



# THE ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

*News Bulletin*  
October 16, 2025

**Celebrating Decades of Impact**  
*"Together we Unite for Good"*



**Coming October 21, Erica Ollman Saphire President and CEO of the La Jolla Institute of Immunology on "An Inside look at the Impact of Federal Funding cuts on scientific research at LJI and the broader San Diego Region."**

**Erica Ollmann Saphire, Ph.D., MBA,** is the President and CEO, as well as a professor at **La Jolla Institute for Immunology**. Throughout her career, Dr. Saphire had her sights firmly trained on research areas with the greatest global scientific and public health impact. She is one of the world's leading experts in pandemic and emerging viruses and has been a pioneer in structural immunology with many previously considered impossible "firsts" to her name. These firsts are seminal discoveries in understanding deadly viruses at the molecular level but, more importantly, her successful efforts to build truly global, multidisciplinary consortia that had tremendous impact on global human health and propelled the entire field forward.

Capitalizing on her unique ability to bring together researchers from academia, industry and government to bridge the gulf between results obtained in the lab and treatments urgently needed in the field, **Dr. Sapphire** is leading several international consortia that successfully addressed the urgent need for effective vaccines and antibody therapeutics against viral threats such as **COVID-19, Ebola, and Lassa**.

Recognizing the need to close the research gap in **women’s health**, Dr. Sapphire recently launched an institute-wide initiative to uncover sex-based differences in the immune system and how these foundational differences can be applied to improve the lives of both women and men.

Among many other awards and honors, Dr. Sapphire’s work has been recognized at the White House with **the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering**, **the Pantheon Award for Academia, Non-Profit** and Research from the California Life Sciences and **the Marion Spencer Fay AWARD**.



## A look Back at Last Week’s Meeting



**President Russell King** called the meeting promptly at 12:30 PM and offered the following Inspiration, followed by the pledge of allegiance

*Let us take a moment to reflect*

*Today we gather in the spirit of Rotary, with a special focus on youth - the change makers of tomorrow.*

*May our conversation and actions be rooted in support, mentorship and opportunity for young leaders to thrive.*

*May we be reminded that every act of service, however small, can light a spark in a young heart.*

*Let us guide with wisdom, encourage with compassion, and create pathways for innovation, growth and hope.*

*As we continue our commitment to service above self, may today's meeting renew Our dedication to empowering youth and shaping a future full of promise.*

## Guests

District Gov. Luis Carrenza  
Sharon Schendel. District Gov Chief of Staff  
and Assistant Gov. for Area 1.  
Frank Sanchez, Guest of Leanne McDougall  
Greta Palmiter  
Dominic Bruno  
Carol Prior

## THE LEAD KIDS

Lyla Gandhi,  
Violet Vitale  
Julika Lankhorst,  
Aaden Sternberg  
Rhett Heffner  
Liam Briley





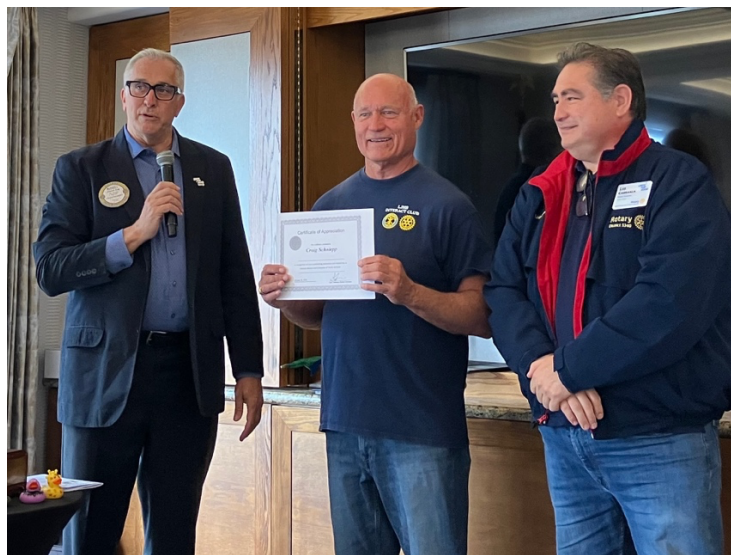
They agreed **the LEAD Program** gave them a new confidence to handle the challenges of being a teen entering High School. They all enjoyed the speakers and the overall experience, though maybe not the food so much, but nonetheless would highly recommend it to their friends. Their Mentor, **Craig Schniepp** gave them all an A+.

## The President's Announcements

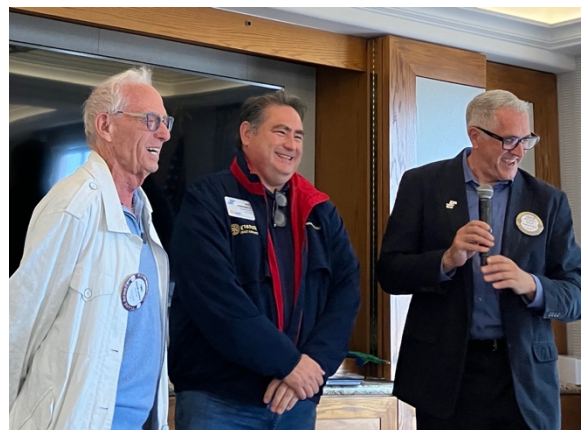
### Welcome To District Governor Luis Carrenza

Congratulations also to our **Lead Students** and their Parents

And to **Craig Schniepp** for his years of excellent work in Youth Services



A big Congratulations to **Tony Weaver** upon receiving his **Blue Badge**



# Our Quarterly Report and Highlights



- Held **9 regular meetings** and **4 board meetings**, including a **Fireside Chat** and several “Who Am I” presentations
- Enjoyed **4 vibrant socials** at Dave Brockett’s home, SeaWorld’s Hubbs Research Institute, and 2 at The Lot
- **Approved our 2025–2026 budget** and **reinstated our bylaws** to strengthen club governance
- Welcomed members of **Rotario de Tijuana** and had a **Past President** preside at two meetings
- Scheduled a joint meeting with Kiwanis (speaker cancellation noted)
- **Updated our website** to better reflect our programs and outreach
- Featured in the *La Jolla Light* with an article spotlighting our Club President
- **Produced weekly newsletters** to keep members informed and engaged

## Youth & Community Engagement

- Welcomed our **LEAD students and their families**
- Achieved a **record number of Interactors** supporting events like:
  - Switchfoot Pro-Am Surf Tournament
  - Care & Share food distribution
  - Beach cleanups
- **Awarded 4 Blue Badges** and **4 Red Badges** to recognize member milestones
- **Better defined Red Badge mentor and sponsor roles** for smoother onboarding
- **Started teaching classes in Tijuana** through our **TJ Scholars program**
- Partnered with other clubs on the **renovation of Fire Station 16**
- **Collected foreign currency** for **Father Joe’s Family Empowerment Program**
- Worked with the **San Diego Foundation** to streamline Riford Community Fund allocations
- Celebrated **Gordon Grey’s birthday**, honoring our club founder
- Supported **Gallop4Rotary** and the **Coast Walk** fundraisers

## Speakers & Leadership

- Welcomed our **District Governor and Chief of Staff**
- Convened our **nominating committee** to select next year's board
- Secured **speaker programming through February 2022**

## What's Ahead

- Interactors to **partner with La Jolla Garden Club** for landscaping at LJHS entrance
- **November 15:** Interactors will hold one of three **home builds in the Colonias of Tijuana** for this year. (this will be the 46th home the Interactors and club members have built with Project Mercy)
- **November 18:** Supporting the **Salvation Army Food Drive** with Interactors
- Ongoing **TJ Scholars classes** continue
- Collaborating with the **League House** to replace their front awning
- **Holiday Party for League House** – December 4
- **Rotary Club Holiday Celebration** – December 16

## Final Note

From bylaws to beach cleanups, socials to scholarships, our club is thriving—and we're just getting started. Thank you for your dedication to service, fellowship, and leadership.



## Last Week's Speaker, District Governor Luis Cardenza



*If you missed it, you missed a great speech, and a deeply personal one.*

Luis told us of the odyssey of his life beginning in Tijuana and then moving to the United States with his parents at age 7 to care for his younger severely handicapped brother. It was here he began a journey that would lead him across cultures, industries and communities with the singular mission to uplift others.

His early years were shaped by music, empathy and service. As a violinist with the **San Diego Youth Symphony**, he performed in Communist bloc Countries, as a teen he volunteered at **Grossmont Hospital** in the oncology ward and began to understand the transformative power of compassion. Throughout his speech, he focused on his theme “**Don’t miss the bus**”, the importance of kindness in Rotary, and the Sacred nature of **Service before Self**. It was a wonderful inspiring message, from a man, a Rotarian, with a truly gentle soul. **Thankyou Luis!**



In Two Weeks, October 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be Dark