

# *On the Rotary Road*

With DG Jack McClenahan & PDG Jane, July 15 to 26, 2013

We had **District Finance Committee** and **District Charitable Foundation** meetings in mid-July. The Finance Committee reviewed interim 2012-13 reports to be finalized by September for presentation at the **District Conference in San Luis Obispo**...first to the **Board of Directors** and **Council of Governors** on Thursday October 17 and to **all attendees** Friday October 18 at the **District business meeting**.

The District Charitable Foundation Board determined the amount of funds available to Rotary club members for 2013-14 travel grants and to **Rotaract** clubs for projects. Application criteria and forms are posted at [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org).

Back on the Rotary Road, Jane and I attended the perennially successful Casa Pacifica Golf Tournament organized by the **Rotary Clubs of Camarillo** and chaired by tireless **Al Lowe** (and **Petra**). There was a special memorial tribute to Camarillo Rotarian **Michael Lavenant** – a great young Rotarian -- with many of his family members in attendance.

July 17, Jane and I and **Group 7 Assistant Governor Bob Braitman** visited the “new” Rotary Club of Fillmore—new because of a merger between the original **Rotary Club of Fillmore and Fillmore Sun Risers**. The unified club will celebrate 90 years of Rotary in Fillmore this year under the leadership of Fire Chief and Club President **Rigo Landeros** with support from Secretary **Martha Richardson**.

Also in their 90<sup>th</sup> year are the Rotary Clubs of **Santa Paula** and **San Luis Obispo**, chartered on the same date in 1923. **Paso Robles** is also 90 this Rotary year.

At **Rotary Club of Ventura**, I was pleased to present an **RI Special Achievement Award** on behalf of PDG Frank Ortiz to Ventura Past President and **2012-13 District Polio Eradication Chair Larry Emrich**. Super sponsor of new members, **Rosa Lee Measures** was also recognized. Her magic words to prospective members? “Let me introduce you....”

We received a warm welcome at the **Rotary Club of Ojai** thanks to many longtime friends like Club President **Jane McCarthy**, who sometimes gets calls intended for **Jane McClenahan**, and vice versa.

My **Santa Paula Rotary** sponsor back in 1978 was then President **Al Guilin**, still a member of the club. Al gave me two books he wrote. Thanks, Al, for those and for the gift of Rotary. Santa Paula Club



**President Rick Araiza**, also Fire Chief, presented us a Limoneira gift basket. Yum!

At beautiful Spanish Hills

Country Club, **Camarillo Breakfast Rotary** had two prospective members in attendance (now inducted). I liked their productive discussions about club identity, priorities, projects, leadership and membership!

That evening **Goleta Rotarians** honored exemplary scholarship recipients, and **San Marcos HS Interact** leaders spoke as well. I was pleased to participate in the induction of new member **Tom Schultz**.

The next morning **Jane had her knee replacement surgery**. She is recovering nicely. Thanks for the many good wishes and flowers. At **Lompoc** that same evening **President Sue Reardon** in her “fascinator” hat ran a truly hilarious meeting and managed to include good Rotary content too. The club “sang” their wine-fueled, intentionally awful rendition of Happy Birthday.

PDG Frank Ortiz’s club is **Santa Maria Breakfast**, so The Chief was on hand July 25 to critique my speech. No pressure! I was pleased to be able to present **Scottie Ortiz** with the traditional DG spouse gift for her service as D5240 First Lady. Scottie accompanied Frank on every visit AND spoke to the clubs about serving as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate. **Club President Jim Petersen** has an impressive board with dynamic action plans.

On to **Los Olivos Rotary** where I like the clever uses of their name--“The Olive Branch” bulletin and their “Jazz & Olives Festival” logo with olive/leaf notes on a musical score. I appreciate the planning **President Bob Dullea** and team put into the board meeting and “comfort food” potluck supper at St. Mark’s hall.

At **Vandenberg Village**, 2<sup>nd</sup>-time **President Susan Warnstrom** and a nucleus of longtime members are building membership with the assistance of District experts like **NewGen/Youth Chair John Weiss**, who is also a Regional Membership Coordinator. ■

