



Group Study Exchange



January 16 - February 18, 2008
District 5470 to District 3150
Colorado, USA to
Andhra Pradesh, India



Jan Williams
District 5470
Governor
2007-08

Greetings to our Many Rotary Friends in District 3150, I am so pleased to be the District Governor during this year's Group Study Exchange.

Our District 5470, which covers most of the State of Colorado, USA has a long Rotary history with District 3150 in the form of many World Community Service Projects.

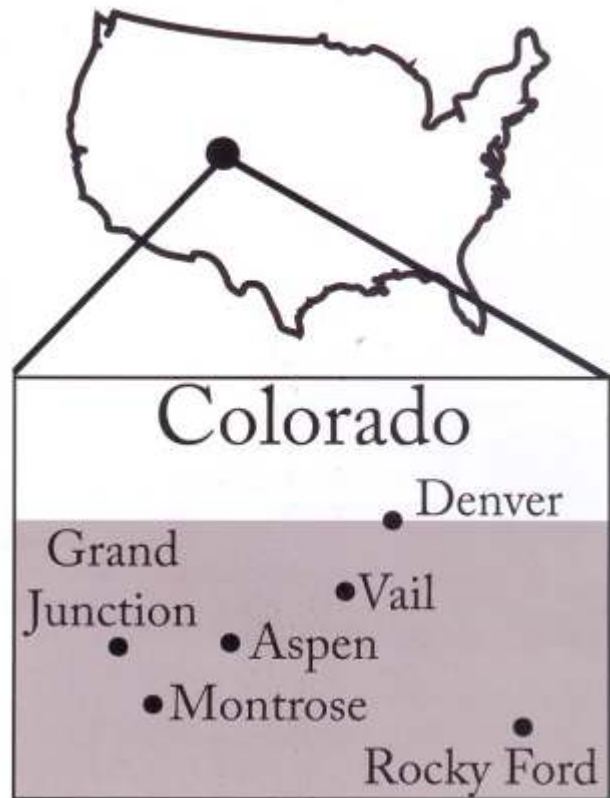
I have had the pleasure of meeting and becoming friends with the committed leaders in your District, from 2007-08 District Governor Tamanam Vijendra rao, to District Governor Elect Babu and Past District Governor Ravi Vadlamani.

The purpose of the Group Study Exchange, in addition to giving young professionals a chance to study another country's institutions and ways of life, is to further the understanding of our cultures and make new friends around the world. I am most pleased that our District's team is being led by Rotarian Dennis Devor, who is one of the finest Rotarians I have ever met. Also, personally, I am very proud to be sending you this particular GSE Team.

The Team Members are most sincere in their desire to meet other professionals who work in their vocations, as well as having this once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the wonderful, rich culture of India.

We know this Exchange will bring our Districts even closer together and will further the opportunity to build better friendships and promote world understanding and peace.

With Warmest Regards,
Jan Williams
District 5470 Governor 2007-08



About District 5470

Rotary District 5470 occupies roughly the southern 2/3 of the state of Colorado, in the western USA. Colorado is often thought of as the "mountain state." It has the highest average elevation of any state in the nation, containing 54 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet high (4,267 meters).

Outdoor recreation and tourism are major industries. Manufacturing is also important in the state, as well as agriculture. The latter dominates the eastern part of the state, which is quite flat in contrast to the mountains to the west.

Colorado's population is approaching 5 million, most of which is concentrated in a few larger cities. The people of Colorado are generally known for their warm, casual friendliness and relaxed pace of life.

Dennis Devor ~ Montrose Rotary Club ddevor@qwest.net Team Leader



Born and raised in Montrose, Colorado, U.S.A., Dennis graduated with a degree in Business and Finance and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He continued his schooling at Pepperdine University in Malibu,

California where he studied law. Dennis has worked as an attorney for the past 31 years in the fields of banking and corporate law, and for the past 16 years in private practice specializing in real estate, estate planning, wills and trusts, and mediation. He also has taught management and leadership classes to college students.

As a Rotarian for 26 years and past president of the local Rotary Club, Dennis has coordinated the fund raising for numerous

Troy Rivera ~ Rocky Ford troyrivera@bresnan.net



Troy lives in Rocky Ford, Colorado, on the southeastern plains of Colorado. He attended Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado and received his Associate of Arts degree. He then studied at the University of Southern Colorado and obtained his degree in Mass Communication with an emphasis of Radio Broadcasting. Troy

originally wanted to work in the radio broadcasting business; however, his life took another course. He went back to college and studied education and received his teacher certification. He has taught 1st and 4th grades and is currently teaching 9th grade English. He is also the debate teacher/coach and theater arts director for his current school. The interesting part is Troy teaches at the high school from which he graduated and with instructors who taught him. He also teaches English Composition classes part-time at Otero Junior College. According to Troy, "Teaching is my passion!" Troy has received his Master's degree in Education from Walden University and is currently working on his doctorate in Education.

"It is better to try something once and fail, then not to try at all." This is the motto Troy lives by. He loves to try new and interesting things. A risk taker and challenger are what make Troy fun. He loves spending time with his family. He loves to surround himself with numerous friends and isn't afraid to make many more friends. Laughing is Troy's interesting characteristic. Hobbies that he enjoys and partakes in are golf, fishing, camping, reading, watching sports and many cinema pictures, and listening to music of all kinds.

Troy shares with his community in many ways. He has served on the local city council for two years. He is willing to go beyond the call of duty to help and volunteer.

Amanda Crysler ~ Grand Junction amanda@travelingamanda.com



Amanda has worked for Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell in Washington, D.C., the United States' capitol, and moved to Grand Junction, Colorado in 2004 to continue her work for the Senator at the local level. Following the Senator's retirement, Amanda has continued to remain active in the community by taking

a position with the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, a private, non-profit economic development firm that focuses its efforts on the relocation and expansion of businesses to provide quality jobs to the people of Mesa County. Additionally, Amanda is very excited to be vice president of the newly formed Rotaract Club of Grand Junction, a position she takes very seriously.

A native of Camden, Maine, Amanda loves the outdoor lifestyle, which was one of the major reasons she was attracted to the state of Colorado. Though most of Amanda's family lives in the eastern part of the United States, she has had the chance to get to know extended family living all over the Western Slope of Colorado. Hearing how much she loves living in Colorado, her younger sister, Amelia, followed and now lives with Amanda in her home with Amanda's two cats, Ellie and Izzie.

Amanda graduated in the year 2000 with a degree in History from the University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland. While a student at the University, Amanda had the opportunity to study in Rome, Italy, an experience that changed her life. While living abroad, Amanda developed a thirst for knowledge of new and different cultures and has since yearned to travel the world. Though she has had the chance to travel to many European countries, this will mark Amanda's first trip to the continent of Asia.

community projects, including the planning of the current senior and community center known as The Pavilion. The success of this project can be attributed to the involvement and contributions of many local Rotarians. Dennis has previously served as an assistant to the District Governor of Rotary District 5470. He is president of the Montrose Education Foundation and is treasurer of the local Salvation Army, an organization that provides emergency assistance in times of crisis. He is passionate about helping others.

Michael Celesta ~ Vail
MichaelCelesta@hotmail.com



Michael Celesta graduated from the University of Montana where he studied Organizational Communications and Philosophy. While a student, Michael started his own business as sole proprietor of Mike's Ice Cream. He is also a certified real estate agent.

Over the past five years, Michael has worked on new media ventures. He started with marketing and advertising for Centex Homes in Dallas, Texas. In 2004, Michael relocated outside of the United States to Toronto, Canada to work for an alternative outdoor advertising firm, Outdoor Partner Media, where he developed marketing programs for a new emerging market in street furniture advertising. He also managed the sales efforts and assisted the company in going public on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Recently, Michael moved back to the United States to work for Colorado Mountain News Media to assist in new business ventures. Colorado Mountain News Media owns a conglomerate of newspapers throughout western Colorado and his primary role is to test the feasibility of rolling out new niche publications within the organization.

A Colorado native, Michael loves the outdoors and traveling. He enjoys skiing, biking, camping, fishing and general outdoor recreational activities. He is also an adventurer, explorer, traveler, challenger, and loves to live life to the fullest. He values his family and friends above all.



GSE

Participating in outdoor activities is another passion. Dennis especially enjoys hiking, sea kayaking, mountain biking, camping, and mountain climbing.

Dennis and his wife Kathy have been married for 28 years and have two children who are currently studying for post-graduate degrees. He and his family enjoy traveling inside and outside of the United States. One of Dennis' goals is to visit all seven continents to broaden his understanding of the world.

Amy Capron ~ Aspen
amy_capron@hotmail.com



Amy is a landscape architect and urban planner as well as an outdoor adventurer. Originally from New York, Amy received a degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and promptly moved west to Colorado. She works for a small company as a licensed landscape architect, doing both

small-scale residential projects and larger scale urban design. She has worked on projects involving new community and estate planning, as well as golf course and resort development. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

In addition to her profession, Amy is an elected official to her local Town Board. She serves with five other members and a mayor as liaisons between the community and government. The Town Board is responsible for final decisions on town matters such as the yearly budget, land use and development applications, and community support.

As a member of her community, she has been involved in volunteering with the English as a Second Language program, Food and Wine Magazine's "Aspen Classic," and board chair of Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, a local non-profit organization whose mission is promoting stewardship on public lands through trail and environmental projects. She is an alumnus of the Roaring Fork Leadership Program and participates in various landscape and design conferences. When she is not drawing up plans in the office or on site overseeing construction and installations, she can be found scaling mountain peaks, fording streams, and crashing through the forest at all hours of the night and day.



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What is a Group Study Exchange?

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange designed to build bridges of friendship between nations. GSE teams are young business and professional men and women in the initial years of their careers. They act as "Ambassadors of Goodwill" to promote understanding and peaceful relations among diverse peoples of the world. The program also develops the professional and leadership skills of team members to better prepare them to address the needs of their communities and an increasingly global workplace.

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