

## District 5910 Governor Year 2017-2018



Dear Rotarians,

It is my great pleasure to be your District Governor this Rotary year. I'm proud to be part of an international organization that touches the lives of those in need all over the world, as well as those right here in our own communities.

Why is Rotary so viable? Could it be "Service Above Self", living the Four Way Test, or just the wonderful fellow members whom we enjoy. All these have strengthened my commitment as a Rotarian.

I hope to stay close in touch with all of you—easier said than done. So, I thought I would try share the fellowship and "funship" that I am having as I travel the district on your behalf this year.

DG Rhonda Herrington

Suddenly—or so it seemed—I was District Governor of Rotary District 5910.

In reality, the process had begun three years previous, when I was one of several candidates interviewed for that position. I believe this is the way it is done in each Rotary District; a Committee (usually including several Past District Governors) is formed by the District to select possible candidates and to get some face-to-face time and feedback

I knew some members of the Committee, which eased my anxiety. I felt very comfortable during the meeting. I was asked about my Rotary activities and my feelings about Rotary (past, present, and future), along with a few personal questions. Though I thought I had handled the interview properly, I had no real idea of how I had done.

That evening, I was notified that I had actually been selected, and then had the "title" of District Governor Nominee. Wow!

This, of course, is part of the well-planned agenda to insure that we Rotarians are ready for the tasks that we are given. It's no secret that Rotary International believes in real preparation and participation by its members.

Once I was entered into the process I discovered that it was not for the faint-of-heart or the half-hearted.

The ensuing two years were filled with training sessions and meetings designed to see that I was ready to actually serve as District Governor--with emphasis on my job, which seemed to be to carry the personal message of the goals and purposes of this fantastic international organization. And of how we Rotarians, one and all, are so important to the organization.

I was sent to mandatory training in San Diego, where I read a ton of literature, and paid a lot of attention to other new and old District Governors. Collectively they are a fountain of knowledge, and they all seemed so helpful to me. I felt empowered by the training and the contacts with the many other Rotarians I met and worked with. I am honored and privileged to serve as District Governor for District 5910. I am so grateful to each and every Rotarian in our District. Thank you all for believing in me!

So, feeling like a fledgling hanging on the brim of the nest, I was ready to try my wings, and hoped I wouldn't lose my way and crash during my first outing.

*So now my story continues:*

*A Rotarians journey thru District 5910*

*A Diary of Events*

Friday

1

July

## Day 1

I woke up this morning and reality set in that I had become the Governor of District 5910

I had thought quite a bit about the theme set this year by Rotary International President, Ian Riseley, *Rotary: Making a Difference*, It seemed to me that the President might have had our District in mind when he set that theme, what with the great work and attitude of all the dedicated Rotarians in our District.

I had been told that perhaps the best part of being the District Governor is the visit to each club which will enable me to meet all the Rotarians and learn about their club and its activities. I was eager to begin visiting each of "my" clubs and to enrich myself in their accomplishments.

I want to see the differences each club is making. My focus will be to help each club achieve its goals, not only as part of their local communities, but perhaps in all of the District, and throughout the world.

**Wednesday**

**12**

**July**

**Day 12**

My first club visit was to the Rotary Club of San Augustine.

I wasn't sure what to expect since this was my first official club visit. David and Sharon Stoneham opened their home to me and even sent me home with a load of their home-grown produce. Sitting in their porch swing that morning of my first club speech, watching the sun rise, the birds fly by and even the honeybees buzzing by my ear, I was quickly relieved of my anxieties.

We left this idyllic home-place, and the Stonehams took me to some of the historical sites of this early Texas town. I especially enjoyed visiting the *San Augustine Drug Store* that has been doing business for over 100 years. One reason for that endurance is a fountain drink named "The Grapefruit Highball." I enjoyed sitting at the round tables, drinking my Highball, while local people—Rotarians and not—came in to visit awhile. Quickly, it seemed, that it was time for the meeting and to attend to official business.

Time continued to rush past, and it was suddenly time to say my farewells. But a sudden visitor made me unsure that I was going to get home: a large goose stood in the middle of the road apparently having decided to not let me pass. After a few moments of negotiations with this beautiful and determined bird, I completed my trip home, feeling a sense of relief (and I presume the same for the goose), I completed my first club visit



**Grapefruit Highball**