

## MESA WEST ROTARY BIO – DON BOUCHER – MAY 30, 2019

Don was born in Providence, RI and grew up Woonsocket, RI – an old French mill town along the Blackstone river. He's the oldest of six children and was raised in a single parent home on public assistance (welfare).

At age 20, Don moved to Southern California to pursue a career in law enforcement. At age 22, he was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He was medically retired from the department in 1996, a result of on-duty cervical and lumbar injuries.

During his 14-year career, he worked Custody at the Men's Central Jail, Patrol at Lennox Station (South Central LA), West Hollywood Station (a 5 month on-loan assignment) and Lancaster Sheriff's station. During his time in patrol he was also assigned as a Field Training Officer and a PR-24 Side Handle Baton Instructor.

In 1989, he was assigned as a Station Gang Detective and in 1990, he was promoted and assigned to the position of Narcotics Detective. During his assignment with the Narcotics Bureau, he also worked special assignments as a member of the department's Marijuana Eradication Team and as a member of the Tactical Response Force, a specialized response team created after the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The Tactical Response Force was made up of members from the Special Enforcement Bureau (SWAT), Operations Safe Streets (Gang Detectives) and Narcotics Bureau Detectives.

During his 14-year career, Don received dozens of citations and commendations for his investigative skills and law enforcement actions from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, The California State Treasurer and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Don is also a recipient of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's highest honor, The Medal of Valor. He received this award for his participation in the rescue of his partner during a Narcotics search warrant and gun battle with two armed suspects.

After retirement from the department, Don returned to school and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the California State University, San Bernardino. He graduated with honors and was inducted into the International Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi – an organization recognizing those students who've graduated in the top 10% of their class.

Since 2000, Don has worked in the financial services industry as a Financial Advisor.