It was with great sadness that Rotarians learned of the recent death of Sam Owori, the President-elect from the Rotary Club of Kampala, Uganda. He passed away on July 13, 2017 after complications from surgery. He worked tirelessly to engage women within Rotary, as well as youth participants, alumni, and community members. He had an impressive background that included positions with international banks and degrees in law, business, and finance from schools in England, Japan, Switzerland, Tanzania, and the United States, including Harvard Business School. In addition, he held many posts in Rotary including the International PolioPlus Committee, the Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force, and the Rotary Foundation. In the words of RI President Ian Riseley, “Sam was a special person in so many ways, and his unexpected death is a huge loss to Rotary, his community, and the world.” Rotary will establish a memorial fund in Sam’s honor.

Due to Sam’s death, Rotary International conducted an election and recently announced the new R.I. President-elect will be Barry Rassin from the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Bahamas. The 37-year Rotarian is a consultant to the Doctors Hospital Health System in the Bahamas. He has served as chair of Project Read Bahamas, chair of the Quality Council of the Bahamas, and vice chair of Safe Bahamas.

“Although we did not get the opportunity to see Sam take on the role of president, his spirit and memory live on through our commitment to serving our local and global communities,” said Ian Riseley.

Governor’s Spin

If you’ve never thought about being District Governor, you should. Sure, there is a lot of work, but that pales in comparison to the best part — the people you meet and the friends you make. As District Governor, I get to spend time with the Club Presidents when they are Presidents-Nominee, Presidents-Elect and finally when they are Presidents. We all are new in these roles; but we learn, grow and become leaders together. It is a wonderful experience. After July 1, I get to visit the clubs in the District and find out the good things being done in our communities. During this Rotary year, my visits will look and feel different. Each Club President gets a say in the visit. Some Clubs want a purely social event, participation from me in a project, a question-and-answer forum that engages members, a joint-club meeting, or a hybrid traditional/non-traditional session. Don’t be surprised by what you see! Here’s what happened in July.

My first official visit was to East Sacramento — dubbed “The 49’ers” because it was the 49th Club chartered in the District when we still were part of District 519. President Lewie Donhost and his members have given the club a “facelift.” There are new pop-up banners, fun music clips, great power point visuals, and members and visitors galore. They have bold plans for all avenues of service, particularly their Canine Project. The meeting was like a reunion. We all reflected back, remembered good times, and cried a bit together.

Marysville was next. Boy, did President Bruce Dickinson and the members make me do my homework!
Governor’s Spin (continued)

They wanted a question and answer session. Thankfully, they presented the questions to me in advance, but none were simple -- everything from whether Rotary leaders get paid to what happened to the Group Study Exchange Program a.k.a. GSE. In the end, they got their answers, and I learned what was of interest to the members.

On to Fair Oaks. What a great social hour with President Anne Browning, members, visiting Rotarians and guests, even one under a year old. New member, Ivan Vucenovic, was inducted. Anne also presented 20 questions to me, and members -- new and senior -- became engaged in discussion. That exchange of ideas was one of the best parts of the meeting.

Who’s Who in the District.

Meet Ken Wilson, District 5180 Tree Project Chair. Rotary International President Ian Riseley challenged each Rotarian in the world to plant a tree this year. Shortly thereafter, Ken Wilson -- Past President and active member of the Rotary Club of West Sacramento -- stepped up to the plate with shovel in hand to serve as our District Tree Project Chair.

Why Ken? He is a wine grape grower and lives and breathes agriculture. He and his family have operated Wilson Vineyards in Clarksburg for four generations. As a family, they are stewards of the land and committed to their community. Rotary is a big part of it. Ken has been a Rotarian since 1995. His father, Dave Wilson, has been a member of the West Sacramento Club since 1956, and his grandfather, George Wilson, was a member of the Sacramento Rotary Club.

Ken has been married to Shelly for 28 years and they have one daughter, Hannah. Ken attended Sacramento City College and the University of California, Davis. When he is not working at Wilson Vineyards and thinking about how, when and where to plant trees, he likes to fish and hunt.

If you would like to know what Ken has planned, feel free to contact him at kenneth@wilsonvineyards.com. He might just be willing to visit your Club, answer your questions and tell you a little about grape growing!

District Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td>Foundation Seminar - 8 a.m.-12 p.m.</td>
<td>Citrus Heights Community Center</td>
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<td>6300 Fountain Square Drive</td>
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<td>Citrus Heights</td>
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<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>RYE Inbound Orientation -10 a.m.-6 p.m.</td>
<td>3035 Maritime Drive</td>
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<td>Elk Grove</td>
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<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Family Picnic - 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Discovery Park (Rosebud Area)</td>
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<td>200 Jibboom Street, Sacramento</td>
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<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Sacramento Century Challenge</td>
<td>Start: 7:00 a.m. and finish on Capitol Mall</td>
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<td>and 8th Street</td>
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<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>Foundation Dinner</td>
<td>Citrus Heights Community Center</td>
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<td>6300 Fountain Square Drive</td>
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<td>Citrus Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11-13, 2018</td>
<td>District Conference</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino</td>
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What’s Happening in the District

Passport Club Innovates. On July 10th the Rotary Club of Foothill-Highlands gave members of the Passport Club a warm welcome as they joined together at the Lions Gate Hotel in McClellan Park for Passport’s first joint meeting of the year.

Why you ask was the Passport Club at Foothill Highlands? Embracing R.I. President Ian Riseley’s concept of flexibility, Passport President JoAnne Tanner has partnered with eight clubs in the District: Foothill-Highlands, Sacramento Breakfast, Fair Oaks, Loomis Sunset, Point West, Roseville, Granite Bay and South Placer. These clubs have agreed to hold joint meetings once during the year with Passport as a way for its members to meet other Rotarians in the district, learn the traditions of other clubs, and see if there is a traditional club that interests them enough to make a transfer. In return, the Passport Club agreed to have its members participation in those clubs’ service projects and fundraising activities. The beauty of the partnership is that more of Passport’s members will have an opportunity to meet and work with the Rotarians in those clubs; and hopefully, Passport members will make a connection and consider a transfer. To learn more, contact JoAnne Tanner at joanne@joannetanner.com

District 5180 Pours It On At State Fair.

District Blood Drive Is On!

Rotarians from District 5180 were center stage this year at the State Fair, as they accommodated thousands of Fair goers with a glass of wine—

District 5180 Pours It On At State Fair.

even Rotarians visiting from Australia! This is the eighth year Rotary has participated in the California State Fair Wine Bar sponsored by Save Mart. Of course, we were the single largest group pouring at the State Fair Wine Bar and the only group to provide volunteers for three full days—468 hours of service! And, this all went to benefit the community, as the proceeds will benefit Save Mart’s charity, the CARE Foundation. A record number of donations were boosted by “tips” received from Rotary.

Mid-town’s President Ellie VanAcker and member Jasmeen Pabla know wine.

A BIG thank you to the 117 volunteers from the following Rotary Clubs: Point West, Fair Oaks, East Sacramento, North Sacramento, Pocket/Greenhaven, Laguna Sunrise, Orangevale, Natomas, Sacramento Breakfast, Midtown, Granite Bay and Carmichael. A BIGGER thanks to PDG Brian Moore for providing this opportunity and organizing the event.

Ellie and PDG Brian Moore

District Blood Drive Is On!

In cooperation with Blood Source, each year District 5180 Rotarians participate in a drive to bring blood donations to the region. Clubs and individual Rotarians are honored each year at the District Conference based on how many pints of blood they donated. It is a great way to give directly to the health and welfare of the region! And, it’s easy. Besides your blood, all you have to do is give your Rotary Club’s name at the time of the donation! To make an appointment, go to bloodsource.org or call 866-822-5663.
Point West Goes Crazy at Lunar Lunacy.

The Rotary Club of Point West held its Fourth Annual Lunar Lunacy Ride on Saturday, August 5th and a great time was had by all! Hundreds of riders dressed in costumes, lit up their bikes, enjoyed the pre-ride festivities and rode in the glow of an almost perfect full moon through the iconic areas of downtown Sacramento. The six-mile course took riders through Capitol Mall, Miller Park, Old Sac, the Amtrak station, the Railyards and back to Capitol Mall. The Lunar Lunacy Ride was in support of foster youth and other children's charities in the local area.

On The Road with the Rotarian Magazine.

Where have you been reading the Rotarian Magazine? At work? On the bus? In a park? Send us your photos at charleyrea@yahoo.com

District Seeks Input for 2019 Legislation

PDG Bob “Ranger Rick” Deering has been selected as the district’s representative to the 2019 Council on Legislation. And, PDG Clarence Parkins has been selected as the alternate should Bob stumble in the woods. The duties of this position, in addition to demonstrating that PDGs can be useful, include polling the clubs in the district to determine if there are any resolutions clubs would like the board of directors to take up over the next three years. Also, the job entails determining if there are any enactments, which district clubs would like to propose to change the bylaws of Rotary International.

So, if you or your club have anything to propose, resolutions are required to be in to Rotary International by June 30th of each year with voting taking place in November of that year. And, enactments must be submitted by clubs and districts by December 31, 2017 if they are to be considered by the Council on Legislation in April 2019.

For more details contact either Bob Deering at bobdeer- ing5180@gmail.com or Clarence Parkins at cpar- kins@comcast.net.

Newsletter Editor: Charley Rea, charleyrea@yahoo.com