

Rotary
Club of La Jolla
Golden Triangle



40th

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
MAY 15 , 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



DAVID CHONG
Club President, 2025–2026

Welcome back to all our members — from across the county and across the country — who have gathered to celebrate our 40 Most Dynamic Years!

Today we are especially honored to welcome back twelve of our thirty-three original founders. Together, they built something extraordinary from nothing - a free-spirited

breakfast club that became a force for good stretching across San Diego, across the nation, and around the globe.

Thank you for the foundation you laid. The projects we have completed, the lives we have touched, the members we have inspired - all of it traces back to your vision and maverick enthusiasm.

To our returning former members, thank you for the energy you infused into our club during your time with us. We would be honored to welcome you back into the fold.

We hope all of you visiting today will be proud of your legacy. In our program today, we hope you will see how our club has continued to grow community leaders and mentors who thrive by serving others, here in San Diego and around the world.

Thank you to our charter members for getting us started. Thank you to our long-time members for sustaining our momentum. Thank you to our newer members for investing fresh energy and faith in what our Rotary community is becoming.

And thank you all for being here today.

40 YEARS.



100s OF MEMBERS.



1,000s OF HOURS.



1,000,000s OF DOLLARS.



ALL TO HELP OTHERS.

CHARTER MEMBERS HERE TODAY

YOUR VISION ENDURES



WE ASKED OUR FOUNDERS

DEWEY MCDOWELL 1st President, 1986 – 1987



Late October, 1984 and the moving van was moving — to San Diego after having spent 40 years in the cold, windy plains of South Dakota. Leaving high school, college, and professional friends. In San Diego, I sought out my only Rotary contact, an established dermatologist originally from my hometown. Before making a Rotary club selection, he cautioned me to seek out his Rotary friend who was on the district board. I did and that person informed me that there was a need for a new club in north San Diego.

A new club and 32 new Rotary friends!!!!

TED OWEN 2nd President, 1987–1988



The GTR allowed me to meet an incredible group of businessmen and women who could help the region grow and prosper into a city-wide economic leader.

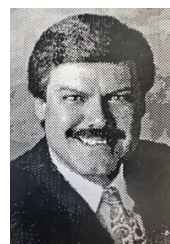
I never imagined when I worked with other founding members that the membership would be such a dynamic group of men and women. We were one of the first Clubs to recruit and welcome a woman member into an all-male civic group. Jan Percival was, and continues to be, a dynamic Rotarian. She has made Rotary a major part of her life.

On the male side we have Steve Brown, who is one of the most dynamic GTR members in the Club's history. He is known as one of the national and international members that show what Rotary can do.

Steve and Jan are what GTR is all about. And it is knowing people like that over the years is how Rotary changed my life.

HOW DID ROTARY CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

REINT REINDERS 3rd President, 1988 –1989



I was contacted by the President of the Torrey Pines lunch club, which met on Tuesdays at noon at the Sheraton down the street. He suggested they move to the Marriott after opening. I was not enthused about that idea and kept him at bay for several months. One day, in walks Dewey McDowell, and the rest is history. We started a new club at breakfast in the Marriott.

Many businesspeople from the area joined the club, most of first-time Rotarians. I was privileged to become the 3rd president in 1988, and the experience was a special time as we were able to begin several projects locally and internationally. I consider Rotary special in my life, observing so many wonderful projects over the years. On a personal level, though no longer involved with Rotary, it resulted in lifelong friendships and relationships. Everyone involved with Rotary becomes a better person, friend, and community leader.

I was appointed General Manager of the La Jolla Marriott in July 1985. I had no idea what Rotary was and had never been exposed to it

DAN MITROVICH 4th President, 1989 –1990



In the words of the late Phil Goodlove:
"The Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World."

First let me salute our first female members: Jan Percival, Dr. Sim Tan and Ellen Bryson.

Being part of the founders, it is a pleasure that I have this opportunity to attend the 40-year celebration in La Jolla. I had no idea at the time that Rotary would be part of my life for the next forty years — and yes, it has made my life better!

After leaving La Jolla I joined the Beverly Hills Rotary club and currently belong to the Washington DC Rotary club in our Nation's Capital.

Rotary brought me many friends that to this day I still celebrate. People like Michael Crom, Bob Fouts, Eric Freeberg, Ted Owen, Reint Reinders, Jan Percival, Sara Katz, Dianne Day, Dr. David Tansey, Linda Stouffer, Steve Brown, Dr. Keith Jeffers, Dr. Dennis Bucko, Mike Bardin, Beverly (Bachman) Fritscher and of course, Dr. Wayne Sanders and Romik Kesian and the late Bruce Geier and Frank McGrath.

WE ASKED OUR FOUNDERS

STEVE BROWN 5th President, 1990 –1991



In 1985 my law firm considered opening a branch office in the UTC area. I was asked to help. Our team explored office locations. I met with Ted Owen, head of the Chamber's UTC office and represented my firm in the Golden Triangle Marketing Consortium.

When the opportunity was presented to help form a Rotary Club, this offered a networking opportunity. I had no interest in public service. Rotary simply presented a way to get to know businesses in the Golden Triangle area from the ground floor up. I had no idea how Rotary would shape my life ever after.

PETE GRIFFITH 7th President, 1993 –1994

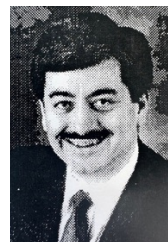


Well, Rotary has meant a great deal to me over the years! I was first invited to join the Old Mission Rotary by my dentist. In those days members could prohibit a new member who had the same occupation. Two members kept me out — so when I heard a new club was forming in the Golden Triangle, I knew I wanted in.

Since those early days, after chartering, our club has grown tremendously in action and in spirit. The times spent on projects and with fellow Rotarians have helped to shape my life. I am so grateful for my membership.

HOW DID ROTARY CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

MICHAEL BARDIN 11th President, 1996 –1997



When I said “yes” to joining the new LJGT Rotary Club I really didn't know what to expect. I learned that I had joined a new way of life.

Rotary is more than a “service club”. Rotary is an incredible resource that can positively change your life. It changed mine. Service Above Self is more than Rotary's slogan. It prompts a way of life. It guides your thinking, encourages learning, and inspires good work throughout the world.

The LJGT Rotary Club opened the door for me to all that Rotary International represents. My perspective grew. The fellowship brought new friends and built new networks and opportunities. When I attended my first Rotary International Convention the scope blew me away. Rotary became a new window to the world. If you haven't attended a Rotary Convention, I recommend it.

WE ASKED OUR FOUNDERS

ERIC FREEBERG **Founder**



After 40 years of Rotary meetings, I have learned that being part of a community of like-minded people who gather not for personal gain but because they believe in the Rotary Motto of Service Above Self is a powerful and impactful way to live. These 40 years have also offered me solace from the angry ill-mannered modern society we now live in and has brought me great joy to be a small part of the good works of the Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World!

Finally, I have learned that as we get older it is not wise to resist change because change is inevitable, but growth is optional.

CRAIG CLARK **Founder**



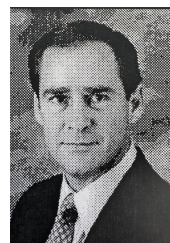
When I left the active Navy in 1960 and immersed myself in the commercial real estate business, my band of friends was sort of limited to one industry.

Rotary introduced me to many different groups of people and a better understanding of how different professions become an integral part of what makes up the character of San Diego. Charity projects, whether in Mexico, San Diego or the world became a new part of my vocabulary. This better world view certainly gives a new perspective of how lucky we are to be

American citizens living in one of the nicer places in the world. On the personal side it gives one a better opportunity to have friends and possible clients in other lines of work.

HOW DID ROTARY CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

BOB ROHRBACH **Founder**



After a few months in the La Jolla Rotary Club, I found the luncheon meetings often conflicted with my business schedule. When I told the president I was leaving Rotary he suggested I speak with Reint Reinders, the La Jolla Marriott's general manager, who was launching a morning club. One conversation with Reint, a very persuasive, polished, and impressive man; I joined on the spot.

Surrounded by accomplished business owners and senior executives, I had found my people. We spoke the same language and shared hard-won knowledge freely. I started a business with David Tansey, and Wayne Sanders officiated at my wedding to my wife of 32 years. Yes, I believe this Most Dynamic Rotary Club changed and enriched my life.

DR. DAVID TANSEY **Founder**



It has given me a place to go every Friday (now every first and third Friday) to meet people and learn things I did not know.

Without it, I would not have done any of that.

I was chair of the International Service Committee for two years until Steve Brown took it over. I served again for two years chairing the Peace Committee when my memory failures made it no longer possible to continue.

Now I read the monthly magazine Rotary puts out and see what it continues to do all over the World.

FOUNDERS JUNE 16, 1986

Gary R. Aptaker	Keith Greenberg	John Anthony Muller
Michael D. Bardin	Pete W. Griffith	Ted Owen
Stephan R. Brown	Peter M. Harris	John B. Olson
William K. Busch	Richard M. Kipperman	Will Phillips
Craig W. Clark	Charles P. LeBeau	Reint Reinders
Richard Engelberg	Jerry Luchsinger	Otto E. Sorenson
Robert M. Fouts	Robert J. McDowell	John L. Stephan
Eric O. Freeberg	Donald McGrath II	David Tansey
Bruce A. Geier	Frank McGrath	Steve A. Terris
Donald H. Glaser	Daniel S. Mitrovich	James E. Schneider
Philip C. Goodlove	Rick Mohn	Bob Rohrbach

HONORING A GLOBAL LEADER

STEPHEN BROWN

Trustee Rotary International Foundation (2010 — 2014)

One of just 15 trustees worldwide.

SALUTING OUR DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Four members of our club have been elevated to the position of District Governor.

1995–1996	Stephen Brown
2004–2005	Sandi Rimer, <i>First woman to hold this position in district 5340</i>
2008–2009	Pamela Russell
2014–2015	Louise Andres

SALUTING PAST LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENTS

1986–1987	Dewey McDowell	2006–2007	Dale Barnes
1987–1988	Ted Owens	2007–2008	Jay Hatfield
1988–1989	Reint Reinders	2008–2009	Linda Stouffer
1989–1990	Dan Mitrovich	2009–2010	Louise Andres
1990–1991	Steve Brown	2010–2011	Dory Beatrice-Griffith
1991–1992	Ron Phillips	2011–2012	Romik Kesian
1992–1993	Bobby Foushee	2012–2013	Susan Schwarz
1993–1994	Pete Griffith	2013–2014	Brett Morey
1994–1995	Bill Radcliffe	2014–2015	Ron Kohl
1995–1996	Carl Lower	2015–2016	Beverly Fritschner
1996–1997	Mike Bardin	2016–2017	Antonio Grillo-Lopez
1997–1998	Bob Vaughn	2017–2018	Alex Monroe
1998–1999	Mil Phillips	2018–2019	Rick Binder
1999–2000	Rick Clark	2019–2020	Kim Schafer
2000–2001	Bonnie Brunner	2020–2021	Emidio del Conte
2001–2002	Jim Davies	2021–2022	Jacquie Reilly
2002–2003	Don Hoover	2022–2023	Nancy Gatschet
2003–2004	Pam Russell	2023–2024	Christy White Brook
2004–2005	Mike Schwarz	2024–2025	Luke Ervin
2005–2006	Cynthia Willis	2025–2026	David Chong

PEACEMAKING IS THE FOUNDATION

In today's program we highlight the good work of all Avenues of Service: Community Service, Youth Service, International Service, and Club Service.

The foundation of all of these good works is Rotary's commitment to peacemaking.

think....

- Rotary Model UN
- Scholarships for international graduate students in the Master's Program at USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies
- Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship (SURF)
- Polio Plus
- Central Asia water scholars addressing challenges facing countries sharing the Aral Sea Basin
- Life-changing surgeries in Baja through Thousand Smiles and Mercy Outreacch Surgical Teams
- Blind Bake Cafes for visually impaired women in New Delhi
- Cervical cancer diagnosis & training, coordinated in Israel, Turkey, Afghanistan and the USA
- Our enduring support of Sister Cities International has helped forge and maintain 16 global partnerships for San Diego.

... and dozens of others

***With thanks to LJGT Rotary's Peace Committee:
Michael Bardin, Janine Pak, Stephen Tako,
Dr. David Tansey, and Dr. Cynthia Villis.***

SALUTING ROTARY PEACEMAKERS

PEACE ISN'T JUST A ROTARY IDEAL —
FOR LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY,



IT'S A 40-YEAR TRACK RECORD.



DR. CYNTHIA VILLIS
First Peacemaker of the Year

2026 PEACEMAKERS

BONNIE AND KRISHNA ARORA

Bonnie and Krishna Arora truly exemplify ***Service Above Self*** as a way of life. They have spent 25 years creating peaceful and hope-filled environments for some of the world's most vulnerable communities - people with disabilities, special needs children, rural descendants of the Incas in Peru, slum dwellers, rag pickers, HIV-positive children, and first-generation college students from low-income families.

Wherever people were left behind—the Aroras showed up and got to work!



ROTARY LEADERSHIP

Francesco Arezzo, RI President 2025-26

Luis R. Carranza, District 5340 Governor 2025-26

CLUB LEADERSHIP 2025–2026

OFFICERS

David Chong, President

Luke Ervin, Former President

Timothy Fronczek, President Elect

Christie White Brook, Vice President

Sharon Council, Treasurer

Lisa Galstian, Secretary

Alex Monroe, Club Foundation Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bonnie Arora

C. Dennis Bucko

Jim Davies

Melanie Geschwind

Jan Percival-Lipscomb

Michael McQuary

Erik Mjoen

Samson Tse

Stephen Tako

IN MEMORIAM, NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

Steuart Brown, Charter Member

Bonnie Brunner, President 2000—01

Diane Burch

Wayne Cusick, Honorary Member, RI Service Above Self award,
Founder of Paul Harris Society, PDG,
President Rotary Club of Blythe

Emilio Del Conte, President 2020—21

Jack Dodds, Chair of International Service Committee

Tom Elliott

Dick Engelberg, Charter Member, Treasurer

Bobby Foushee, President 1992—93

Bruce Geier, Charter Member

Phillip Goodlove, Charter Member,
originator, *The Most Dynamic Rotary Club in the World*

Kenneth Greene

Joe Howell

Dennis Jacobs, Chair of Community Service Committee, Finemaster

Dick Kipperman

Carl Lower, President 1995—96

George Mannschreck, President of the Rotary Club of Pasadena East

Harry Mathis

Frank McGrath, Charter Member, First Chairman of International
Service Committee

John Peak

Mil Phillips, President 1998—99

Bill Radcliffe, President 1994—95

Laurel Rainwater

Michael Schwarz, President 2004—05

John Stephan, Charter Member

Anne Wille

Jim Wilson, Charter Member

40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Sandi Rimer, Past District Governor (2004-2005), Chair

Jan Percival-Lipscomb, Co-Chair

Steve Brown, Rick Clark & Rich Papike, Program Team

Rich Papike, Master of Ceremonies

Tim Fronczek, Executive Producer

Dianne Day, Doug Deer, Ellen Bryson, Matt Browne & Pam Davies,
Logistics Team

Tim Fronczek & Maria Renteria, Audio Visual Team

Christy White Brook & Sharon Council, Logistics / Behind the Scenes

Paul Nestor, San Diego Rotary, Photography

40TH ANNIVERSARY PLAY LIST

SHARING OUR FAVORITE FRIENDSHIP SONGS

Lovely Day - *Bill Withers*

Thank You for Being a Friend - *Andrew Gold*

Count on Me - *Bruno Mars*

That's What Friends Are For - *Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Gladys Knight
& Stevie Wonder*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATION AND
GENEROSITY.



BECAUSE OF YOU, LIVES
HAVE BEEN CHANGED
FOREVER.

