

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 20 2026



RI President 2025-26
FRANCESCO AREZZO

District 5340 Governor 2025-26
LUIS R. CARRANZA

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)



BOBBIE SMITH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN DIEGO CREW CLASSIC



53RD SAN DIEGO CREW CLASSIC
(IT'S COMING UP! MARCH 27-29)

Bobbie Smith has served as the Executive Director of the San Diego Crew Classic for seven years. The Crew Classic is one of the nation's premier rowing regattas and a cornerstone event in the San Diego sporting community. In this role, she oversees the strategic direction, operations, and long-term sustainability of an event that brings together thousands of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators each year. Under her leadership, the Crew Classic continues to expand its impact through high-level racing, support of women's and para rowing, youth access initiatives, and year-round engagement with the rowing community.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

APRIL - SPEAKER

3.....Katy McDonald
Balboa Park: San Diego's 1200-acre crown jewel (and it needs our help!)

17.....Ted Anasis
SD Airport Authority
What's New at the Airport? A lot!

MAY - SPEAKER

1.....Drew Moser, CEO
Lucy Duck Foundation

15.....LJGT Rotary Club
40th Anniversary!

Our Rotarian of the Day was **Dr. Dennis Bucko** who launched right into a no hold bared political assault on Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of Health and Human Services. In Rotary we do our best to respect each others differing views and respectfully Dennis certainly has more far qualifications on what should and should not be taught at our nations medical schools, afterall he's a well respected and retired Physician. Hopefully we can all be more mindful that those checking out our club as potential members understand that in Rotary we can always find ways to find common ground. A good place to start is acknowledging that we put food companies on notice that better health starts with what we put in our bodies as well as which vaccines we choose to utilize and what exactly is in the food we consume. I'm not going to pass having ketchup on my fries regardless of how much sugar Heinz puts in their product. My hope, tomorrow's medical experts take a more holistic approach to patient care to improve the lives of others.

Next up the introduction of guests lead by Past President **Jay Hatfield**. We had quite a crew from UCSD Rotaract and Jay was kind enough to through out a donation introducing them as Interactors...Ha, Ha! We had a number of potential members in the audience, a fellow Norway countryman of **Erik Mjoen's** and on ZOOM had **Dr. Michael McQuary**, **Stephen Tako** from Connecticut, and **Phil Morgan**.

The announcements were packed as usual lead by Past Prtesident **Dory Beatrice Griffith** who reminded us all about the upcoming Breakfast Bruchhes, High Fives from President Elect **Tim Froncek** as **Erik Mjoen** gave \$18 for the 18 Gold medals Norway won in the Winter Olympics, **Brett Morey** coughed up \$50 for the birth of their daughter Mariana Sofia and a few other Rotarians gave money including **Lori Bende** as Asher has been accepted into the Band at SDSU, go Aztecs! **Eric Freeberg** kicked in some money for Christy who is going to battle with UCSD for our parking. Past District Governor **Sandi Rimer** reminded folks about our upcoming

40th Reunion celebration May 15th and other announcements included Past President **Christy White** in regards to parking, **Bonnie Arora** on the upcoming Oasis Book Fair event, **Cami Eiskamp** thanking everyone for the support of the Humaine Society project, **Jan Percival Lipscomb** gave us a run down on upcoming speakers don't miss the talk on March 20th as the San Diego Crew Classic is on the horizon, **Garry Kachovsky** announced the Fall 2026 Ensenada project for Oct. 3-4, **Samson Tse** invited everyone to take part in the next PB&J event Sun., March 29 plus the next social on March 12, **Ellen Bryson** reminded folks about the Easter Bunny Salvation Army Basket event March 20th to benefit women in shelters, **Carolyn Fritz** invited folks to the San Elijo Lagoon Habitat project March 21 9AM to 12PM then **Carolyn** and **Michael Slentz** gave **Brett Cattell** and **Cami** some new hardware as Blue Badge members. Talk about. dynamic duo! On the Membership Drive it seems like our Rookies are kicking butt and taking names...time for the Old Farts, 12th Man and others to step up their game.

Our amazing Program Chair **Jan** introduced guest speaker, **Dr. Norm Miller** of UCSD who gave us all we need to know about Autonomous Vehicles. Dr. Miller's perspective is unique and I admit it was near to impossible for a guy who spent 12 years as an Automotive Industry manufacturrer rep and 30+ years in the Transportation Industry to sit quietly and simply listen. Then again you know this is hard for yours truly anyway, right? It's not that I object to autonomous vehicles or EV's for that matter but it is a bit far feched to think that these advanced technologies will render your internal combustion engine vehicles or classic cars useless or that eventually all of us will use autonomous vehicles and not even own a personal vehicle.

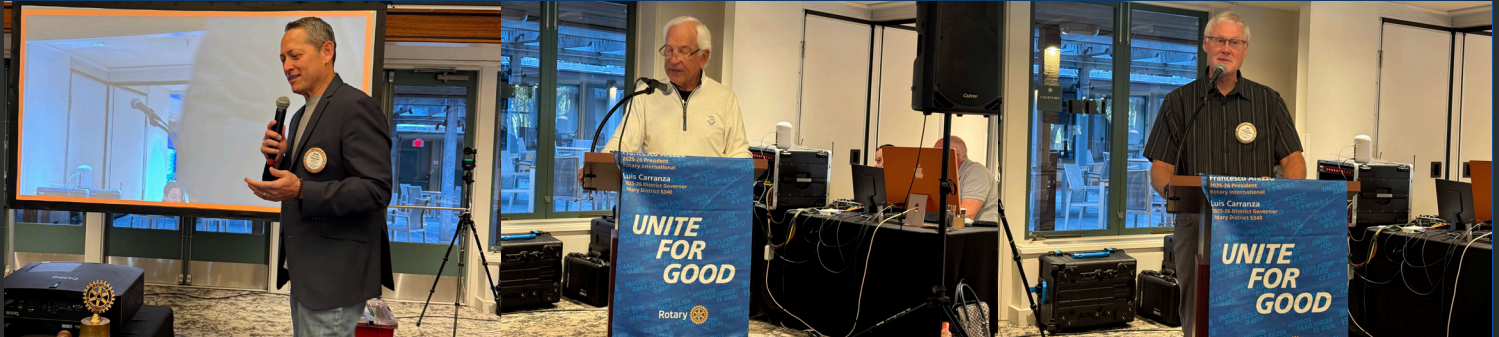
There is a massive affordability gap which could have been acknowledged in the presentation and you cannot ignore the independent spirit of the far majority of Americans. In our high density metropolitan areas like New York having your own car is a massive

financial liability and not attractive to most residents. For this reason the subway, private car service and even a Waymo is beneficial but the New York Taxi Workers Alliance is a tough bunch and has political pull. The state of New York still requires Waymo to have a human driver as of the time of this report. If Dr. Miller had stated that Tier 4/5 autonomous technologies cost \$100k to \$250k per vehicle and are declining then I guess it would be fair to say that most Californian's still cannot afford such a vehicle. It is pretty cool that many of our Tesla's owned by Rotary Club members have various forms of self driving however it does require you to have your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. There's a significant leap in climbing into the back seat to take a nap while your car drives you over to Vegas...would not recommend that for your safety. That being said we are seeing huge gains for a small percentage of autonomous fleets in the Mining Industry and there is strong potential in the Trucking Industry however this was not part of the group discussion. Dr. Miller did state that "most people leave their vehicles parked 5% to 10% of the time" which is true however chances are your TV is off 20 hours a day and you still like to watch TV at will not go rent a TV when you want to watch a movie at home. Whether Waymo truly replaces LYFT/Uber is yet to be seen but it is worth noting that many families are reliant on the income ride sharing produces, especially immigrants from other countries. Overall, it was a truly fascinating insight as to where we are today and when one day our car might take us to work and fold up into a briefcase like George Jetson showed us decades ago. Personally I'd take Rosey the Robot housecleaner first.

As they say, "that's my story and I'm sticking to it!"

~Reporter
Brett Morey

PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2025 - 2026

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 TREASURER Sharon Council
 SECRETARY Lisa Galstian
 PAST-PRESIDENT Luke Ervin

**ROTARIAN
 OF THE DAY**



**MICHAEL
 SLENTZ**

Since the last time I was Rotarian of the day, not much has changed. I still work for Microsoft as a consultant. It is a great place to work, and I really enjoy my colleagues. I'm excited to have more variety in my job as I move from project to project. My family is doing great. I have enjoyed doing a fair amount of traveling in June to break up the working from home.

My Daughter has finished her first year at college in Ireland and is doing great. Michelle and I are proud of how well she has done. We are enjoying having her home for the summer. She is catching up with friends and taking in the sun while she can.



APRIL 2026

April 3 - Linda Andrews

April 17 - Sara Micelli

MAY 2026

May 1 - Ranjan Lahiri



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