

Rotary

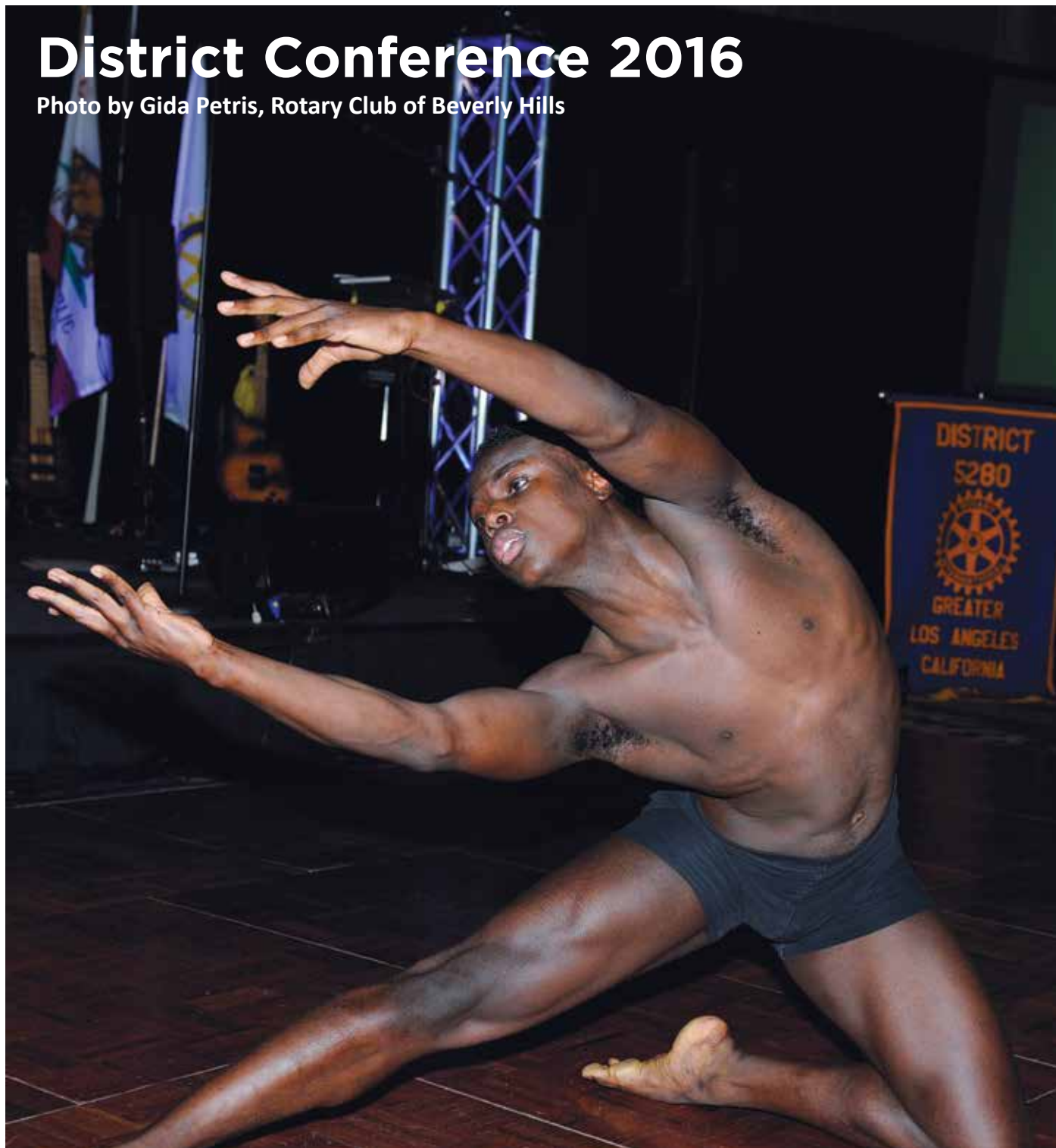


Be a gift to the world

Rotary District 5280
Greater Los Angeles
Newsletter-Magazine
Volume 23 | June 2016

District Conference 2016

Photo by Gida Petris, Rotary Club of Beverly Hills



Wilson Mayo, Winner of the Dance Competition at the Pageant of the Arts, performed at the District Conference's Governor's Ball on Saturday night. See other pictures from the District Conference on page 8.

DISTRICT 5280 MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Governor DJ's Message Page 3

Back to the Basics Page 4

Scholarship Fund Page 5

Exchange Student Page 6
Emma Naglestad

Foundation Dinner Page 7

Memories of the Conference Pages 8

District Conference Awards Page 9/10/11/12

District and Club News Page 13



From Governor DJ...

This is the last month of this Rotary fiscal year. This is the time to reflect on what we have accomplished. The amount of time and passion we have invested has paid off with great projects, great programs, great fellowship, and great results. I am very grateful to all of you for your dedication and service to our community and the world. This year we have created some beautiful memories. These beautiful memories will stay with us forever.

This year we started with the RI President's theme: *Be A Gift To The World*. The remarkable thing is that we have already been a gift to the world by our daily activities and contributions to the community. **The Rotary Four Way Test** of the things we think, say or do support the outcomes we have achieved. Rotarians have the power and capability to deliver wishes. Rotarians can address the problems we have in our communities and in the world. We have the ability. We have the tools. It is up to us to engage and utilize our resources to improve the human condition.

June is Rotary Fellowship month.

There are 64 Rotary fellowships which offer many opportunities for people to share hobbies and interests with others in Rotary and build new, lasting friendships.

Around the world, many Rotarians, Rotarian spouses and Rotaractors belong to Rotary Fellowships to enrich their Rotary experience beyond their clubs and districts. Many fellowships have specific vocation or service-based purposes, for example there are fellowships for jazz, fly fishing golfing, travel, rowing, rare books, and bird watching to name a few. You can join by contacting a fellowship directly using the information listed in the Rotary Fellowship Directory or search out discussion groups to find Rotary and Rotaract members with similar interests. A complete list is available at www.rotary.org.

On April 28 through May 1 we had the District Conference at the Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa. The



conference was fun, memorable, exciting, and a great success. Special thanks to Jaimee Sul, the master of ceremony and all committee members.

On May 14 we had the District Assembly at Carson community Center. This education program trained incoming club officers and gave club and district leaders an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. My best wishes to them for the upcoming year.

I guess that it is about time that I step down as district governor, but I will continue to serve our district and Rotary in every way possible. I feel confident that our incoming District Governor Greg O'Brien will lead our district to a higher level of success. We set up a three year strategic plan to provide continuity between governorships. Our district is in good hands.

Thank you everyone for your tremendous support and encouragement during my governorship.

*Let's be a gift
to the world.*

DJ Sun

Doug Baker: Rotary Needs to Get Back to the Basics

By Michael Turner, SAG Communications, Rotary Club of Woodland Hills

In last month's e-Newsletter, PDG Drew Frohlich talked about RI changing the rules in regards to meetings and attendance. According to PDG Doug Baker, who spoke at the Saturday lunch at the District Conference, "Deemphasizing meetings will change the nature of Rotary. Rotary was always a place to meet people, develop meaningful friendships and do good things for the community."

"The friendships that I have developed happened at meetings and projects, particularly in our neighborhoods where Rotarians get dirty and sweaty." Doug told a story that during his earlier days with the Los Alamitos Club he was involved in a tree planting project, which just happened to be across the street from where he once lived. The day-long activity meant digging holes and hanging out with Rotarians. "It was messy work but it was fun," he commented.

"Today, half of the district's Rotarians do not attend meetings or work on projects," said Doug. This is disheartening for this PDG and he believes that the new rules may lead to greater lapses in attendance. "The only way to build a quality club is to have quality meetings on a regular basis," said Doug. He wholeheartedly feels that RI along with the clubs are not doing enough to ensure that Rotary's core values and principles are being introduced to Rotarians and reinforced continuously.

According to RI, the organization's core values are:

Service

We believe that our service activities and programs bring about greater world understanding and peace. Service is a major element of our mission. Through the plans and actions of individual clubs, we create a culture of service throughout our organization that provides unparalleled satisfaction for those who serve.

Fellowship

We believe that individual efforts focus on individual needs, but combined efforts serve humanity. The power of combined efforts knows no limitation, multiplies resources, and broadens our lives and perspectives. Fellowship leads to tolerance and transcends racial, national, and other boundaries.

Diversity

We believe Rotary unifies all people internationally

behind the ideal of service. We encourage diversity of vocations within our membership and in our service work. A club that reflects its business and professional community is a club with a key to its future.



Doug Baker

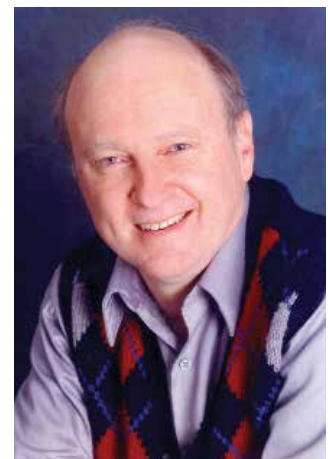
Integrity

We are committed to and expect accountability from our leaders and fellow members, both in the results of our efforts and in the processes we use to accomplish our goals. We adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work and personal relationships. We are fair and respectful in our interactions, and we conscientiously steward the resources entrusted to us.

Leadership

We are a global fellowship of individuals who are leaders in their fields of endeavor. We believe in the importance of leadership development and in leadership as a quality of our members. As Rotarians, we are leaders in implementing our core values.

Besides embracing these core values, Doug believes deeply that we need to serve our members' emotional needs as well. How do we do this—by building clubs that know what matters. And, that means planting trees, serving the community, and enjoying each other's fellowship.



Michael Turner

AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

Our graduating high school students need you!

Invest in our newly established

District 5280 Future Leaders Scholarship Fund

Send your contribution to our District's Charitable Fund with "Future Leaders Scholarship" in the memo line of your check. This is a newly established restricted fund, a part of our D5280 Foundation, so it is tax deductible. This fund replaces our former source of matching scholarship money, (the Zentner Fund) administered by the California Community Foundation from a special private investment fund.

Give generously. Our Students need you.

Show Them that We Care.

Questions: Rahla Frohlich, D5280 Scholarships Chair
818-790-6643 ♦ rlhindsey@aol.com

Send Checks to:
Future Leaders Scholarship Fund
District 5280 Charitable Foundation
Rotary District 5280
8939 South Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 210
Los Angeles, CA 90045





District 5280's Exchange Student Emma Naglestad

By Lorine Parks, Senior Correspondent, Rotary Club of Downey

Emma Naglestad, who will be one of the District's Exchange Students in the fall, will be living in Spain because she says, "I really want to learn about life in other parts of the world and to learn a new language."

"Other things I hope to get out of it," Emma goes on, "are a better understanding of the differences between countries and how that affects the relations between them. I'd also like to make lifelong friends and family in the new country and to feel just as comfortable in other countries as I do at home."

"Last, I'd like to learn about myself, meaning I hope to find my passion and what I'd like to do with my life from the new experiences I'll get to have. I have traveled a decent amount before across the United States but I have only been out of the country twice. On one of the trips I went to China, Cambodia, and Thailand with my immediate and extended family. We went on this trip because my mom's side of the family moved from Cambodia and they wanted to go back to visit as well as show the younger generation of the family where they grew up."

That trip influenced Emma a lot and was one of the contributing factors to her making the decision to go abroad. She was taken out of her bubble and shown how large and diverse the world is.

Emma is taking a "gap" year, a time between high school and college, when she can reflect on what directions and life options she might have. "I plan to relate my Rotary-sponsored time in Spain to my every day experiences when I come back home. First, I'll be much more confident in myself after spending a year in another country without my family. While I'm abroad I will be forced to learn to make things happen for myself which will help me greatly in college where I'll be able to go after what I want without being afraid to ask for it."

"Another lesson that exchange students learn is to be resilient and be able to get back up after we fall. I'm sure while I'm abroad I will have a lot of difficulty in the beginning because I don't speak Spanish but as I keep trying,



Emma Naglestad

I will learn it. This lesson will help me in life because life isn't perfect and although there will be many setbacks, I will have learned to persevere and keep going."

We wish Emma well and hope that when she returns from her trip that she will share with us her many experiences in Spain.



Spain's flag



Lorine Parks



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

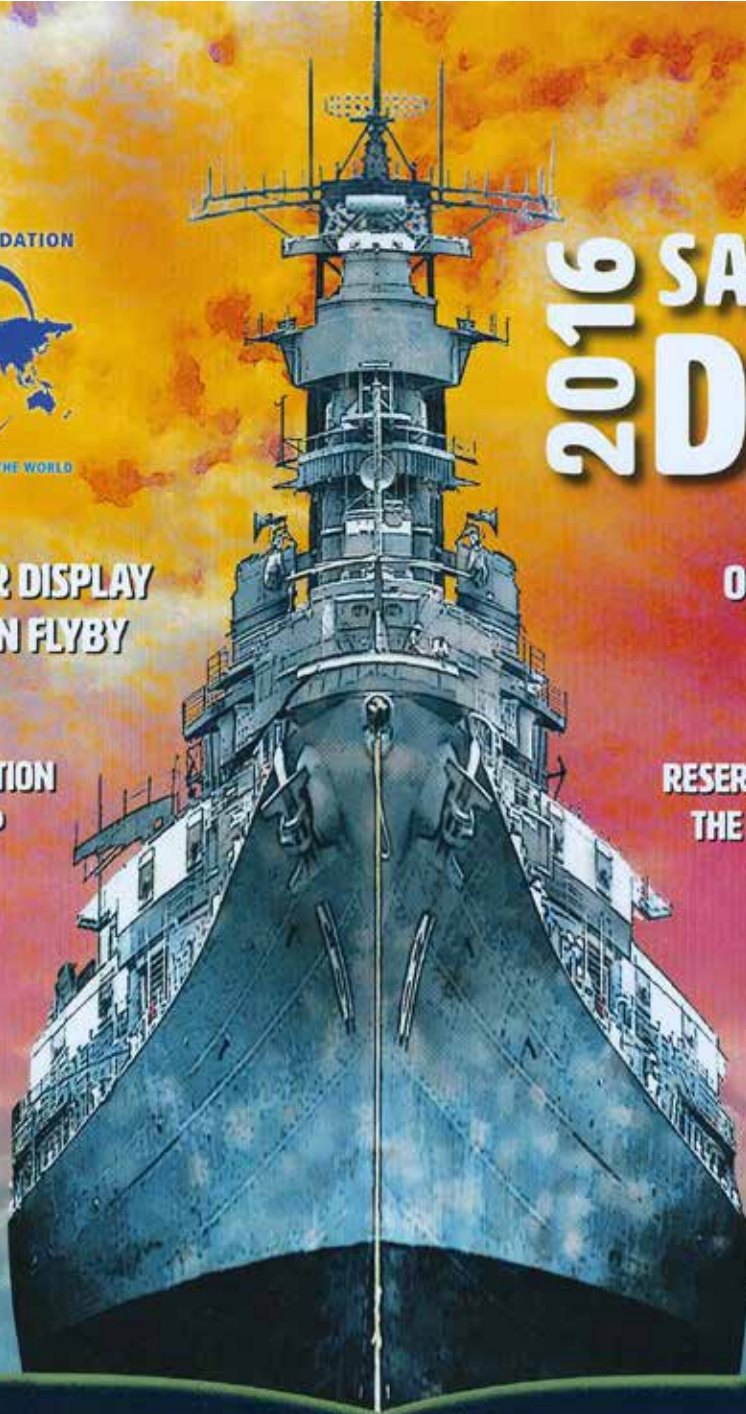
2016 SAVE THE DATE

**FIREBOAT WATER DISPLAY
TIGER SQUADRON FLYBY
USS IOWA TOUR**

**OCTOBER 22, 2016
USS IOWA
SAN PEDRO**

**SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
FUN & FELLOWSHIP
DINNER, MUSIC,
& DANCING**

**RESERVE YOUR TABLES AT
THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
\$125 PER PERSON;
\$140 AFTER 9/22**



Art by Greg Sparkman, PVP Rotary

ALL HANDS ON DECK



**ROTARY FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION I
WELCOME TO USS IOWA**

MEMORIES OF FUN IN THE SUN DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2016

Thank you all for making such fun memories with us by being part of 2016 District Conference, “Fun in the Sun with **Governor DJ Sun**”. Major shout out goes out to the entire Conference Committee and a very special thank you to **Gidas Peteris** of Beverly Hills for taking all the pictures, PDG **Doug Baker** of Downey for MC’ing the sessions and having us in stitches, PHAT Pack (PDGs **David Moyers**, **Pat Cashin**, **Rick Mendoza**, DGND **Joe Vasquez**) who showed us that PDGs are not just Permanent Dinner Guests (they can sing and dance!! Well, kinda sorta...) and of course, Rotarian **Richard Smykle** of Santa Clarita Valley for sharing his musical vocal talent with us with his beautiful songs. As you can see below, we had so much fun to last us a lifetime!



Awards at the District Conference

By Lorine Parks, Senior Correspondent, Rotary Club of Downey

Three major awards were given at the District Conference in San Diego. If you couldn't be there, here's the chance to meet the outstanding recipients. You probably know them already, because they are active participants in the district. Their achievements will make you proud to be a Rotarian.



Nora MacLellan receiving the Humanitarian Award from DG DJ Sun

Nora MacLellan's, a member of the Westchester club, received the **Ian Jones Humanitarian Award** for her *Vision to Learn* project. She was recognized for her inspirational work with a project that touches thousands of young students' lives. *Vision to Learn* brings free eye exams and glasses to Title 1 schools, to address the problem of children who are unable to see the board, read a book, study math, or participate in class because they have poor vision.

This uniquely District 5280 Award is rarely presented. It is given to "the founder of or a major contributor to" a district-wide project or activity. The award was named for Ian Jones, who first received it in 1996, for his literacy project he did with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Club. The award was last given in 2011 to Karen Weigel of the Redondo Beach Club, for the Taveuni Scabies Eradication project.

As Nora tells it, "I started to volunteer with *Vision to Learn* (www.VisionToLearn.org) when they were just starting in March 2012. My Rotary Club wanted to know what this nonprofit was all about and asked me to present it to the membership at one of our meetings."

"The members immediately wanted to get involved in some way," Nora goes on. "One member, Rod Tyler, had just gotten a recognition as being the 'entrepreneur of the year' that came with a cash grant to designate to a nonprofit of his choice. He selected two organizations, S.P.Y. (Safe Place for Youth) and *Vision to Learn* – or as he called it at the time "Nora's glasses thing." From there the relationship between Rotary and *Vision to Learn* really took off."

Most of these children are low income and minorities who lack access to medical care and vision care. The LMU Rotaract Club and Playa Venice Sunrise Rotary Club became involved along with a number of local nonprofits and foundations that contributed funds. The project quickly expanded to bring free eye exams and glasses to five local Title I elementary schools! "It was an incredible project that got Rotary a great deal of visibility in the community," comments Nora.

Since the initial contribution from Rod Tyler and the district's involvement the project has expanded to include 33 clubs, 145 schools and organizations, more than 60,000 children getting their vision screened, more than 6,000 free eye exams, and more than 4,600 free prescription eye glasses. In addition, more than \$300,000 has been raised.

"What a gift for the low income children in our communities," says Nora, showing us how Rotary can **Be a gift to the world.**"

Where does Nora get her energy? "I have been married for just over 25 years to my fabulously patient husband, Douglas," Nora says. We live in Playa del Rey, we crazily have three dogs and I like to be active in my community. "When asked, 'what is her dream going forward for this partnership between Rotary and *Vision to Learn*?' Nora replies, "I can truly see Rotary working with *Vision to Learn* in every district in every state in the United States. Currently, *Vision to Learn* has operations in Hawaii, Delaware, Iowa, and Baltimore, Maryland. The intent is to have *Vision to Learn* in every state within

three years." Nora was chosen primarily because of her work with this project.



Enthusiastic winner Nora

The second recipient was Past District Governor (times 2), Doug Baker of the Downey Club, who received the **District's Hall of Fame Award**. This honor recognizes an individual Rotarian for continuing, dedicated Rotary service to District 5280.

With Doug Baker, it's both the "What" and "Why" that makes him special. The "What" consists of gamely accepting the responsibilities not once, but twice, of the district governorship.

The "Why" is the way Doug did it, his style. What Doug brought to District 5280 was jocularly, an energy-radiating gift for elevating life's little tournaments into positive experiences.

The district governor's job demands an incredible sacrifice of time and energy, and the job description expects a very experienced Rotarian who "generously volunteers more than a year to lead the district; has a wealth of knowledge about current Rotary programs, purposes, policies, and goals; and is a person of recognized high standing in his or her profession, community, and Rotary club," says Baker.

In filling this dignified slot, it is nice to know that, in his own words, "Doug Baker is not just an ordinary white guy." A major thrust during his tenure was to encourage

each club to become "more visible" to the community, if only to dispel the public's notion that "we're just a bunch of old white guys who write checks." Baker says, "This image of Rotarians is false, and we need to change it."



Not ordinary white guys

When DG Doug visited the Hollywood club, a lot of "jocularly" took place. "It was a full house of high energy," said the then President Melody St. John. In the photo are DG Doug Baker (l to r), St. John, and new member Alex Chivarsky. This is as good as it gets, Alex.

Another headline tells the story of Doug's great contribution to District 5280: "PDG Doug Baker Accepts DG Appointment to a Second Term." In January 2013, after consulting with Rotary International officials Governor Lew Bertrand announced that PDG Doug Baker would serve a second term as district governor. What makes this so special is that Doug had to step up and accept the job after the untimely death of Governor-elect Jim Dyer from the Santa Monica Club.

As the Studio City - Sherman Oaks club reporter put it, "This is his second time in the leadership barrel; he was District Gov in 2010-2011."

One of the duties of a Rotary District Governor is to visit all the clubs in his/her domain within six months of installation. Doug has seen his main role as guiding each of these clubs to become truly relevant in the community it serves. He was responsible for 46 Rotary clubs in all, and at that time, District 5280 stretched from Malibu to the west to the 605 Freeway to the east, and immediately bounded by Montebello to the north and Long Beach to the south.

Doug has had to consult with Rotarians from the likes of Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Torrance, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hollywood, Inglewood, Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Woodland Hills, Santa Clarita, Paramount, Lawndale, Lynwood, and South Gate.

The Downey Club fits in, just west of the 605 San Gabriel River boundary. Doug Baker is the fourth Downey Rotarian to be honored as district governor in the club's 86-year history. Doug joined the Downey Club in 1989 and was their Centennial President (2004-2005). During that year the club was awarded numerous distinctions, achieved 100% Paul Harris status and won the Large Club of Excellence Award. During his year the club raised \$21,000 for a Kenyan School Scholarship Fund.

A Southern California native, Doug was born, raised and educated all within a 25-mile area. He went to Griffith Middle School in Downey and graduated from Warren High School, which is fitting because Doug's middle initial, "W," stands for Warren, his father's first name. His dad, originally from Chicago, was a CPA and had a private practice in Downey. His mother was born in Oklahoma; thus Doug says he's 1/16 Iroquois.

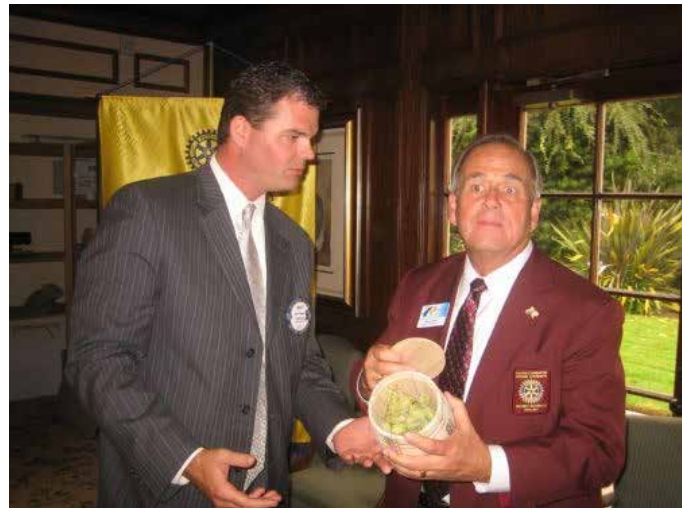
A UCLA business graduate, Doug went on to pursue graduate business studies at USC, which awarded him his CFP® designation. He began his career as a financial planner with offices on Florence Avenue in Downey. When he has time away from Rotary, Doug is managing principal for Silversage Advisors, an investment advisory and management firm with offices in Seal Beach and Irvine.

As twice district governor, Doug was responsible for maintaining the high performance of the district's clubs. The DG performs a host of specific duties "to ensure that the quality of Rotary does not falter in the district." He also graciously accepted tributes from each club as he made the rounds.

Pinpointing Doug's unique contributions isn't a simple matter. It's in his style and manner to lead by example. If pinned down to one word for what he has given to Rotary, it might be "jocular." On his DG visit to the Westwood Village Club, he reminded the members that jocular is one of the purposes of Rotary. When Paul Harris, as a lonely new attorney in Chicago, and his three friends first got together, it was for the stated purpose of "jocular."

Doug's main point is that people join because of our meetings and programs and that encourages us to keep up the good work. At Westwood, when a member's wife liked Doug's Rotary pin, he took it off and gave it to her – "that's just the kind of guy he is," said the club president. In addition to the speakers' gifts, the Club gave Doug a signed CD from the DG's favorite band, "Asleep at the Wheel."

Pragmatic, analytical, engaging, and deeply committed to the ideal of 'Service Above Self,' Doug says, "when we perform things in the service of others, our own lives are enriched."



Here Paramount Club President Matt Wagner (l) presented a "Start you own Vineyard Kit" to past District 5280 Governor Doug Baker, who was not quite sure what he was going to do with it.

Beyond the two terms as DG, Doug's service to District 5280 includes Senior Assistant Governor for Membership (2006-07) and Senior Assistant Governor for Foundation (2007-08). A dynamic team, the District ranked number one that year in the United States for annual unrestricted giving for the year and sixth worldwide.

Doug also served as the district breakfast chair (2008-09) and was the executive aide for District Governor Charles Anderson. He also was the chairperson for the Paul Harris Society.

Doug says his most meaningful Rotary moment was the 96 hours he, wife Connie, and their daughter Kelly, spent in El Salvador distributing wheelchairs. It underscored that "indeed we enhance our own lives by making a difference to others, either next door or in another country, one person to another," he said.

You have enhanced our lives by sharing yours with us so thank you, Doug, the newest honoree in our District's esteemed Hall of Fame.

The third award given at the San Diego Conference in April went to Gus Oppermann of LA5, who was named the **Rotarian of the Year**.

A native of South Africa, Gus brings an international background to Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self." When asked, "Did growing up in South Africa influence you in Rotary?" Gus answered, "Actually, I grew up in Namibia but post high school and military service studied in South Africa and spent a long time professionally in South Africa, and lived and worked in most major cities. The poverty I have witnessed growing up and living in South Africa still inspires me to help whenever I can communities in need anywhere on the globe."

How did he get interested in Rotary? "This goes back to the mid-eighties," Gus says. "As a young professional I resided in Stellenbosch, outside Cape Town, South Africa. One of my clients, a member of the Rotary Club of Stellenbosch, told me about Rotary and invited me to one of their weekly meetings. It really got me interested in joining this premier organization but for reasons of hectic work schedules including brutal traveling all over South Africa, Namibia and abroad I didn't see it as a good time to commit." Gus continues, "In the mid-nineties I relocated to Canada and my CPA, a Rotarian, invited me to a meeting of the Vancouver, British Columbia Club. Again, I didn't join but instead volunteered to help with their incredible community service projects. Then in late 2000 one of my Los Angeles clients, the President of LA5, spoke about Rotary to me at the end of an industry event in Los Angeles. I attended a couple of meetings and decided now is the time to join Rotary and get involved to do good, for the local and international communities, and be part of this wonderful organization. That was one of the best decisions I have made in my life."

One of Gus's favorite Rotary experiences was the Sri Lanka Project to repair beds, supply mattresses and repaint an entire ward at a Forensic Ward in the National Mental Hospital in Angoda. The project's budget was \$16,140. In Gus's words, "The long lasting impact on the quality of life of the beneficiaries was phenomenal. The challenges, getting the financing in place, the application approved, the project

implemented, and reporting done had made me just more determined every time not to give up. If I commit to do a task, I will get done properly. My motto is to 'never give up' – make it happen!"

"It turned out to be such a successful project! What it also made me realize is it is not all about the bottom line of the project but about the impact." Gus went back to Angoda for Phase II, this time Rotary committed more than \$30,000. "The 'before' and 'after' images show neatly made cots and sparkling floors and walls.

"I'm not very good talking about myself," Gus concludes. But characteristically humble, he has lots of good things to say about his fellow Rotarians. "Apart from giving and helping communities in need being so rewarding, one meets the finest people on this globe through Rotary. I have done many make-up meetings locally, regionally, nationally, and globally and had experienced this without exception. Of course, my very own LA5 has 100% of the finest people one can think of."



Gus and daughter, Marnita, "who is the centerpiece of my life," having brunch in Cape Town, South Africa



Lorine Parks



LA 5 New Members



New LA 5 members are Adam Weiss (l to r), Daniel Monahan, & Paul Ekstrand.

Glendale Noon Fundraiser



Calabasas Beach Party



Film: "San Andreas"



In the film, "San Andreas," you can see a Rotary Shelter Box on the left of the frame.

Granada Hills Scholarship Winners



< Granada Hills presented scholarships to Alexis Cordero (l to r), Justin Tony Del Rosario, Stuart Key, and Daniel On.

Inglewood Day of Service on May 21



Little Tokyo June 7 Meeting



Gil Garcetti will be the featured speaker at the Little Tokyo Rotary meeting on June 7. He will be talking about his new book: "A Reverence for Beauty: Gil Garcetti's Japan."

Santa Clarita Fund Raiser



At the Santa Clarita Rotary Pancake Breakfast for Relay For Life Mike Thomas (l) and President Louis Esbin had pancake flipping duty.

Hawthorne Rotary Fundraiser



Hawthorne Rotary held a Pies for Polio fundraiser. A creative and delicious way to raise money for this worthy cause.

South Bay Beer & Wine Festival



Several thousand guests attended the 3rd Annual South Bay Beer & Wine Festival, which was hosted by El Segundo, Palos Verde Peninsula, & South Bay Sunrise.

Editor's Note: As we close out another Rotary year, I want to thank those who played an important role in producing this newsletter: Tori Hettinger (proofreader), Linton Morgan (photographer), Lorine Parks (senior correspondent), Gidas Peteris (photographer), Lek Pollard (photographer), & Mike Thomas (designer). This monthly publication would not have been possible without their dedication and hard work. THANK YOU!