



## ***Special Sessions Course Descriptions***

### **WEDNESDAY SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Emerging Rotary Leaders:** Wednesday

The Emerging Rotary Leader (ERL) program provides an extraordinary experience to both our ERLs and their partners, with the goal of inspiring and strengthening leadership at the District level, including serving as District Governor. The program will expose ERLs to a wide range of thinking and resources, connecting them with other Rotary leaders in Zone 26/27, and challenging them to find and share positive solutions to various common club and district leadership challenges. We will explore leading, especially in times of change, with a focus on leadership that is effective, collaborative, innovative, and resilient. ERLs will be encouraged to continue on the path of District leadership, enjoying the personal rewards of being a true servant leader.

### **THURSDAY SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**World Map:** Thursday and Friday 1-2 PM

Have you visited another Rotary Club somewhere around the world? During this two-day session, share with us the Rotary club name, exact location you visited, and we will mark it on our World Map! Let us see how many places Rotarians from Rotary Zones 26 & 27 Big West have traveled around the world visiting other Rotary clubs!

Please provide your name and district number, the name of the Rotary club you visited, and exact location (city, country). We will collect these both offline, and during each session. A complete list will be updated and available for viewing!

**Rotary-Rotaract Partnership:** Thursday 1-2 PM

Rotaract is now an official Rotary member! How can we create meaningful relationships between Rotarians and Rotaractors? This session will explore examples of thriving Rotaract-Rotary partnerships. We'll discuss how to build the foundations for new connections and expand existing momentum within your own district.

**Powerful Events Breakout - In Person or on a Screen:** Thursday 2-4 PM

Audience engagement, messaging, storytelling, and take-aways are keys to producing impactful events. Learn about tips and tricks for the successful planning and production for important Rotary events such as District Conferences and other gatherings that will leave your audience spellbound.

**Public Speaking:** Thursday 2-3 PM

Rotary's partnership with Toastmasters has opened up new possibilities for professional development, programs, training and membership. Let's explore this new partnership and share some tips on how to engage your audience and tell your Rotary story.

**Servant Leadership:** Thursday 2-3 PM

"More time for those in training should be spent on Servant Leadership. Once mastered, they would be awesome leaders in the non-profit world, but the same skills would improve both performance and job satisfaction in the private sector." This is not an uncommon reaction to the servant leader philosophy and was shared with us after a Rotarian experienced servant leader training in 2019 at the Denver Zone Institute. Servant leadership is a time-tested process that utilizes key practices focused on serving others. The leadership style is distinctly different than the power model and this facilitated session will focus on learning and expanding skills that will serve you for a lifetime.

This session features the following guest presenters.



Jennifer Jones  
RI President  
Nominee



Johrita Solari  
RI Vice  
President



Stephanie Urchick  
RI Director  
Chair Exec Comm



Peter Kyle  
RI Director



John Hewko  
RI CEO

**District Trainers:** Thursday 2-3 PM

Facilitated, workshops focusing on: Working with the Governor line, alignment between Governor Elect Training, Governor Nominee Training, PETS, District Training Assemblies, Vibrant Club training, and District priorities, and refining and defining a District Trainer job description, training plan, and training team based on best practices of Rotary and the Districts in our Zones. Also, we will explore best practices of the virtual, on-line experience, how it has benefited the training spectrum, and what it means for the future of training.

**Big West Districts' Best Practices:** Thursday 2-3:30 PM

Considering current events and the Rotary Action Plan, we would like to explore three questions:

1. How do we adapt, innovate, and move forward in spite of a tiny little microbe that upsets our plans and systems?
2. How do we redouble our efforts to make our club cultures welcoming, respectful, and inclusive of all voices and hands willing to serve?
3. How do we build the Grow Rotary priorities into our own action plans?

We have several tools to help us answer these questions and implement our plans:

- Visioning/Strategic Planning
- G-line Teamwork/Continuity
- Leadership Development/Training/RLI
- Team Building and Communications
- Role of AG's
- Virtual Tools
- Budgeting/Financial Management

Do you have an area of your district operations you would like to improve? Do you have a unique or tried-and-true solution you would like to share? Let's get together to present, discuss, share, brainstorm, and repurpose ideas to make Big West Rotary Districts the best we can be.

**Positive Peace Workshop:** Thursday 2-4 PM

Rotary's [strategic partnership](#) with the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) helps Rotarians "frame" peace – to recognize the grassroots work they do in the six areas of focus as a way to build sustainable, Positive Peace. The Partnership also created the Rotary Positive Peace Activator Program, training Rotarians, Rotary Peace Fellows, and Rotaractors in the Positive Peace methodology and framework, with the goal of providing education and support to Rotarians. This workshop features Positive Peace Activators, who will train attendees on Positive Peace and guide them in applying this framework to their context. Session participants will walk away with five concrete ways to talk about Positive Peace in their community, club, or district.

**BIPOC:** Thursday 7-8 PM

This is an opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Rotarians and Rotaractors to attend and discuss their experiences within Rotary in a safe and validating environment. This forum is part of Big West Rotaract's initiative to create intentional space for inclusiveness in all of their events as stated in their BLM statement.

## FRIDAY SPECIAL SESSIONS

### **World Map:** Thursday and Friday 1-2 PM

Have you visited another Rotary Club somewhere around the world? During this two-day session, share with us the Rotary club name, exact location you visited, and we will mark it on our World Map! Let us see how many places Rotarians from Rotary Zones 26 & 27 Big West have traveled around the world visiting other Rotary clubs!

Please provide your name and district number, the name of the Rotary club you visited, and exact location (city, country). We will collect these both offline, and during each session. A complete list will be updated and available for viewing!

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Friday 1-2 PM

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) session will be broken into two breakout rooms where participants will expand their understanding in an interactive format. DEI 101 will cater to those beginning their DEI journey and cover foundational concepts, challenges/opportunities, and how to approach the topic within our clubs. DEI 201 will address sustaining and improving inclusive practices for clubs that have already started this journey. We will address how to navigate more complex challenges and concepts within DEI work.

### **Council on Legislation:** Friday 2-3 PM

The Council on Legislation allows us to have a voice on how Rotary is governed. Every three years this Council has the ability to change Rotary's constitutional documents. To many Rotarians, this may be one of the most important meetings in Rotary.

In this session, you will have the opportunity to talk to other Council Representatives, discuss ideas you may have for the 2022 Council and since the Enactments are due December 21, 2020 you will also have the ability to discuss any Enactments you may want to submit. This will not be a training session, as that will come in 2021 at the Rotary Institute. Rather this will be a chance to address any concerns or general questions you may have.

### **Facilitation Skills:** Friday 2-3 PM

This session will focus on the skills we tap in facilitating individuals and groups. Participants will examine the role of the facilitator, how to model effective techniques and how to modify your approach in individual, small and large group and electronic settings.

### **Big West Think Tank – Membership, Foundation, Public Image:** Friday 2-4 PM

Let's get creative! Do you enjoy collaborating to produce new ideas? Then, register for the Big West Think Tank. We have 72 openings for people to form six Committee Teams. Each Committee will arrive at the session ready to design a Sample District's Rotary Foundation Day

into something wonderful, fresh and engaging. (Participants may currently know Foundation Day by another term, such as Foundation Training day, Foundation Dinner etc). The new plan should incorporate the following elements: Accommodate new social distancing issues, be fresh and engaging for the attendees, encompass each of the three essential elements of Rotary and be in alignment with the four Rotary Strategic Priorities. Extra points for style and innovation! The sky is the limit for how creative these committees can be. Each proposal will be presented to a panel of unique TBA Rotary Judges. End result: every district in Big West will reap the benefit of these talented Think Tank members. After you register you will receive further preparation information.

**Rotary Youth Program Insights and Best Practices:** Friday 2-4 PM

Have you wondered how the youth programs in other Rotary districts are successfully created, managed and run? Learn about a Zone level center for collaboratively sharing information about managing, sustaining, and innovating youth programs. Our goal is to create a strong network of youth program advocates. This presentation will be facilitated by experienced Rotary youth program leaders. Join us for a lively discussion of Interact, RYLA, and RYE. You will be able to participate in a breakout session focusing on your specific area of interest.

**Staying Engaged:** Friday 7 PM

COVID-19 has presented us with challenges that we are all navigating together. How can we ensure club members are supported through challenges they may face in the wake and aftermath of the virus? This session will explore new age approaches to sustain active engagement for current Rotarians and Rotaractors and will present strategies to expand membership.