



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 in the 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 that you are able to:

Speech Contest	RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards	Rotary Youth Exchange
Walnut Grove Scholarships	Dictionaries for our Youth	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 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 Leary Valedictorian	Tad Labrie Memorial	Harvey Lyman Memorial
John Brown Memorial	Jody Schauer Memorial	Tim Wilson Memorial Baja Fund
Carol Barry Memorial	Manuel (Mo) Morais Memorial Fund	Hemly Family Memorial Scholarship
Van Meyer Memorial		Russell Ooms RYLA Scholarship

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



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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 lead 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. 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 a lot of new ways to life when his Presidency began.

Rotary Sponsored Programs — Over The Years

- 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
- 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
- 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 Music Circus
- 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) 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