

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



## Epic Day of Service: Building Little Libraries



The Rotary Club of La Mesa in the East County Rotary "Epic Day of Service" project this weekend. We constructed and painted little libraries which will be given to Dale Elementary and Avondale Elementary in the La Mesa Spring Valley School District. In addition to LMR. The other East County Rotary Clubs participating was the El Cajon Rotary, El Cajon Sunset, Santee-Lakeside, La Mesa Noon and La Mesa Sunrise Rotary clubs.

A great time was had at the event.

## Lunch Assignments

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

### **May 27, 2026**

Greeter Dr. Jay Thompson  
Pledge Mary Elington  
Thought Keith Dindinger  
4 Way Test Becki Schwartz

### **June 3, 2026**

Greeter Marsha Starr  
Pledge David Petri  
Thought Greg Erickson  
4 Way Test Gabriela Misirlioglu

## May Birthdays

**5/25 Ben Hamilton**

**5/27 Melvin Jacobson**

**5/31 Mark Matthews**

## Memorial Service

**Memorial Service for Ron Welch will be held at Miramar National Cemetery on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:30 pm.**

**Address: 5795 Nobel Drive, SD.**

## Upcoming Programs

### **May 27, 2026**

**Amy Reardon  
PHHS Scholarship**

## Plastic to Trex Deck



Bill continues to collect light plastic which he sends off to Trex Composite Decking.

Trex composite decking is made from about 95% recycled and reclaimed materials. Its core composition blends recycled plastic film (such as grocery bags, bread bags, and bubble wrap) with reclaimed industrial sawdust and wood

Please continue to bring your plastic to our meetings for Bill to send off.

## 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.

## United Through Reading: Keeping Families Connected



We were privileged to welcome Betty Mohlenbrock, whose lifelong connection to education began in childhood as she spent countless hours in classrooms watching her parents teach. She pursued her undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Illinois and went on to a career in education herself.

During her years in the classroom, Betty noticed a troubling societal trend: children's declining literacy skills and a growing lack of connection with family members. She saw firsthand how hours spent watching television, videos, and later social media were replacing personal interaction and shared reading time. Believing deeply that reading aloud with children, especially in the early years—is one of the strongest predictors of future academic success, she felt called to act.

In 1989, Betty founded **United Through Reading (UTR)**, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting children in military families. The program enables deployed parents to record themselves reading a story aloud, creating a comforting and familiar story time experience that children can watch again and again. The impact is profound: reading aloud strengthens literacy, improves behavior, and fosters bonding and role modeling for both child and parent. Today, half of American children are not regularly read to before entering school, making programs like UTR more important than ever.

After 20 years of leadership, Betty passed UTR on to another educator and entered retirement—briefly. Finding herself “bored,” she launched a second nonprofit, **Reading Legacy**, this time focusing on families affected by incarceration. The program now operates in six San Diego County and state prisons, beginning with Los Colinas in Santee. It also includes a meaningful component in Juvenile Hall, where youth read aloud to their siblings, strengthening family ties through shared stories.

It was an inspiring and uplifting program today, and a powerful reminder of how one person's vision can transform

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Operation Flags for Vets	Place Flags May 23 <sup>rd</sup> 12 - 3 Remove Flags May 26 <sup>th</sup> 3pm	Miramar National Cemetary
Govenor's Dinner	Friday, June 26 <sup>th</sup> 6 pm Registration & Cocktails 7 pm Dinner	Space & Air Museum Balboa Park
La Mesa Flag Day Parade	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Bonnie Welch Demotion	June 24 <sup>th</sup> Club Meeting	
2026 - 27 Installation Dinner		