

# THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 6 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)



## DR. NORM MILLER

EMERITUS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO,  
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HOMER HOYT INSTITUTE



### AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: HOW THIS NEW MODE OF TRANSPORT IS GOING TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE, THE ECONOMY & CULTURE

Norm Miller is an Emeritus Professor at the University of San Diego and the University of Cincinnati, and Vice-President of the Homer Hoyt Institute, a think tank of global urban economic scholars and industry research directors. He is a housing, finance, proptech and capital markets expert. He started the Journal of Sustainable Real Estate, and served as the President of the American Real Estate Society. See <https://www.linkedin.com/in/norm-miller-8167935/>  
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# REPORT

from the last meeting



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2026

MARCH - SPEAKER

20.....Bobbie Smith  
San Diego Crew Classic: since 1973,  
the premier rowing regatta that shines  
a spotlight on San Diego

APRIL - SPEAKER

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

### 1. Opening and Announcements

• **Rotarian of the Day: Carol Fritz** shared personal updates, including her 102-year-old father (a WWII veteran) and her recent travels to Taiwan (visiting tea plantations) and Northern Minnesota (canoeing in the Boundary Waters).

• **Monarch Butterfly Conservation:** Carol reported a significant decline in the western monarch population, with only 12,000 butterflies counted in California recently. She advised members to plant native California milkweed and pollinator plants, warning against "tropical" milkweed which can be harmful to the species.

• **Parking Updates:** Members were briefed on new UCSD parking regulations. The club has 20 reserved "gold spots" available for those who provide their license plate numbers by Wednesday afternoon.

• **Ensenada Project:** Scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. All participating Rotarians must complete a three-step Youth Certification (application, online training, and a live scan background check), which is valid for five years.

• **Club Survey:** Members were encouraged to complete a survey regarding the club's future direction and the frequency of meetings.

• **40th Anniversary:** The club will celebrate its 40th anniversary during the regular meeting on May 15th.

### 2. Membership Campaign

• **Teams:** The club is organized into four recruitment teams: The Old Farts, The 12th Man, The C of Vigilantes, and The Rotar-Rookies.

• **Goal:** Members are asked to think broadly and invite prospective members from their professional industries, social circles, or those new to the area.

• **Incentive:** The club will cover the first breakfast fee for any prospective member invited during this campaign.

### 3. Students of the Month

• **Christina Ho:** Recognized for her resilience and academic growth after overcoming family loss and mental health challenges. She has been accepted to multiple universities and plans to pursue a career as an ultrasound technician.

• **Jason Tran:** Recognized for prioritizing learning and peer leadership over just grades. Initially reserved, he became active in track and service organizations. He plans to study accounting and become a tax attorney.

### 4. Guest Speaker:

#### Sheriff Kelly Martinez

• **Department Overview:** Sheriff Martinez oversees a jurisdiction of 4,200 square miles and 1 million residents with 2,400 sworn personnel. The department manages nine contract cities and 18 Indian reservations.

• **Vista Jail Rebuild:** Rebuilding the Vista Jail is the Sheriff's top

priority. The facility is over 50 years old and "at end of life." The proposed \$1 billion project aims to shift from "warehousing" to a model focused on re-entry, mental health services, and rehabilitation.

• **Public Safety and Drug Interdiction:** The department has seen success with regional task forces, recently seizing 6,000 to 7,000 pounds of methamphetamine through highway interdiction teams.

• **Immigration Policy (SB54):** Martinez clarified that while the department does not enforce immigration law, it follows Senate Bill 54, which allows communication with federal authorities (ICE) regarding individuals convicted of serious qualifying felonies (e.g., murder, robbery, kidnapping).

• **Data Science Partnership:** The department has hired 11 data science students from UCSD to leverage data for better decision-making and law enforcement strategies.

### 5. Upcoming Programs

• **Next Meeting:** Norm Miller on self-driving vehicles and economic trends.

#### Future Speakers:

- Bobby Smith (San Diego Crew Classic)
- Katie McDonald (Forever Balboa Park)
- UCSD Chancellor (June 5th)

~Reporter

*Matt Browne*



# PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY

**It's a Reunion!**

**40**  
YEARS

Join us to celebrate 40 years of  
friendship,  
local service and global good.

**FRIDAY, MAY 15 7AM**

Information: [jpercival@scribecommunications.com](mailto:jpercival@scribecommunications.com)



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# La Jolla Golden Triangle ROTARY CLUB

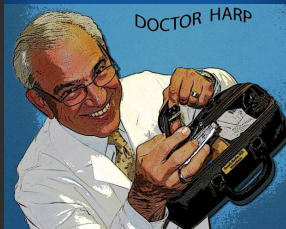
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## LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2025 - 2026

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



DENNIS BUCKO



### MARCH 2026

March 20 - Michael Slentz

### APRIL 2026

April 3 - Linda Andrews

April 17 - Sara Micelli



Carroll Dennis Bucko was born December 19th, 1941, in West Springfield, Massachusetts and was educated in the public-school system. In high school Dennis was Class President and participated in soccer, track and the marching band and played trumpet in a Dixieland band. Dennis received his B.A. in Chemistry from American International College and his M.D. degree in 1967 from the University of Vermont. Dennis also met and married Sarah Clerkin while he was a medical student in Burlington and they have three children (Dan, Wendy and Sarah) and seven grandchildren.

After a year at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University as an intern in Surgery, Dennis served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Public Health Service stationed in Alaska for two very cold but exciting and rewarding years. After a four-year General Surgery residency at the University of Utah, and a two-year Plastic Surgery residency at the University of Michigan, he was Board Certified in Plastic Surgery in 1977 and stayed on at the University of Michigan for five years as Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery while maintaining a part-time private practice with the chairman of the U of M Section of Plastic Surgery.

In 1981 the Bucko family moved from the "rust belt" to the "sun belt" in La Jolla. Dennis started his own private plastic surgery practice, after spending three years at Scripps Clinic developing their satellite plastic surgery program. Dr. Bucko is a retired clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery at UCSD. He has also volunteered on cleft palate teams in the United States and Mexico, first as the leader of Southwest Medical Teams program in Oaxaca, Mexico in 1992, and then as a surgeon and Board Member on the Rotary-connected Mercy Outreach Surgical Team's annual trips to Mexico for over thirty-five years.

Dennis joined LJGT Rotary in 1987 and has been a long-time member and past Chairman of the International Service Committee and has served on the LJGT Rotary Board in 1997 – 1998 and currently.

In his leisure time, Dennis, (AKA, Dr Harp) especially enjoys playing guitar and harmonica (especially blues style) previously in the California Cogs Band. He also enjoys tennis, kayaking, sailing and scuba diving. Dennis has also become more and more serious over the years as a sculptor apprentice with the late A. Wasil, and he has displayed a bronze piece of his own in the La Jolla Contemporary Art Gallery. His most recent work-in-progress is a commission of the "Virgin of Guadalupe", in one half scale, (3 feet) to be placed in the Mercy Hospital Clinic lobby when completed.

Dennis retired from practice in 2020 and he and Sally have recently learned that they expect to be great--grandparents in October



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