

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 9 2026



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RI President 2025-26
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District 5340 Governor 2025-26
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LJGT Rotary President 2025-26
DAVID CHONG



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)



ECONOMIC TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2026

Eduardo Velasquez is the Senior Director of Research and Economic Development at San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC), a nonprofit mobilizing business, government, and civic leaders to maximize the region's economic prosperity and global competitiveness through an inclusive economic development framework that is focused on skilled workers, quality jobs, and thriving households. Eduardo leads a passionate and talented team that is responsible for tracking regional trends and providing actionable insight, as well as supporting business expansion, attraction, and retention across the region.

Prior to EDC, Eduardo worked as an Economist at Wells Fargo Bank. He earned an MA in Business Economics, as well as a Double BA in Business Economics and Law & Society from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

JANUARY - SPEAKER

23.....Ben Meyer
Cyber security

First, we need to thank **Jean McGrath** and her team for such a gracious welcome to our 15 seniors from Green Manor. Upon entering the meeting, members could see Jean's elves hard at work organizing generous gift bags and cookies as takeaway gifts for our guests.

Also, **HUGE** thanks to **Jay Hatfield** and his band, BayWolf, for entertaining us with a morning of holiday and rock & roll favorites. BayWolf, you continue to be a gift to our club and we thank you! (To follow BayWolf on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/baywolfsd>)

Rotarian of the Day **Rich Papike** started his presentation with a request for 30 seconds to send our prayers and positive intentions to those in need. His recollection of previous La Jolla Golden Triangle senior events reminded us that serving gin was probably not a great idea! Rich gave us a gun show (nice biceps dude!) and gave us a quick highlight film: a terrific move to Rancho Santa Fe, a trip down the Hudson and more hilarity and athletic conquests with his semi-athletic pals. He closed with a PSA to remind all of us of the benefits

of lifting wooden spoons and other household items. Again – nice guns, dude!

Marty zoomed in to present two amazing Students of the Month from The Preuss School UC San Diego, who gave us heartfelt expressions into their individual journeys.

Ximena Briones gave a special tribute to her father, who she described as her role model. An enthusiastic RYLA participant, Ximena was described by her teacher: "Her creativity and passion uplift and support people both inside and outside the Preuss community. She expresses herself as a videographer, photographer, and in marketing media, regularly donating her services and serving as Historian of Access Youth Academy, Multicultural Club, and Film Club. She is still endeavoring to learn multiple languages, travel, and volunteer heavily with her family's religious congregation."

Kenia Avila Ramirez, was described by her teacher: "She is a student who naturally builds community by making space for others and always wants to ensure people feel welcomed and valued. Kenia holds a variety of leadership

roles, serving as President of the Gloria Latinas Club while simultaneously managing the Boys Lacrosse Team, positions that have allowed her to develop communication and a strong sense of responsibility. Over the summer, she took part in the Sanford Burnham Prebys Intern Program where she was able to challenge herself while doing research on fruit flies."

President David kept announcements short, including:

- Today's after-meeting will be postponed until January due to the day's busy schedule.
- Next month, we will announce an earlier start time to allow for more mixing and socializing.

Green Manor resident **James Sutherland** thanked the club for its warm welcome and announced that 55-year-old Green Manor is on the verge of a much-needed renovation.

We finished the final in-person meeting of the year with more BayWolf music, dancing, merriment and conversation.

~Reporter
Jan Percival Lipscomb



PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



Rotary Holiday Party



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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**



TONY G. GRILLO

2025, what can I say, it was a long year...At times, it seemed to drag on forever and others it was much too fast. Before bringing you up to speed, let's get the basic bio out of the way specially since we have a quite a few new members.

I born in Portsmouth, Virginia at the Naval base a long time ago. Shortly thereafter, the family moved back to Puerto Rico. The Grillo family moved from Puerto Rico to Ann Arbor Michigan, just in time to complete high school there. After high school, I obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University, a Masters in Engineering from Penn State, and an MBA from Pepperdine.

As for me, I am still at Malahat Spirits (it's on life support at this time) and GrillMar Investments.

I am still enjoying cycling and car racing as much as possible. I tore my left hip labrum in October 2022 and have struggled to ride as much as I used to. I finally had the hip replaced in December (just 3 weeks ago) and am hoping to be riding outdoors by early spring. I am still racing cars and achieved a milestone of racing at COTA (circuit of the Americas) with my brother Miguel. We raced for a team that was contending for third place in the WRL national championship. While we could not get the team up into second place, we did manage to hold on to 3rd in a tough battle with 5 other contenders.

Best wishes to all for a great 2026!!



JANUARY 2026

January 23 - Alex Monroe

FEBRUARY 2026

February 6 - Matt Browne

February 20 - Luke Ervin



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