



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



Our Visit With Greg Erickson at the Mc Grath YMCA



La Mesa Rotary enjoyed a special visit to the McGrath YMCA as guests of Executive Director Greg Erickson, a 27-year YMCA veteran who has led the East County branch since 2022. Greg shared the rich history of the site, which sits on land once home to the Kumeyaay people. During development, intentional steps were taken to honor and respect the cultural significance of the area.

Construction of the McGrath YMCA began in 2009, made possible through major pledges from the **McGrath Family Foundation**, the **Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation**, and the **Dallas Pugh Foundation**. Today, more than **12,000 members** enjoy the wide range of programs and facilities, which include Camp McGrath, a baseball field, a large gymnastics center, indoor and outdoor pools, and a second-floor fitness center. It is the **only YMCA in the county with an on-site campground**. The organization operates with an annual budget of **\$300 million**.

Greg highlighted several thriving youth programs. The **gymnastics program** supports a competitive team of 60 athletes and serves 200–300 additional children each month. The **swim program**, part of USA Swim, also fields a competitive team. The room used for our meeting transforms daily into a **teen center from 4–6 p.m.** offering Foosball, electronic games, and free snacks. This fall, the YMCA will launch a **Youth Government Program**, giving students the opportunity to write a bill and present it in Sacramento. Greg also spoke candidly about challenges, including competition from other youth-focused organizations and the facility's distance from residential areas.

Thank you, Greg, for hosting us—we truly enjoyed our visit.

Lunch Assignments

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

May 6, 2026

Greeter Marsha Darling
Pledge Louise Herr-Marshall
Thought Marsha Starr
4 Way Test Ron Morell

May 13, 2026

Greeter Ron Morrell
Pledge Ryan Barnhill
Thought Becki Schwartz
4 Way Test Mary Elington

May 20, 2026

Greeter
Pledge
Thought
4 Way Test

May Birthdays

5/25 Ben Hamilton

5/27 Melvin Jacobson

5/31 Mark Matthews

Upcoming Programs

May 6, 2026

Tracy Herriott - CLICBITZ

May 13, 2026

Scott Evans

Sharp Grossmont Hospital CEO

May 20, 2026

Madeline Anderson

SD Youth Services

May 27, 2026

Amy Reardon

Patrick Henry HS Scholarship

Camp Julian Oaks Beautification Workday This Saturday, May 2nd

Volunteers are needed for the Camp Julian Oaks beautification workday. Volunteers will help prepare the campgrounds and facilities to receive foster kids for summer camp.

Please connect with Becki if you can help.

EPIC DAY OF SERVICE



Gabriela needs help!
We will be building two **Little Free Libraries** for placement at Dale and Avondale Elementary Schools. The kits have been purchased; we need to paint and assemble them.

The East County Rotary Clubs will be gathering at 8:30 AM, Saturday, May 16th at the **La Mesa United Methodist Church**. Church is located at 4690 Palm Ave, La Mesa.

A drill, a few paint brushes, and an Exacto knife to open the box is all that is needed.

This is an opportunity to socialize with East County Rotarians and complete a worthwhile community project.

Please see Gabriela is volunteer!

Operation Flags 4 Vets



Our District 5340 Rotary family and our community come together to honor those who gave so much for our nation.

- 📍 **Place Flags: Saturday, May 23, arrive at 12 p.m.**
- 📍 **Remove Flags: Tuesday, May 26, arrive at 3 p.m.**

Memorial Day weekend, we have an opportunity to do something simple, beautiful, and deeply meaningful. Rotary District 5340 is proud to support Operation Flags for Vets at Miramar National Cemetery, where volunteers will help place 3,000 American flags on the graves of our military heroes, veterans, and their families. Each flag is a symbol of gratitude. Each grave tells a story of sacrifice. Each moment of service is a reminder that freedom is never free.

Governor's Dinner

Please see [Bonnie](#) before **May 15th** if you're interested in attending the Governor's Dinner. If 10 of us sign up we can have a La Mesa Rotary table at a reduced rate of \$120 each.

Governor's Dinner

LAUNCH NIGHT

DON'T MISS THE BUS TO:

TOP FUN

Rotary District 5340

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 • 6:00PM

San Diego Air & Space Museum, Balboa Park

REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON

Multi-District Conference

The Multi-District Conference was held last weekend at the Gaylord Pacific Resort in Chula Vista.



Six members of Grossmont High School Interact Club enjoyed the event.



Bill had an enjoyable time assembling food bags during a breakout session.

Event	Date/Time	Location
Camp Julian Oaks Workday	May 2 nd Time: TBD	
Epic Day of Service	May 16, 2026 8:30 AM	La Mesa United Methodist Church
Operation Flags for Vets	Place Flags May 23 rd 12 - 3 Remove Flags May 26 th 3pm	Miramar National Cemetary
Govenor's Dinner	Friday, June 26 th 6 pm Registration & Cocktails 7 pm Dinner	Space & Air Museum Balboa Park