Jack Taylor was the 17th District Governor in District 5180. He joined the Rotary club of Red Bluff (District 5160) in 1987, and then in 1994, transferred his membership to the Rotary Club of Oroville. In 1998, he transferred his membership to his current club; the Rotary Club of Oroville Sunrise. His classification is “Public Utilities”. His initial club sponsor was his boss at Pacific Gas and Electric. Kalyan Banerjee from India was the Rotary International President and the International theme was “Reach Within to Embrace Humanity”. Jack also chose a District theme for his year; “Share your Rotary Passion”. Jack noted several goals in his year; increase membership, foundation giving, and club participation at the District level. Plus he wanted to implement a District wide blood drive and provide financial support to benefit the “Safe Blood Africa” program. Lastly he also wanted to place more emphasis on the role of the assistant governors.

Jack’s most memorable element of his year was District 5180 being presented the Changemaker Award at the Rotary International Convention as one of the top 15 Districts in the world. And at the same time, the Rotary Club of Roseville was recognized as the best Large Club in the world. Jack and his wife, Dianne, thoroughly enjoyed their club visits. One of the most memorable visits was their meeting with the Board of Directors of the Rotary club of Pocket Greenhaven. They cruised and dined on the Sacramento River in Club President Keiko Wong’s yacht. Both Jack and Dianne were impressed with all the club projects shared with them on their visits. They were amazed to learn of 38 different projects being performed throughout the district on a single day; Rotarians at Work day in April.

Regarding International projects, Jack’s goal to support “Safe Blood Africa” resulted in 90% of the clubs in the district raising money and/or contributing DDF for the installation of blood storage refrigeration units in two Rotary districts located in Nigeria.

Jack’s District Conference was over the Mother’s Day Weekend in May 2012 and was at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. Jack acknowledges the highlights of his conference were the Friday night Luau, the bowling tournament, the Rotary talent show and the re-establishment of the Hospitality suite awards. The Rotary Club of Roseville was selected as the Outstanding Club of the year. Jack participated in the Group Study Exchange (GSE) program with District 4450 in Peru. He had both the incoming and outgoing GSE teams at his conference.
Jack stated he became a “True Rotarian” when he served as Polio Coordinator in Red Bluff. It was further strengthened with his involvement in GSE and RYE. He and Dianne have hosted many RYE students (17) over the years.

Jack and Dianne are both multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and members of the Bequest and Paul Harris Fellow Societies. They made both their daughters and spouses Paul Harris Fellows at Jack’s District Conference.

Outside of the District, Jack has served Far West PETS (FWP) in a multitude of roles including Sergeant at Arms (4 years) and PETS Instructor (3). He continues to be a dedicated participant at FWP. He has also held multiple positions on Zone Institute committees.

Jack’s assessment of his experience as a District Governor is; “My year as Governor was incredible and I only hope that other Rotarians can experience the joy that serving as a DG has brought to my life and my families lives.”

His advice to future District Governors: “Put everything you have into your year as governor because it will fly by faster than you could ever imagine. Also, “Share Your Rotary Passion”, whatever it might be, with your friends, neighbors, family and especially your fellow Rotarians.”