



AG Pat Wolfram

Central Valley North Update

Central Valley North leaned into this new year with enthusiasm, a steady hand, partnerships old and new, and a lot of fellowship and fun. Our clubs reside in the north Willamette Valley southwest of Portland in Newberg (two clubs), Sherwood, Tualatin, and Wilsonville. Following are the highlights from the club presidents. Folks, these clubs are on FIRE.

Newberg Early Birds (yup, they meet at 7:00 am) kicked things off with their annual Summerfest and partnered with the Newberg (meets at noon) club to host the pancake breakfast there. Both Summerfest and the pancake feed raise funds for the club's programs and have become staples of the Newberg community calendar.

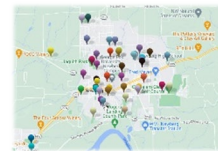


These two Newberg clubs have mastered international service. Since 2004 (except for COVID years) Newberg has provided service to small villages in Guatemala; providing dental work, medical care, water purification, construction, and electrical work; all in partnership with the Antigua Rotary Club of Guatemala. This last year Newberg also contributed to Nepal Emergency Services and 911-EMS system, sending Kenyan kids to school, and sending a nurse to Poland to help with the Ukraine refugee crisis.

In September the Newberg Early Birds, in partnership with the Sherwood club, renewed their yearly trip to La Plata, Columbia where they provide health and safety improvements. In two weeks, both clubs are attending the Wilsonville lunch as program speakers to share that experience.

The clubs report that their student exchange program is "on fire", with 4 inbound and 4 outbound this year and having recently selected next year's students for 3 inbound and 3 outbound.

You can't talk about the Rotary clubs in Newberg without mentioning peace poles. In 2017, these two clubs installed over 50 peace poles in what was at the time the largest single undertaking of peace pole installations in the world. Just look at this map. Each pushpin is a peace pole. Wow! You can see the installations today on [walking tours](#) around town.



Tualatin has sprinted into the new year planning their [5K Regatta Run](#) and are on target to raise over \$45,000 for their scholarships. This, in only their second year hosting the event. Come support them and walk/run/watch on Sun., Oct 16, at 9:00 am.

This Tualatin club has put together a unique scholarship program for prospective first-generation college students that includes early selection (kids are juniors) and Rotarian mentorship that runs through the remainder of high school and throughout the college years. See more in this [heart-touching video](#) of the program.

In July, the Tualatin club traveled to Wilsonville for their "5th Wednesday" social at the Wilsonville Rotary summer concert, dancing up a storm, enjoying fellowship, and contributing to the Wilsonville club's End-Polio-Now effort.

Tualatin proudly lays claim to the best lunches in the district. Well, I've been there...uh, twice now. And yah, it's really good.

Sherwood leaned into the new year with a brand-new fundraising event. That's flexibility, and gutsy. Their Wine Festival was a rousing success – raising over \$11,000 for their foundation.



The Sherwood club also teamed up with Newberg Early Birds in an international service trip to La Plata, Columbia in September.

Coming up, Sherwood has partnered with their local Panera Bread restaurant to pledge 20% of their October 27 proceeds to the Sherwood Rotary Foundation. We're encouraging Rotarians from the region to flood the place that night – a bit like a Rotary flash mob. Wish us luck. Heck, join us -- it'll be fun!

Wilsonville danced into the year with their annual summer concert series. All donations collected at the four concerts go toward Wilsonville's "End Polio Now" fund.



To regain momentum post COVID, Wilsonville began reestablishing partnerships with other service organizations they've done projects with in the past; including Habitat for Humanity, The Family Empowerment Center (provides needy school children with school supplies, clothing, and food), Boys and Girl's Aid (Oregon's foster children program), and Wilsonville Community Seniors. These partnerships renew the club's "Rotarians boots on the ground" community service, extended their reach and broadened our impact.

As long as we're talking about extending reach, the Wilsonville Interact club is up to 21 students this year – in only the third year. And this club is leaning in...you'll be hearing about them more this year. 😊

The big lift by Wilsonville so far this year was the post-COVID renewal of TACE (Through A Child's Eyes). In 2001, the state of Oregon opened Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, becoming the only women's prison in the state. That same year, the Wilsonville Rotary Club, in partnership with Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) created a unique "inside the walls" mother/child bonding event. The TACE program has achieved national acclaim for its positive impact on recidivism. It was suspended for two years due to COVID, but it's back in a modified form due to the diligent and creative effort of Rotarians and DOC employees. Hear more about it here in [this excellent video](#).

There is more to say. These highlights are just a glimpse of the good things being done around here.