

Make a dream come true!

Rotary
District 5280



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

JUNE 2018



At the District Conference prior to Saturday's banquet there was a costume competition. Here's the Fifth Dementia. Additional photos begin on [page 12](#).

Rotary
District 5280



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Make a Dream Come True!



“Let’s celebrate and collaborate to truly make a difference.”

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

June

- 2 District Assembly
Carson Community Center
7–Noon
- 10 Shakespeare In The Park / Vets Benefit
VA West Los Angeles
- 23–27 RI Convention, Toronto
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- 24 Toronto Harbor Cruise & Reception
Toronto Harbor 6:30–9 p.m.
(See [page 9](#))

At the recent District Conference, DG Cozette Vergari presented PDG DJ Sun the RI Foundation Award for Meritorious Service. See other award photos on [pages 4–5](#).



“Thank you for making a difference
in people’s lives.”



FAREWELL DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

THE ROTARY YEAR OF 2017-18 is quickly coming to an end. It has been a wonderfully successful year for the clubs of District 5280. We truly have, individually and collectively, made a difference in the lives of so many!

I am proud to have served as your governor and to have been a part of your service throughout this year. On behalf of RI President Ian Risely, I extend his congratulations for our service to the improvement of the human condition here in the Los Angeles region and internationally. The Rotary Clubs of District 5280 have been a beacon of hope and inspiration to so many. And, there are many to thank!!

MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO ...

- My husband, Rotarian Richard Moon, and our family
- Tori Hettinger and Cecilia Acero
- My home club, The Rotary Club of Westchester, and my dear friend, our president, Judy Delavigne
- Our club presidents . . . a joy to get To know you better
- My Executive Leadership Team: Jerry Brown, Olivia Patterson-Ryans, and Lee Stacey
- District 5280 assistant governors and senior assistant governors
- District event and District operation chairs and their committees

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- Past district governors for your mentorship throughout the years
- All District 5280 Rotarians . . . an outstanding team of givers!!!

I LEAVE YOU WITH A REMINDER that peace and conflict resolution begins at home, treating those closest to us with respect, calm and care, while really listening, and listening with empathy, which then moves, beyond and by example, to our children and into our daily lives and interaction within our communities.

With great appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your district governor. ★



DG Cozette Vergari presenting the DG pin to incoming Governor Joe Vasquez

DISTRICT AWARDS

Presented at the District Conference
by DG Cozette Vergari

(Below right) Guity Javid, Humanitarian
of the Year

(Below) PDG DJ Sun, RI Foundation
Award for Meritorious Service

(Right) Wendy Clifford and Gida Petris,
Rotarians of the Year



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(Above) Westchester, Large Club of the Year

(Left) Koreatown, Medium Club of the Year

(Not pictured) Thai Town, Small Club of the Year

Congratulations to these award winners.





TOGETHER WE BUILD A BETTER WORLD: MOSQUITOES AND GOATS

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

From District Conference keynoters, we learned how Rotary connections saved lives in New Guinea and how resilience took a West Point cadet from zero to hero.

(Pictured are speakers PDG Eric Liu from RI District 5890 in Houston, top, and Army Captain Kenneth Saffold, Jr.)



AT THE JUST-HELD DISTRICT CONFERENCE we had the opportunity to learn about promoting Rotary and resilience. “We are people of action,” said PDG Eric Liu from RI District 5890. “This is not your grandfather’s Rotary, because technology has changed the world and Rotary as well.” He said that Rotary is about connecting with people.

Mosquitoes are abundant in Houston, where Liu calls home. They are carriers of malaria, and people experience fever, chills, and flu-like symptoms. Left untreated, people may develop severe complications and die. Humidity and area temperatures are responsible for the parasite’s successful development.

In Papua, New Guinea, malaria is a pervasive problem. Because of the severity of malaria, people wait three years to name their children because 90% of them will die before that age. The cure is mosquito nets that are treated with insecticides. But they must be replaced every five years.

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THANK YOU

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

This issue of the newsletter is **my team's last edition**. We thank PDGs DJ Sun and Greg O'Brien and DG Cozette Vergari for their support and confidence. I also thank those who contributed articles, tips, and tidbits for the newsletter. The past three years has been a wonderful experience, and we have learned much about the District and Rotary.

I extend a sincere thank you to those who volunteered many hours to produce 36 issues of the governors' newsletter:

- **Lorine Parks** (Downey), senior correspondent
- **Christine Barnicki** (Palos Verdes Peninsula), design and layout of 24 issues (2016–18)
- **Linton Morgan** (Inglewood), **Gidas Peteris** (Beverly Hills), and **Lek Pollard** (Westchester), (photographers)
- **Sarah Furie**, Rotoract correspondent
- **Tori Hettinger** (Westchester), proofreader
- **Mike Thomas** (Santa Clarita), design and layout of 12 issues (2015–16)

We now pass the baton to **Greg Maleman** and **Mike Thomas**.

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When a delivery of nets was delayed when a ship ran aground, there was grave concern that cutthroat salvagers would pilfer the cargo. Rotary was able to connect with the shipping company, based in Texas, and the company released the cargo to Rotary. "This was an example of Rotary in action," said Liu.

RESILIENCE WAS EXPLORED by Army Captain Kenneth Saffold, Jr. He grew up in a crime-ridden Chicago area, where more than 7,000 murders have been committed since 2001. Kenneth realized that he couldn't remain in that environment, and in his senior year in high school he determined he wanted to go to West Point. **Why Not!**

For most people this would be only a dream, and it might have been for Kenneth, because his counselor didn't think it was a good idea. Kenneth had a long list of participation in community projects and other activities, so he approached Sister Mary. **Why Not!** Through her assistance and a special prep program, he was admitted to the West Point in 2005. Kenneth took an unusual route, because according to standard protocols a person must receive a Congressional Nomination.

Just prior to the start of the school year, he suffered a knee injury, but he didn't want this to impede him. **Why Not!** When he was preparing to graduate, he was notified that he would be that year's Goat. The Goat is the cadet who finishes at the bottom of the class; however, it is a long and storied tradition at West Point. As the goat, Kenneth went from zero to hero, because other high-ranking cadets and academy officers show respect to the Goat. **Why Not!**

Kenneth remains in the Army Signal Corp. as a captain. During his tenure he completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and was twice awarded the Bronze Stars. "With resilience I have enjoyed a wonderful life," said Kenneth. **Why Not!** "Life is a roller coaster but we can make it whatever we want." **Why Not!★**



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS AND FORM

The District application for high school seniors requires letters of recommendation, at least a 3.5 GPA, and a record of school and/or community service. Applicants who have been involved in Interact or Rotaract receive preference.

In addition, a student must be planning to attend full time an accredited college, university, vocational school, or community college. The latter must allow students to transfer to a four year college or university. Financial need is defined as having a family income of approximately \$60,000 or less. Applicants also must provide written answers to the following: description of themselves, and details of their community service activities and school experiences. The answers should reflect Rotary's 4-Way Test.

[Here is a link to the application.](#)

NEW DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS WILL MEET EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

AFTER 20 YEARS, a successful partnership between District 5280 and a major Rotary donor has come to an abrupt end. A former member who created the Zentner Scholarship fund moved out of state and decided to take the funds with him to create a program in Florida.

"He thought we ran the best fund he had seen," said Rahla Frohlich, chair of the new Future Leaders Scholarship Awards Committee. "He was confident that our members could secure the necessary funds to continue the scholarship program. To make up for the lost money, we launched our Future Leaders Scholarship Awards (FSLA).

"FSLA WAS ESTABLISHED," said Rahla, "thanks primarily to the efforts of PDG DJ Sun and other district leaders who began quietly discussing the need with colleagues, fellow Rotarians, and me. We publicized the program through newsletters, and as a result three Rotarians pledged \$15,000 each over a three year period; three others donated \$5,000; and several gave \$500, which covers one scholarship. Rotarians do, indeed, always rise to the occasion."

These dollars are now in a restricted fund in the District's Foundation. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2018. "This new program evolved in an orderly way," said Rahla. "It has been a blessing. We are now, and have always been, grateful for our support and for the abundance we all share."

THE DISTRICT GAVE SCHOLARSHIPS last year to 11 students sponsored by seven clubs. The recipients were accepted at two-year community colleges, four-year universities, and technical schools. "Some were first in their family to graduate high school, and all are first in their family to attend any form of post-secondary education," commented Rahla.

"Recipients each received a scholarship from their sponsoring Rotary club, and each was matched with \$500. "With the start of the 2018 Rotary year, our matching amount increased to \$1,000. So, if a club awards more than \$500 to a student, we can match up to \$1,000."

Members of the Future Leaders Scholarship Awards Committee are Rahla Frohlich, chair; Andrea Clark, treasurer; and Bette Hall, SAG Youth. ★



WE ARE THIS CLOSE TO ENDING POLIO

Now is our chance to change the world. To make
sure no child is disabled by polio ever again.

Join in. Speak out. Donate. Be a part of history.

endpolionow.org



ThisClose

Isabeli Fontana

UNPARALLELED LUXURY ABOARD
THE GRAND FLAGSHIP CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS

SUNDAY
JUNE 24
6:30 PM

COCKTAILS & HEAVY APPETIZERS
PRO DJ GREAT MUSIC

**TORONTO HARBOR
CRUISE & RECEPTION**

MARIPOSA CRUISES

DOCK: 207 QUEEN'S QUAY WEST

(JUST 10-MINUTE WALK FROM CONVENTION CENTER)

\$70/PERSON (INCLUDES FIRST DRINK ON
US & HEAVY APPETIZERS)

CHILDREN UNDER 3 ARE FREE

BOARDING 6:30 - 7PM

CRUISING 7 - 9PM

DOCKING & DISEMBARK 9 - 9:30PM



DISTRICT 5240 & DISTRICT 5280

SCHMOOZE CRUISE

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT **BIT.LY/ROTARYTORONTOCRUISE**

FOR INFO, PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT PHILLIPS AT SCOTT@SYNERGYINC.NET OR NORA MACLELLAN AT DOUGNORA@AOL.COM

ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE AT BIT.LY/ROTARYTORONTOCRUISE;
WALK-INS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE VESSEL. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 12, 2018





RYLA AWARDS AREN'T JUST FOR BEGINNERS

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

RYLA IS AN INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE, a camp set high in the San Bernadino Mountains. It is isolated and completely private, the setting for a new generation of leaders is breathtaking. Every year about 200, mostly 11th grade students, are selected to attend RYLA with all expenses paid for the two-and-a-half days of training. During their time on the mountain they will encounter life-changing experiences.

RYLA is not a camp intended to teach leadership skills, because it is assumed that the students in attendance already possess those skills. These select young

people attend a camp experience where they are inspired by a diverse group of exceptional speakers.

Cell phones are not allowed (!), so the young people have a chance to get to know each other and themselves. It gets cold in April, so they pack for rain or shine, said Elyse Beardsley, chair of RYLA. "They make life-long friends through fellowship activities, and discussions of today's ethical and social issues.

THE AT CAMP ALPINE MEADOW, near Lake Arrowhead and Blue Jay, is comprised of cabins and dormitories, segregated by gender, all of which are fully

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enclosed and equipped. The program includes all meals and there is no need for money. So, who pays for the weekend? Sponsoring clubs are responsible for the \$190 registration fee and is transportation is included.

The following topics naturally arise in the course of RYLA activities and discussions: fundamentals of leadership, ethics of positive leadership, and qualities of a “servant leader.” Also important are communication skills, conflict management and problem solving, building self-esteem and self-confidence, and elements of community and global citizenship. RYLA’s intent is to encourage students to be more effective servant leaders.

All activities are conducted in an atmosphere of trust and respect. The result is that these students return to their schools and communities motivated to take on additional leadership responsibilities and to find new ways to serve.

EACH YEAR RYLA IS STAFFED BY COUNSELORS, who have attended RYLA previously and Rotarians, with the occasional spouse or teacher. Participations are supervised at all times. The counselors train all years to make this experience memorable. It an amazing mix of Interact and Rotary for an awesome weekend.

Who is qualified to go? Any freshman, sophomore or junior high school student, who is passionate about leadership and is a member of their school’s Interact Club. RYLA was established 50 years ago and our District has tailored the program for our specific participants. The District is recognizing and rewarding deserving young people and giving them an opportunity to learn and express leadership skills and accept responsibility as the basis for personal success, community involvement and group achievement.

IS YOUR CLUB SENDING A HAND-PICKED YOUTH LEADER FROM YOUR SCHOOLS? Well, you’re paying for one, whether you do or not. If your club hasn’t reached out to your local high schools and counselors, the money will go to sponsor a youth from some other club in the District. So talk to your Interactors, and tell them about this opportunity. Participants will be the Rotarians of tomorrow. ★



“Better Together” SCENES FROM THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 17–20, 2018

Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort and Spa



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Make a Dream Come True!



JUNE 2018



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Rotaract: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE

By Gabriel Biren, UCLA Rotaractor

I WAS ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE DISTRICT'S HUMANITARIAN TRIP TO BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA, this past March. This was my first time, so I wasn't sure what to expect other than what was listed on the itinerary. However, over the course of less than a week, I was able to learn a lot about Rotary and the work we do abroad.

The trip followed a remarkably busy schedule, which started just hours after we arrived. On Monday, we visited Operation Smile, an organization that offers surgeries and other services to people with cleft lips and palates. While we were there, we were able to sit in on their sessions with patients, and even watch as a surgery was performed to repair a cleft lip.



From the left are Gabriel Biren, Chris Becerra, Chris Reyes, and Eugenia Huang.

The next day, we visited several schools on the outskirts of the city where we met the students and distributed toys. At one of the schools, we were able to participate in arts & crafts activities with the students, and talk with them as they worked on their projects. Several of them were interested in what life was like back in LA, and many enjoyed testing our Spanish with the English/Spanish flashcards we had brought them.

WE VISITED A SERIES OF PROJECTS on the last day. In the morning, we headed to Jaime Duque Park, an eccentric theme park featuring replicas of the Wonders of the World. The foundation that runs the park also manages several ecological and humanitarian projects, so we crossed the street to their ecological reserve and planted trees around a small lake.

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After lunch, we headed to the Salt Cathedral, an abandoned salt mine that was converted into a church. We took a walking tour of the church's Stations of the Cross before heading to the main chapel, where we held a ceremony to present bicycles to the local children.

ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN A PART OF ROTARACT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, and in Interact before that, I feel like I haven't fully understood Rotary until I participated on this trip. It's always nice to hear about the work we're doing abroad, but it is a completely different experience to meet the people whose lives we are changing, and to see the impact we have on them.

In addition, after staying in the same hotel with dozens of Rotarians and Rotaractors, I've found that Rotary is as much about community service as it is about building community through service. I came back from the trip with new friendships and an even stronger bond with the people I knew before.

Going on the Humanitarian Trip has made me eager to become even more involved in Rotaract, and maybe even continue on to Rotary. I would highly recommend going on the trip, especially if you haven't been on one before. ★



Imaginative Club Project

ANNUAL BON FIRE KICKS OFF THE ROTARY YEAR

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

"THE BEACH BON FIRE IS SUCH A SOCIAL THING, and a great social to relax and have fun with family, friends and Rotarians," said Brenda Jaramillo, secretary of the Club Rotario De Latinos Unidos. "At the beginning of every Rotary year, we host a Bon Fire at Dockweiler Beach and invite friends, family and fellow Rotarians to kick off our new Rotary year!"

"This event was originally started as a club social, so members could bring their family," said Brenda. "As the years continued we began inviting Rotarians from other clubs, friends and prospective members. This year we branched out to Interact & Rotartact clubs."

"We have been doing the Bon Fire since we were

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chartered in 2005,” Brenda said. “My husband and I were charter members. In 2005 the District did not have any ethnic clubs, and the idea of a Latino Rotary club was presented to my husband by PDG Pat Cashin (Redondo Beach), PDG Rick Mendoza (Palos Verdes Sunset) and Janet Chabola, (Culver City). Gerardo contacted close friends and family to get the 20 members needed to have the club chartered, and I made the 20th.

“OUR MEMBERS ALL VOLUNTEER to bring food and drinks. We let guests know that they are welcome and ask them to bring something to share as well.”

“This year we are looking to add activities for the young people,” commented Brenda, “so they will have fun, as they are our future Rotarians.”

“Our club meetings are not conducted in Spanish,” said Brenda, “as most may think. You do not have to be Latino to become a member. One thing I like about our club is that we are not tied to a specific city, so when it comes time to conduct projects and help those in need we have no borders. We go where the need is.”

THE CLUB MEETS on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Truxton's American Bistro, 8611 Truxton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045. “Everyone who comes to our meetings or participate in a project are treated like family,” said Brenda. “We have a very close knit club and we look forward to getting together each week



Club members at the August 2017 Bon Fire. From the left are Erica Ruiz, community chair; Lucio Chaidez, treasurer; Angelica Soria, youth chair; Jonathan Harmon, president; Roland Perini, club service; Brenda Jaramillo, secretary and 2010–11 president; and Gerardo Jaramillo, membership chair and 2005 charter president. “Gerardo and I have been together since high school,” says Brenda, “and we will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary on June 5 and 30 years together in November.”

for our meetings. As Val Velasco once stated we are a ‘Small but Mighty Club.’ As small as we are we get a lot done and always have fun doing it! We are the ones that started the Rotary 4/5 Way Test with the 5th to Have Fun!”

“Our projects include Backpacks and School Supplies, High School Scholarships (two), Special Needs Prom, and the L A Food Bank. We raise money with our Annual Mariachi USA Fundraiser at Blanco Park in Culver City, and our Tequila Tasting. Join us for Noche De Fiesta next Cinco De May.”★





CLUB 62

News from District 5280 Clubs



Hawthorne High School Interactors practice for their PIES FOR POLIO fundraiser. Students pay to toss pies at teacher volunteers.



Westchester Rotarians beautified Westport Heights Elementary School.
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(Left) **Glendale-Noon** raised nearly **\$50,000** for the Glendale Police and Glendale Unified School District Youth programs at its second annual Cars for Cops & Kids event. There were some 170 classic, exotic and hot rods.

(Below left) **Beverly Hills** honored members of the police and fire departments and city officials who go above and beyond to keep the community safe and operating smoothly. Mayor Julian Gold and former Mayor Lili Bosse were in attendance.

(Below right) **San Pedro Rotarians** welcomed their newest member, Ruslan Shkolnykh! Ruslan and wife, Anna, have been regulars at their service projects and fellowship events. PDG Rick Mendoza, right, inducted Ruslan, who was sponsored by President Pete Mokler, left. ★





OTHER NEWS

from District 5280



Royal Wedding Watch. At the District Conference intrepid Rotarians woke up at 4 a.m. so they could watch the royal wedding.



Rotaractor of the Year. Hawthorne-Lennox Rotaractor Giovanni Sylvestre, center, received the "Rotaractor of the Year" Award from Rotary District Rotaract Leaders Chris Reyes and Sarah Furie.



