

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

Board Members

President Gabriela Contreras-Misirlioglu
President-elect Greg Erickson
Past President Bonnie Welch
Secretary Kathy Olsen
Treasurer Ryan Barnhill

Board Members

Directors

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

Membership

Greg Erickson

Youth Service

Mark Matthews

Speaker Chair

Bill Ashman



Mayor Mark Arapostathis Visits LMR



We were privileged to welcome La Mesa Mayor Mark Arapostathis as our guest speaker today. Dr. A, born and raised in La Mesa, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from SDSU and his doctorate from the University of San Diego. He began teaching in 1991 and served at Murdock Elementary, Lemon Avenue Elementary, and Rolando Elementary.

A fun Rotary-friendly fact: Dr. A wore number 9 on the **La Mesa Rotary Little League team**.

Believing deeply that character, kindness, and inclusion are essential to youth development, he founded the Peter Pan Theater and Captain Hook Theater to bring that vision to life. In 2011, he partnered with the school district to create the La Mesa Arts Academy, where he continues to serve as Director of Arts.

City Updates from the Mayor

- **Grossmont Center:** The center is *not* going away, and it is *not* becoming a Chargers stadium or condominiums. It is being remodeled with **Bass Pro Shops** slated to be a 147,000-square-foot anchor store.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Through a federal grant, the city and school district are collaborating on a Safe Routes to School initiative—designed to make walking, biking, and rolling to school safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable. The program aims to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, and promote healthier lifestyles through education, encouragement, and engineering improvements.
- **Civic Center & Library Vision:** The city hopes to build a new civic center and secure a larger space for the library. Achieving this vision requires relocating the Post Office, which is proving to be a significant challenge.

At the conclusion of his presentation, the **La Mesa Rotary Foundation** proudly presented Mayor Arapostathis with a check supporting the Peter Pan Theater program.

A wonderful and engaging program!

Lunch Assignments

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

August 12, 2026

Greeter Marsha Darling
Pledge Marsha Starr
Thought Dr. Jay
4 Way Test Keith Dindinger

August 19, 2026

Greeter Keith Dindinger
Pledge Louise Herr-Marshall
Thought Bill Ashman
4 Way Test Marsha Darling

August Birthdays

8/23 Mike Fellows

WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS

Ryan Barnhill has been busy coordinating Rotary's involvement with Rotary International and La Mesa Rotary to have a table at the Walk to End Alzheimer's Walk.

Let's have a great showing at the walk. Sign up to join our team by using the link below.

Walk is at **Liberty Station** on Saturday, **October 3, 2026**, at 8 AM.

<http://act.alz.org/goto/LaMesaRotaryClub>

Upcoming Programs

8/12/2026

Madaline Lascola-Hutcherson
Sustainability & Wellness Coor.
Goodwill Industries



Soft plastics cannot be recycled through curbside programs and often end up in our waste stream. When recycled properly, soft plastics can be transformed into durable products like deck flooring, patio furniture, and more all while using less energy than other plastics.

WHY DONATE? • Protect our environment • Keep wildlife safe • Support sustainability HOW TO PARTICIPATE • Collect soft plastics • Bring them to our designated collection sites	WHAT ARE SOFT PLASTICS? • Grocery bags • Plastic films and wraps • Bubble wrap and air-filled shipping cushions WHAT WE ACCEPT • Clean and dry soft plastics 
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sdgoodwill.org



(619) 225-2200

Community Connection

Gabriela wants to get the word out about La Mesa Rotary. If you have a connection with a La Mesa professional or business please provide their contact info to Gabriella or Mary. The plan is to start with including them on the **Tattler** email list.

Backpacks - Phase 2



Gabriela, Bill, Bonnie and Mary gathered at Greg Erickson's office this morning to add a letter about LMR, toothpaste donated by Dr. Jay and a bookmark from the Friends of the La Mesa Rotary. At the conclusion of this stuffing project the backpacks were delivered to the La Mesa Spring Valley School District for distribution to students in need.

We hope to have a backpack dedication with community/school leaders in 2 wks. Watch Tattler for info on this event.

Greg, thank you for storing the backpacks in your office for the past week.

Thought for the Day

What is Rotary? Thousands may answer each in their own way. It is easier to note what Rotary does than what it is. One recently has said, "if Rotary has encouraged us to take a more kindly outlook on life and men; if Rotary has taught us greater tolerance and the desire to see the best in others; if Rotary has brought us pleasant and helpful contacts with others who are also trying to capture and radiate the joy and beauty of life, then Rotary has brought us all what we can expect.

Chicago, October. 1945
Paul P. Harris

Provided by Keith Dindinger

Board Meeting	8/3/2026/5PM	Zoom
La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Summer Bash	8/13/2026	Marriott El Cajon
East County Rotary Club Mixer	TBD	Cuyamaca Conservation Garden
Walk to End Alzheimers	10/3/2026 8 AM	Liberty Station
End Polio Now Walk	10/24 8 AM	1788 El Prado
RI Convention	6/26 - 6/30/2027	Barcelona
District 5340 Picnic	4/18/2027	TBA