Dave Harris was the 11th District Governor in District 5180. He joined Rotary club of Orangevale in 1993 with the classification of “Financial Management”. His sponsor was Bill Newton. Dave was no stranger to Rotary in that his father was a Rotarian. Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer from Sweden was the Rotary International President and his international theme was “Service Above Self”. Dave’s goals for his year focused on membership development, helping others and encouraging each club to strive to become the “Friendliest” club in the district.

Dave’s most memorable experience of his year was the club visits, learning about their projects as well as their uniqueness. Internationally, some clubs in the district pursued projects associated with developing clean water to reduce water borne illnesses. Dave’s club, the Rotary club of Orangevale, provided computers and clothing to a deaf school in Mexico and the Rotary club of Oroville sent plums and clothing to Romania. He was impressed at the size of the Rotary Club of Sacramento and its ability to pursue so many projects.

Dave’s District Conference was on May 19 – 21, 2006 at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, Nevada. He recalled there was a full size display of Arnold Schwarzenegger at the Conference Registration desk with Dave’s face imposed on the figure. Dave participated in a Group Study Exchange with Rotary District 1940 in Eastern Germany in his year. He had both the incoming and outgoing GSE teams present at
his conference. The Rotary Club of Orangevale lead by President Russ Rheams was selected as the Outstanding Club of the year.

Dave noted he became a “true” Rotarian when he traveled to Peru and delivered wheel chairs to local poor residents with severe mobility issues.

Both Dave and his wife, Barbara, are multiple Paul Harris Fellows, major donors, and members of the Bequest Society and the Paul Harris Society.

Outside of the District, Dave has served on the Zone Institute Committee.

Dave’s recommendation to an aspiring District Governor is “Follow your Rotary dream. It will only happen once.”