

THE GOLDEN rotarian

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LA JOLLA GOLDEN TRIANGLE ROTARY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 12 2024



RI President 2023-24
GORDON MCINALLY

District 5340 Governor 2023-24
DON FIPPS

LJGT Rotary President 2023-24
CHRISTY WHITE BROOK

AOS MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

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

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

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



BRIAN ERICKSON



COLD CASE HOMICIDE PROSECUTIONS

Brian Erickson has had the privilege of serving victims, their families and the People of the State of California as a Deputy District Attorney and Deputy City Attorney for over 28 years. He is dedicated to ensuring public safety, seeking truth and equal access to justice for all. Brian has devoted his career to safeguarding victim's voices in our criminal justice system!

Brian has been a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office for the last 20 years. He is currently assigned to the Cold Case Homicide Division where he specializes in prosecuting cold homicide cases utilizing genetic genealogy techniques to identify both suspects and victims. Prior to holding his current position, Brian prosecuted felony domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse cases in the Family Protection Unit and felony sexual assault, child molestation, stalking and human trafficking cases in the Sex Crimes & Human Trafficking Division. Additionally, since joining the office in 2003, he has held positions in the Gangs Unit, the Superior Court Division, the Central Pre-Trial Division and on the general Misdemeanor Team. He has handled everything from death penalty serial killer cases to dog off leash cases. Brian has tried over 100 cases before juries to verdicts. As a Deputy District Attorney, Brian has served as a Board Member and Treasurer for the San Diegans Against Crime and the San Diego County Deputy District Attorneys Association.

Prior to joining the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 1998, Brian served as Deputy District Attorney in Tuolumne County, California. The county sits in the rural foothills of the Sierra Mountains on the north side of Yosemite National Park. Brian was one of six Deputy District Attorneys in the office. He handled all types of misdemeanor and felony cases; however, his primary duty was the prosecution of domestic violence cases from 1996 through 1998.

Brian lives with his wife Lisa and their three children in Rancho Peñasquitos where he has enjoyed spending many evenings and weekends on the fields coaching countless RP Little League and PQ Soccer teams. Brian has also organized and participated with teams of Deputy District Attorneys (DA's Against MS) riding in numerous National MS Society, Bike to End MS, 150 mile bike rides and Challenged Athletes Foundation of San Diego Triathlons to support and raise funds for these organizations. Brian volunteers "Serving Seniors" lunches at the Gary & Mary West Senior Center and assists in coaching the Mission Bay High School Mock Trial Team.



REPORT

from the last meeting



UPCOMING SPEAKERS



2024

JANUARY - SPEAKER

19.....Councilmember Joe LaCava
La Jolla All-Club Joint Meeting

26.....Tim Prusener
Lost in the Shadows: Unraveling the
Costly Enigma of Untracked Marketing

FEBRUARY - SPEAKER

2.....Kelly Martinez
San Diego Sheriff Updates

9.....Toastmasters
The Power of Public Speaker

16.....Michelle Saul
Integrity and Levels of Agreement

23.....Brian Lee
The University Club

The first meeting of the year for our club, held on January 5, 2024, was called to order by President **Christy White Brook**.

Tony Grillo, our Rotarian of the day, shared an insightful overview of his past year, during which he achieved platinum membership status with Delta Airlines solely through personal travel experiences. His journeys included moving his daughters in and out of college, handling storage and apartment logistics on the East Coast, and spending quality time with friends, family, and loved ones. Tony also talked about his extensive travels with his racing team, humorously mentioning that he got disqualified from racing due to his excessively loud car. He added that his family welcomed a new four-year-old rescue dog named Kiwi and jokingly declared himself an expert in assembling IKEA furniture.

Our **President-elect, Luke**, introduced all our guests, visitors, and potential members, as we had a full house that day.

Christy extended a warm

welcome to those joining the meeting via Zoom.

Rick Clark delivered a poignant message about how small towns like Perrie, Iowa, where he grew up, can also be affected by tragic events such as mass shootings, often stemming from bullying. He praised **Stephen Tako** for his anti-bullying efforts.

Christy then shared the results of our recent foundation drive, where we raised a total of \$11,650.00, including an anonymous \$5,000 donor match. These funds will be dedicated to our avenue of service projects. She expressed gratitude to the board leaders for their hard work in raising these funds.

Next, **Christy** recognized and mugged **Melanie Geschwind**, a board member, and Chair of our International Service Committee, for her dedication and friendship within our Rotary Club.

Asher Bende was introduced as our club's representative in the upcoming Rotary district music competition. She demonstrated her musical

talent by playing the beautiful song "Romance" on the French horn.

Marty Rosenstein presented the Student of the Month Award to **Karim**, who was accompanied by his sister, mother, and school staff members. Karim delivered a heartfelt speech, expressing gratitude to the club for the honor.

Our speaker for the day, **Dr. Venu Prabaker**, was introduced by **Stephen Tako**. Dr. Prabaker delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "The Perils and Promises of Future Healthcare." He discussed the challenges faced by primary care physicians, emphasizing their daily responsibilities and how AI can assist them in becoming more focused on patient care than administrative tasks.

President Christy concluded the meeting by ringing our newly refurbished bell courtesy of **Tim Fronczek!**

~Reporter

Tim Fronczek



PHOTOS FROM LAST MEETING



Membership Tips:

IT SOUNDS SIMPLE, BUT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GROW MEMBERS IS “ASK SOMEONE”

REPEATEDLY INVITE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS UNLESS YOU GET A DEFINITIVE “NO” FROM THEM.

ENSURE THAT PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FEEL IMPORTANT. INTRODUCE THEM TO OTHER MEMBERS AND SIT WITH THEM.

THE FOUR WAY TEST



OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

01 IS IT THE TRUTH?

02 IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

03 WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

04 WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

HERBERT J. TAYLOR

La Jolla Golden Triangle
ROTARY CLUB
 Chartered - June, 1986 • La Jolla, California

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LJGT ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2023 - 2024

- PRESIDENTChristy White Brook
 VICE PRESIDENT Linda Stouffer Wallis
 PRESIDENT ELECT (2024-25) Luke Ervin
 PRESIDENT ELECT ELECT (2025-26)David Chong
 TREASURER Sharon Council
 SECRETARY Ranjan Lahiri



JANUARY 2024

- January 19 - Carolyn Fritz
 January 26 - Ron Spilsbury

FEBRUARY 2024

- February 2 - Douglas Cramer



ROTARIAN
 OF THE DAY

SAMSON TSE

I was born in Burbank, California to a middle-class family, living in a small, quaint community. In the later years of my elementary and middle school we moved to Northridge, which at the time was a very different town with a very different blend of people. While my elementary and middle school were largely people of a similar socioeconomic background, my high school was not. Attending the 5th worst high school in California at the time, there was a great and very noticeable disparity between students of all ages. Seeing this issue and choosing to involve myself with people from all walks of life, I wondered if there was a way to give back to those in desperate need in my community. At the time the only way I knew how to give back was by donating to charity but there was never an option to help locally. Hearing my troubles, a teacher introduced Rotary International to me. In time, she, my brother, and I would found our own Interact Club at school, not being the first community service-based club on campus but the only one that actively tried to help its local community and students. In time, I grew the club to over 70 members, encouraging students to bring their own community's problems to our decision table. One of my greatest achievements in Interact was when the United States Census Bureau needed help accurately canvassing how many people lived in the area and reached out to my club specifically. Many immigrants in the area were reluctant to do paperwork of any kind as the language and culture barrier was a serious problem. Understanding the issue, I orchestrated an event in which all the club members reached out to their local communities to be represented accurately. It was so successful that the Census Bureau rewarded my efforts by printing my club logo on jackets for all members. You might catch me wearing my Chatsworth High School Interact club jacket even to this day.

After high school, I was accepted to UCSD with a major in Philosophy and a Minor in computer science with the idea to go into law. Being excited with my scholarship from my local Rotary club and an interest in service drove me to find the college variant of Rotary, Rotaract. This club opened my horizons to what could be done, from a campus, city, and even international level. During my time as a service director at Rotaract at UCSD, I learned all the finesse that comes with planning successful service events and what interests people. This helped me design future events and assist the Rotaract 5340 District Board with a problem that I have found persists throughout all aspects of Rotary, membership. When I became a double major, this enabled me to improve the outreach and visibility of the Rotaract District of 5340. In the time leading up to my presidency and afterwards, I had always dreamed of making a project that was easy to understand and complete. After having the Rotarian Roger Haines come to Rotaract at UCSD and compel everyone of the need of WAPIs and my personal desire to improve the politics of the situation, I founded the WAPI Project at UCSD. I believe that a service project that brings people



of all ages together to assist in a clear goal is the ultimate objective of community service. You might catch me wearing my Rotaract at UCSD shirt even to this day, although definitely less now that I'm a part of a Rotary Club.

After college, I decided that maybe law wasn't for me and embraced the life of a software engineer in San Francisco. I attempted to find a club that was for me in the bay area to no avail, rotary clubs there in my experience largely fitting the stereotype of Rotary, old people sitting around in a room writing checks, rather than getting out and helping people. During COVID, I grew tired of the bay area and after a short stint in LA, returned to San Diego. Much to my surprise, old friends of mine, (Marty Rosenstein and Brett Morey) reached out to me about connecting with Rotary again, leading me to check things out again. I enjoy bringing people together and am glad to see La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary efforts in bringing people together for service. Ultimately, an organization that brings people together with a clear service goal of benefiting all concerned is an organization I'd like to be a part of.