

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 23 2026



BEN MEYER SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) FBI SAN DIEGO'S CRIMINAL CYBER SQUAD SUPERVISOR



RI President 2025-26
FRANCESCO AREZZO

District 5340 Governor 2025-26
LUIS R. CARRANZA

LJGT Rotary President 2025-26
DAVID CHONG



THE FBI'S CYBER PROGRAM AND CURRENT CYBER THREAT LANDSCAPE

AOS MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

1st Friday of the Month.....Community Services Committee
(follows club meeting)

2nd Friday of the Month..... International Services Committee
(follows club meeting)

3rd Friday of the Month..... Youth Services Committee
(follows club meeting)

4th Friday of the Month.....Peace Committee
(follows club meeting)



SSA Ben Meyer is the Supervisory Special Agent over FBI San Diego's Criminal Cyber Squad. His team investigates complex computer intrusions conducted by financially-motivated threat actors; to include ransomware, proxy services/botnets, data theft/extortion, cyber-criminal marketplaces, etc. He began his FBI career at the San Diego Field Office in 2010 and has also investigated Counterterrorism matters, Civil Rights violations, Hate Crimes, and Internet Crimes Against Children. From 2022-2023, he served as an FBI Cyber Division Liaison Officer to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and has a Master of Engineering Degree in Cybersecurity Analytics from George Washington University.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

FEBRUARY - SPEAKER

6.....Win Cox

20.....Sheriff Kelly Martinez

President David welcomes Rotarians and guests to the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, emphasizing the club's dynamism and the pace of change in technology.

Our Rotarian of the Day, **Tony Grillo**, leads a blessing, asking for divine guidance through uncertainties, then leads the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tony keeps his 7-year streak alive as the first Rotarian of the Day to start the new year for our club!

He provided updates on Rotary projects, including those led by Jim Davies and Ron Kohl. He discussed the status of Malahat, with a potential buyer who plans to keep the Malahat brand alive.

Tony shared personal updates, mentioning his family's move for a home renovation, and celebrations, including his mother-in-law's and father's 90th birthdays, and their 70th wedding anniversary. He described family time spent in Carmel, New York, and Vermont, including a trip to Mount Washington and a visit to Ben and Jerry's graveyard of flavors.

Tony talked about his racing activities, including races at Sonoma, Willow Springs, and Nevada, and a Formula One race in Texas. He concluded by encouraging others to spend time on their passions and with loved ones, emphasizing quality over quantity.

Jay Hatfield introduced guests, including **Jessica Eskew**, **Kevin Carlson** (*long time club member who now resides in Kauai*), **Stefania** and **Zach** from UCSD Rotaract.

President David announced parking issues and thanked **Brett** for directing parking and **Christie** for arranging parking for those unable to register online. He discussed the new meeting schedule, aiming to pack more into each meeting and adjusting to the early meeting time. He then

acknowledged January birthdays and anniversaries, including long-time club members Diane Day, Rick Clark, Brett Morey, and Jean McGrath.

Zach, from UCSD Rotaract, discussed the WAPI (Water Pasteurization Indicators) project, highlighting its impact and the goal of making 1,000 WAPI devices this year. He explained the WAPI project's history, its purpose, and its distribution to areas in need, including Darfur refugees in eastern Chad. He provided information on registration and logistics for the WAPI project, encouraging participation on Sunday, January 25th. The club donates \$1,000 to the WAPI project, and Zach thanks the club for its support.

Jan Percival introduced the Rotary Breakfast Bunch, a new approach to maintaining connections within the club through small group gatherings coordinated by **Dory Beatrice**. These will be held on the Friday mornings we do not meet. She also discussed upcoming programs, including a tour of the Jacobs Music Center, a talk on cyber threats by the FBI, and a discussion on microfinance by a local founder. She is excited about a future talk on autonomous vehicles by Norm Miller from USD.

Michael Slentz and **Carolyn Fritz** conduct the induction of new member **Tracy Rader**, highlighting her qualities and the spirit of Rotary. Tracy received her red badge and was pinned by her sponsor, **Lori Bende**, and the club welcomed her as the newest Rotarian in our club and in the world! They then presented **Dan Kisner** with a blue badge, thanking him for his active participation and contributions to the club.

The club engaged in high fives, recognizing various achievements and milestones, including family milestones, business successes, and community contributions.

Jan Percival then introduced **Eduardo Velasquez**, Vice President at the Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who provided an economic outlook for 2026.

Eduardo explains the EDC's role in promoting economic growth and supporting businesses in San Diego. He discussed the challenges and opportunities in the local economy, including job growth, AI impact, and housing affordability. He highlights the importance of defense technology, clean energy, and AI in driving job growth and economic development in San Diego.

He was asked about the challenges of working with reactive government bodies and the need for proactive thinking. Eduardo responded by discussing the EDC's engagement with state and local government to streamline processes and support economic growth.

He was asked about the 75,000 new households' goal he shared in his presentation, and Eduardo clarified that it aims to increase the number of thriving households in San Diego.

He was asked about the impact of AI on job markets, and Eduardo explained the over-investment and correction in the technology sector.

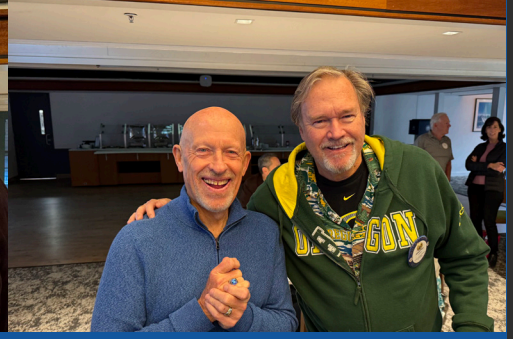
President David thanks Eduardo for his presentation and makes a donation to Oasis San Diego, emphasizing the importance of community service and service above self. Community Service Committee is meeting directly after this meeting. Meeting adjourned.

~Reporter

Jay R. Hatfield



PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING




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La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2025 - 2026

- PRESIDENT David Chong
- VICE PRESIDENT Christy White Brook
- PRESIDENT ELECT (2026-27) Timothy Fronczek
- TREASURER Sharon Council
- SECRETARY Lisa Galstian
- PAST-PRESIDENT Luke Ervin

ROTARIAN OF THE DAY



ALEX MONROE

For the last 15 years, my life has been shaped by three constants. They're the things I keep coming back to, the things that keep me grounded, and the things that get most of my time and energy.

Those three things are family, work, and Rotary.

Family is my center. It's where I'm challenged, stretched, humbled, and reminded daily of my WHY. No matter how busy life gets, family is what brings me back to what actually matters.

Work is where I get to do what I enjoy while helping others make sense of important decisions. I find real purpose in being useful, showing up with integrity, and helping people move forward with clarity and confidence.

Rotary is where service and community come together. It's a place filled with people who care, who act, and who believe that small, consistent efforts can make a real difference. Rotary has given me friendships, perspective, and countless reminders of how powerful service can be when it's done together.

What I've realized over time is that these three things all have one important thing in common: they're all about being in service of others. That's my calling. Whether it's at home, at work, or through Rotary, I'm at my best when I'm helping, supporting, and contributing.

I'm deeply devoted to these three parts of my life, and I've learned that trying to do much more than that usually comes at a cost. Keeping my focus on family, work, and Rotary allows me to stay present, grounded, and connected to what gives my life meaning.



FEBRUARY 2026

February 6 - Matt Browne

February 20 - Luke Ervin



Ellen BRYSON

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NETWORKING EVENT
— ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME & NETWORK —
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
— 6 - 9 PM —

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