



Chartered October 26, 1925
Wednesday 12:00 noon
La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942

Cura Smiles: Bringing Compassionate, Free Dental Care to San Diego's Most Vulnerable

Board Members

President Bonnie Welch
President-elect
Gabriella Misirlioglu
Past President
Becki Schwartz
Secretary Kathy Olsen
Treasurer Ryan Barnhill

Board Members

Directors

Dale Bailey
Marsha Darling
Mary Elington
Greg Erickson
Mike Fellows
Louise Herr-Marshall

Membership

Greg Erickson

Youth Service

Mark Matthews

Speaker Chair

Bill Ashman



Christine Passmore

The **Rotary Club of La Mesa** welcomed Christine Passmore, Executive Director of CuraSmiles, for a presentation on the organization's mission to provide comprehensive, free dental care to individuals in need.

Founded by Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, a Loma Linda University graduate whose decade of volunteer work in Nicaragua shaped his vision, CuraSmiles operates out of the Church of the Nazarene in City Heights. The clinic includes a dental lab with five exam rooms in which 325 patients were served in 2025. The free clinic provided 211 people with dentures and 1870 procedures an increase of 23% over 2024. The organization is supported by 46 dentists and dental hygienists who volunteer their time.

Cura Coffee, an organic fair-trade coffee group provides financial support for this clinic.

You can assist by introducing your dentist to the group, purchasing Cura Coffee or donating online.

Upcoming Programs

February 25, 2026

Tony Zambelli
Economics in Schools

Lunch Assignments

February 18, 2026

Greeter Gabriella Misirlioglu
Pledge Greg Erickson
Thought Mike Fellows
4 Way Test Dale Bailey

February 25, 2026

Greeter Becki Schwartz
Pledge Gabriela Misirlioglu
Thought Greg Erickson
4 Way Test Mike Fellows

March 4, 2026

Greeter Kathy Olsen
Pledge Becki Schwartz
Thought Gabriela Misirlioglu
4 Way Test Greg Erickson

Please exchange with someone if you're unable to perform your assignment.

Little League Opening Day



All Hands-on Deck needed for Little League Opening Day on Saturday, February 28th. The event will be held at Kuhlken Field from 1:30 to 4 pm.

People are needed to help set-up, take down, serve the expected 500 participants and be great La Mesa Rotary ambassadors.

See you there.

Early Spring Cleaning



February Service project is collecting and donating clean slightly used clothing items to **"Your Safe Place"**. Please bring your donations to one of the February meetings.

District 5340 CLLS

What is CLLS, you ask.

District Training Assembly (DTA) has a new name- **Club Leadership Learning Seminar (CLLS)**. The event will be held at Liberty Station on **March 28th at 8 am**. The focus is on training, engaging and empowering club leaders.

To participate in the District Grant and Global Grants we need two club members to participate.

More information to follow.

Epic Day of Service

The East County Rotary Clubs will be joining together for Rotary's Epic Day of Service, formerly known as Rotarians at Work. Epic Day of Service is a powerful worldwide movement that brings Rotary clubs, community partners, and volunteers together for one unified purpose – to serve others and create positive change in communities around the globe.

The East County Clubs will build, paint, and install Free Little Libraries to place in local neighborhoods.

Watch the Tattler for more information.

Mexican House Build



Mark Matthews is busy putting together our annual Mexican House Build project to take place on Friday, April 3, 2026. At this time, the Santee Lakeside Club will also be participating in the very worthwhile event.

Funding for the \$8000 project with Project Mercy is also needed. Mark is coordinating the following funding events:

March 11th - Bake Sale at Club Meeting

March 14th - Swap Meet

Clean your garages, take your items you want to donate to Mark or bring them to club meeting.

You can also donate to the La Mesa Rotary Foundation for the project using the following QR code.



2026 Tolly & Helen Lambert Educator of Year Award



Hilary Clark, a proud graduate of Grossmont High School, was awarded the prestigious Helen and Tolly Lambert Educator Award today, an honor that recognizes exceptional dedication to students and leadership in education.

Hilary's connection to Grossmont runs deep. During her time as a student, Bill Ashman served as an administrator. After graduating from Claremont McKenna College in Pomona, Hilary spent three years living in Spain.

Today, Hilary teaches AP Spanish at Grossmont High School and serves as the school's tennis coach, inspiring students both in the classroom and on the court. A competitive tennis player herself, Hilary will be heading to Alabama this March to compete in a spring-break tournament—yet another example of her drive and commitment.

Hilary's service extends beyond education and athletics. Several years ago, she represented our region as a Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) team member to Mexico.

Don Jenkinson-New Address

Don has a new address and phone number. Don is still living at Mt Miguel Covenant Village but has changed apartments. His new contact information is:
325 Kempton St. #1143
Spring Valley Ca 91977.
Telephone Number 619-765-3405

Grossmont Interact Club



Members of the Grossmont High School Interact Club gathered items and put together 30 Valentine Day gift bags for residents at Westmont Retirement Village on Saturday, February 14th.

Club Lunch Survey

The Board is exploring ways to reduce overall membership costs while also strengthening club growth. During this review, we determined that lunch expenses make up approximately 60% of the quarterly dues. We have also heard from some members they weren't interested in continuing the current process. Several suggestions are outlined on the attached survey. Please review and return the survey to Bonnie prior to the February 25th meeting.

Service Opportunities

Event	Date/Time	Location
Little League Opening Day	February 28, 2026	Kuhlken Field
Bake Sale-Mexican House Build	March 11, 2026	Club Meeting
Swap Meet - Mexican House Build	March 14 th	Spring Valley Swap Meet
District 5340 Instrumental Music Competition	March 15, 2026 1:30 - 4 PM	Coronado Library
Model UN	March 21 - 22, 2026	
Music Competition Next Level	March 23, 2026	Carlsbad Sea Retirement
Club Leadership Learning Seminar (CCLS) Formerly DTA	March 28, 2026	Liberty Station
Mexican House Build	April 3, 2026	
NAMI Walk	7 - 11 AM April 25, 2026	NTC Liberty Park
Multi-District Conference Register on line at rotary5340.org	April 24 - 26, 2026	Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center 1000 H Street, Chula Vista
Camp Enterprise	April 23 - 25, 2026	
Epic Day of Service	May 16, 2026	TBD