoom, 4pm

09: EARC General Meeting - CANCELED DUE TO HOLIDAY PARTY - DEC 12

12: Holiday Party at Wendi's Home. Invite/Details sent soon.

25: Merry Christmas

31: Happy New Year's Eve

