



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

## 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



THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY



## Earth Discovery Institute Brings the Outdoors to Local Students



“Is that the ocean? I’ve never seen it before!”

A surprising statement to many of us, yet one the Earth Discovery Institute (EDI) hears often from the students they serve.

During their visit, LaDaryn Leckett and McKenzie Karl shared EDI’s mission: inspiring stewardship of San Diego’s native biodiversity through environmental education and conservation. Their work focuses on youth—especially those in Title One schools—to help shape the next generation of land stewards. Last year EDI presented in the classrooms 98 times.

EDI introduces students to the outdoors through beach exploration, kayaking, hiking, and camping, often for the very first time. These experiences build confidence, strengthen environmental awareness, and give students opportunities to practice English in public settings while feeling more connected to their community.

Western monarch butterfly populations that have declined by 90% in California since the 1980s. To support their recovery, EDI partners with the San Diego Pollinator Alliance to develop a native milkweed farm in Lakeside, creating a seed bank adapted to our climate.

## Upcoming Programs

### **March 11, 2026**

Bake Sale - Internet

## Lunch Assignments

### **March 11, 2026**

Greeter Mary Elington

Pledge Kathy Olsen

Thought Becki Schwartz

4 Way Test Gabriela Misirlioglu

### **March 18, 2026**

Greeter Maggie Eggers

Pledge Mary Elington

Thought Kathy Olsen

4 Way Test Becki Schwartz

### **March 25, 2026**

Greeter Mark Matthews

Pledge Maggie Eggers

Thought Mary Elington

4 Way Test Kathy Olsen

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

## Charitable Giving

The Spring cycle for Charitable Giving is open until March 31, 2026.

Please read the guidelines below.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Sunrise Service



Becki Schwartz is looking for volunteers to assist with loading buses at Grossmont High School for the 2026 Sunrise Service on Mt. Helix. Legacy Church of La Mesa is putting on the service.

Volunteers are needed at Grossmont High from 5:30 AM to 6:30 AM.

Please let Becki know if you can help.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> - Bake Sale at Club Meeting**

**March 28<sup>h</sup> - Swap Meet (new date)**

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.



## La Mesa Rotary Hits a Homerun at LL Opening Day

La Mesa Rotary members and Grossmont Interact served over 450 burgers and 400 hot dogs to the La Mesa National Little League teams and their families on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Mark, LMR Past President and previous LM National Little League Coach, threw out the first pitch. A special shout out of thanks to the Grillmasters, aka Ryan's friends. We most certainly would not have made it without their assistance.



**Mark Matthews**



**The Grillmasters**



**Grossmont Interact**



**Mike Fellows**



## **SPRING 2026 CHARITABLE GIVING CAMPAIGN – Deadline 03/31/2026**

**The Rotary Club of La Mesa, California, Foundation (the “Foundation”) is proud to support deserving programs in need through its Charitable Giving Program. Through the generous contributions of community members and members of the La Mesa Rotary Club, the Foundation offers semi-annual donations following a review and approval process for each Charitable Giving Request submitted to the Foundation by the Rotary Club of La Mesa. The following are the Foundation’s guidelines for Charitable Giving Requests. The Foundation reserves the right to waive, amend or supplement these guidelines at any time or as circumstances may require.**

- 1. Charitable Giving Requests may be made be submitted by any person on behalf of a charitable organization qualified as a charitable entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**
- 2. Each Charitable Giving Request must be accompanied by a separate letter from a member of the La Mesa Rotary Club who shall serve as the sponsor for the Request. Each sponsor letter shall specify why the Foundation should consider the Request.**
- 3. Each Charitable Giving Request shall specify how the charity will use the funds being requested.**
- 4. The combined amount of Charitable Giving Requests submitted by any one charitable organization during each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) shall not exceed the sum of \$1,000.00.**
- 5. Each Charitable Giving Request must contain the organization’s federal and state tax identification numbers.**
- 6. Each organization must be able to attend a La Mesa Rotary Club meeting via a representative for the purpose of receiving the donation subject to the deadlines set forth below.**
- 7. Charitable Giving Requests will be provided to the Foundation through the La Mesa Rotary Club.**
- 8. The Foundation will duly consider Charitable Giving Requests recommended by the La Mesa Rotary Club. However, the Foundation reserves the right to increase, decrease, deny, approve, or place any limitations or restrictions on any Charitable Giving Request.**

**The La Mesa Rotary Foundation was created as an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) Foundation to accept donations to support the work of the La Mesa Rotary Club. The La Mesa Rotary Club supports activities to benefit underprivileged, elderly, children, and world-wide projects. Evaluation of competing applications to determine which activities will be funded and the amounts shall be based on “impact”: Relative Impact. Preference shall be given to activities that will be significantly impacted by the amount of the contribution. For example, a contribution of \$1,000 to an organization with a \$25,000 budget has more impact than one to an organization with a \$1,000,000 budget. Impact might, however, be assessed on specific projects within an organization.**

**Local Impact. Preference shall be given to projects that specifically benefit La Mesa and East San Diego County. Organizations that serve East County shall be given preference even if the organization is located elsewhere.**

**Member Impact. Preference shall be given to projects in which La Mesa Rotary Club members have invested substantial time and treasure. All submissions need to go to Kathy Olsen, Chair of the Community Giving Committee at [kolsen@rcpblock.com](mailto:kolsen@rcpblock.com) by March 31, 2026.**

## Service Opportunities

Event	Date/Time	Location
Charitable Giving Opens	March 1, 2026	
Bake Sale-Mexican House Build	March 11, 2026	Club Meeting
Swap Meet - Mexican House Build	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Valley Swap Meet
District 5340 Intrumental 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) <b>Formerly DTA</b>	March 28, 2026	Liberty Station
Charitable Giving Closes	March 31, 2026	
Mexican House Build	April 3, 2026	
RYLA	April 10-12, 2026	Idyllwild
NAMI Walk	7 - 11 AM April 25, 2026	NTC Liberty Park
Multi-District Conference Register on line at <a href="http://rotary5340.org">rotary5340.org</a>	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