



Resource Information for the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove
New Member, Transferring Member, and Existing Members

History

RCWG is well known for and is very active with our community Youth through multiple programs with strong emphasis in education. We would like you to participate in as many of our programs that peek your passion and you are able to:

Speech Contest	RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards	Rotary Youth Exchange
Walnut Grove Scholarships	Dictionaries for our 3rd Graders	Monday Meeting Set-up

Established in 1948, Rotary Club of Walnut Grove has continued to serve our community. Our town, club and its membership is rich in history and legendary families. Our club history is comprised of multi-generation members and has generation of members, even father, son, and grandson members. We have made Rotary International history in 2018-2019 when our then President gave birth during her Presidency term. As members pass, legacies are left and loved ones are missed. Many of our members have established Memorials or special Funds. We may be just a count of 42, but you can feel the Service Above Self and community spirit to the fullest extent of the meaning.

Dennis W. Leary Valedictorian	Tad Labrie Memorial	Harvey Lyman Memorial
John L. Lewallen Memorial	Jody Schauer Memorial	Tim Wilson Memorial, Baja Fund
Dennis Leary Honorary	Manuel (Mo) Morais Memorial Fund	Hemly Family Memorial Scholarship
Van Meyer Memorial	Carol Barry Memorial	John Brown Memorial

More History

The first seeds of Rotary were planted in the Delta by members of the Sacramento Rotary Club. There were many conversations, visits and meetings. Finally, on April 12, 1948, 29 men met in the office of Noah Adams Lumber Co., (now Harvey Lyman Co.) and decided to form a Rotary club. Rotary members from Sacramento and Clarksburg also attended. Dennis W. Leary was elected president of the new Club, and plans were made for the Charter Night Celebration at the Ryde Hotel on May 25, 1948. The Rotary Club of Walnut Grove was under way.

Rotary Club meeting places have been many and varied. The first was in the basement meeting room of the Walnut Grove Hotel. At one of the first meetings, Hod Towne gave a talk on the asparagus strike. The leaking pipes overhead were a well known feature of the room and added to the South Sea decor. Richard Nixon spoke to the Club on one occasion.

Sometime later, Bob Collins, on one of his many trips to Washington for California agriculture, met Mr. Nixon who asked, "Are you people still meeting in that basement room with the leaky pipes?"

In December 1952, the Club moved to the meeting room in the back of the old post office. Furniture was moved in and the Club purchased china and silverware. Rotary stayed there until 1957. By that time the new post office had been built, and the old was to be remodeled into Steiner Hardware.

So it was time to move back to the hotel and into the basement room to remain there for three years. Chafin' Sores, the rider of the range, first appeared in Rotary annals in 1958. In 1961 the Walnut Grove Hotel was sold and remodeled to become the Boon Dox. Rotary meetings then moved upstairs to the main dining room, to continue there for seven years.

In October 1968 there was the surprise closing of the Boon Dox followed by a move to Tony's for the day. The following week the meeting was at the Grand Island Mansion for the District Governor's visit.

The odyssey continued. The following week Rotary moved to the Steamboaters. Because of the size, sometimes you could see the speaker, but most of the time you couldn't. The meal price was increased to \$2.50.

Rotary stayed at the Steamboaters until it closed in 1970. The meandering next took the Club to the meeting room in St. Anthony's hall in Walnut Grove to stay for just over a year. In March 1972, it was on to Locke to the T -12 building to remain for six years. Those who arrived late at the Monday meetings were usually assured of a steak from Ai's since the pasta was probably gone. It was in Locke that the Van Meyer Christmas fashion shows became legend. The T-12 was the scene of many great Rotary events. The 25th Anniversary was celebrated there in May 1973. The last meeting in Locke was in July 1978 when the T -12 building was sold.

[More History Continued on Page 8](#)



Resource Information for the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove New Member, Transferring Member, and Existing Members

[More History Continued from Page 7](#)

Walnut Grove Rotary then moved the meeting location to Wimpy's Marina at New Hope Landing on July 24, 1978. Those members seated by the windows often enjoyed the entertainment on the dock below more than the Rotary program - especially in the summer. There were some

times when it was difficult or impossible to reach Wimpy's. Like when Tyler Island and Thornton flooded in 1986 which prompted a two month move to The Rusty Hook in Hood. We moved back to Wimpy's just when the Miller's Ferry Bridge at Giusti's was "broken" by the Fish & Game Department. The Walnut Grove Rotary continued to meet at Wimpy's until 2011, ending a 33 year run.

In 2011 the Club moved the meetings to Tony's Place and enjoyed an open menu and bar if one chose to tip a few. This location was dark and sometimes crowded. Russell built a new podium and we mounted equipment to view slides and videos. We needed to scrap our old storage cabinet and build a more compact one. After a meeting in May 2017, several Rotarians became ill which led to a special meeting and decision to move.

May 1, 2017 brought us to a swift move to the current location, Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church and leaving us to tend to our own lunch menu. One of our newest members, Barbara McGowan, took the reins to organize a spread of food unlike anything we had ever seen. The Club paid for a new heating and air conditioning unit for the hall.

During our 2018-2019 year our then President, Emily, made Rotary history by giving birth to a beautiful baby boy during her Presidency term.

2020 has been a challenging year with cv-19. Somehow, Rotary was able to complete its 35th Annual Scholarship Dinner / Reverse Raffle / Silent Auction Dinner before cv-19 cancelled 10 meetings and the world 'shut-down' to get ahead of the pandemic virus. In June of 2020, our meetings resumed in the new online world of Zoom. If not for member, Tim Cook, and his youthful outlook and knowledge of technology who knows how this virtual leap would have been achieved. Because of Tim, our Club didn't miss a step. President John Stutz and President-Elect Rob Globus did an amazing job of leadership during this time. President Rob was in full swing adapting to new ways of life when his Presidency began. Sadly, our lunch format changed with all of the new catering rules.

Also in 2020, the WalnutGroveRotary.org website went live keeping our Rotary club members and community connected in a whole new way. In a short period of time, WalnutGroveRotary.org was the link to the community for a vast majority of our club. It includes history and traditions, in memory of, and current news, youth events and activities, the travels of our bell, fundraising, projects and events, and of course, our scholarships. . . Just to name a few. For the full effect—visit soon.

The pandemic continued to 'open and close' our in person meetings throughout Rob's Presidential journey. He handled everything like a pro and somehow managed a full year of amazing Rotary club service. Rob barely had enough room on the back of t-shirts to list the full amount of accomplishments in 2021. It was a year of so many first experiences! First ever international speaker in real time; First ever online meeting, First ever silent auction. What a year it was!

2021 continued to see our club once again bobbing and weaving around obstacles with our annual fund raiser. As California shut down again and without missing another step, the Club dove into the world of online auctions for our annual fund raiser. A magnificent committee, lead by Douglas Hsia, somehow pulled off a record breaking year of fundraising. While very different from the traditional dinner, Douglas still managed to coordinate a terrific Zoom finale during the last hour of the auction and our MC's Jim Cook and Daniel Wilson keep things alive with their usual sense of humor. This is yet another example of just how resilient the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove is.

Fortunately, the 2021 Demotion dinner in June was a pleasant in person gathering at Giusti's Place. Along with the passing of the gavel from President Rob to President-Elect Jan, the Demotion dinner committee made sure to include Past President John who was robbed of such a roast. It was truly a Back to the Future event. Shortly thereafter, a sudden and tragic loss of our great friend...Giusti's Place by fire, left just about everyone speechless and with heartache that is indescribable. Giusti's Place is over 100 years, 4 generations deep with stories, memories, and friendships. Over the years, it's the place where just about everything happened and where celebrations took place. Including our annual Demotion Dinner.

As we prepare to enter 2022, the Annual Fundraising Committee has already been underway for 2 months. At the helm is Committee Chair, John Stutz. The committee managed another year of excellent raised funds to keep our scholarships and community work alive. Members continue to step forward and job share in our Rotary Service so other members have time and attention for their loved ones. It's a grand day on the NorCal Delta. Please come join us!

Our June 2022 Demotion Dinner included a magical roast of outgoing President Jan. Her family present, we saw doves fly and past presidents decapitated. However, the room was filled with the incredible people whose Service Above Self brings so much to our small community. It also marked the first ever Co-Presidents inducted to our Club. Co-Presidents Laura and Tom Uslan in their first month, announced our Glee Club Leader, named the new Sheriff, and pinned multiple Paul Harris Award recipients. It's going to be a good year.



Resource Information for the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove New Member, Transferring Member, and Existing Members

Rotary Sponsored Programs — Over The Years

Since 1948, the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove has taken an active stance in our local communities. This list gives you a small glimpse of Service above Self.

Walnut Grove Chamber of Commerce
 Walnut Grove Head Start
 Make-A-Wish Foundation
 Polio Plus
 Tree Planting Project
 Town Bulletin Boards
 Bus Stops
 Neighborhood Watch
 River Delta Athletic Fund
 Friday Night Live
 Clarksburg Project Swim
 Rotary AIDS Project
 GATES Program Walnut Grove
 GATES Program Bates
 Delta High Basketball Clinic
 Girl Scouts
 FHA Hero Program
 Bates School Drug Free Signs
 "Four-Way Test" Book Marks
 Mulege, Mexico Dental Clinic
 St. Hope Academy
 Village Bank
 Oceans Week-Walnut Grove School
 PALS Program
 Teacher Recognition
 High School Computer Project
 Daily Planner Books - Delta Schools
 North Delta Conservancy
 Christian Play Group
 Easter Seals Society
 Campfire Girls
 Rio Vista Bass Derby
 Delta High School
 St. Anthony's Church
 Easter Egg Hunt
 Pear Fair
 Catfish Jubilee
 Rotary Track Meet
 Academic Decathlon
 Delta Young Women's Club
 Salvation Army
 4-H
 Delta Lions Club
 Delta Soccer Team
 Youth Exchange Students
 Little Peoples Club
 Brownies
 Mercy Hospice
 Sacramento Banjo Band
 Walnut Grove School:
 Air Filters for every class,
 Home desks for every student,
 Chromebooks for every student,
 Dictionaries for 3rd graders

Girls State
 Close-Up
 Delta Flood Aid
 North Delta Senior Citizens
 World Affairs Seminar
 Scholarships
 Little League
 Rotarian Magazine to Libraries
 Locke Scout Meeting Hall Roof
 Sacramento Children's Home
 Diabetic Youth Association
 CARE Packages
 Crippled Children's Society
 Sacramento County TB Association
 Dist. 684 Hurricane Relief Fund
 Yuba City Flood Fund
 March of Dimes
 McCall Leprosy Fund
 Isleton Athletic Club
 Heart Association
 Palo Alto Medical Clinic -
 Sorenson Memorial Fund
 Rotary Foundation
 KVIE Lawn Sprinklers
 Boy Scouts District Training
 Community Safety Signs
 "No Litter" Signs
 Delta Co-op Nursery Bus Payment
 Play Area - Back Stops & Lawn
 School Christmas Tree
 TV Tower Sign
 Needy Children's Christmas Gifts
 Foreign Students Meals
 Good Citizen Plaques
 Dental Clinic
 Korean Children's Inoculations
 Polio Shots
 Boys' Camp Expenses- Keds
 Plants for School
 Needy Family- Home Burned
 Library Science Books
 High School Benches
 Student Speech Contest
 PT A Swim Club
 DC Band
 Student Band Pins
 Plants for New Post Office
 Hotel Christmas Tree Lights
 Groceries for Needy Families
 Glasses for Students
 Donations to Fire Victims, Medical Funds, Families
 suffering tragic loss of lives,
 RYLA continues to Change Lives

PTA
 Water filtration & pergolas for The Paul Barnes Park
 Purchased a van for the DHS FFA
 Walnut Grove Elementary School Garden
 River Road Fence Repair
 DHS Vineyard Project
 Courtland High School
 Walnut Grove Elementary School
 Walnut Grove Community Church
 Music Circus
 Isleton Fire Department
 Walnut Grove Fire Department
 Courtland Fire Department
 Charles Tison Park.
 Four AED defibrillators in WG.
 Walnut Grove School:
 Playground improvements
 Asphalt resurfacing
 Trees planted
 Jean Harvey Community Center:
 Parking lot resurfaced.
 Hardwood Floor Resurfaced
 Paved passenger drop-off area
 Installed planter beds
 Upgraded rear entrance
 Security cameras in WG Post Office.
 Picture dictionaries to 3rd graders
 at WG and Bates schools.
 College scholarships to Delta
 High School students.
 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA): Over 55
 camp scholarships to high school students.
 Dr. Paul Barnes Park.
 Mexico dental clinic.
 Electronic sign, WG Post Office,
 School bus-stop shelters.
 County Fair Buyers & Exhibitors
 breakfast in support of local youth
 Rotary Rose Parade Float
 Courtland Rainbow Girls
 DART Team
 Boys State
 FHA
 FFA
 Boy Scouts
 Cub Scouts
 School Supplies to Walnut Grove and Bates Schools.
 Additional donations to Rotary Foundation
 Funds, labor and love donations to DEV
 Donations to Walnut Grove Church
 Dogs for Diabetics
 Pear Fair
 Walnut Grove PTA, Butter for the Pear Pies!

... And, so much more!