Happy New Year and welcome to the second half of the 2017-2018 Rotary year! Clubs in District 5180 had a strong first half and are looking forward to the next six months.

District 5180 has 41 Clubs in 7 Counties (Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo and El Dorado). The oldest Clubs are the Sacramento Club chartered in 1914 and Marysville chartered in 1920. The newest are Clarksburg chartered in 2017 and Twin Rivers chartered in 2016.

Our official member count as of July 1, 2017, was 1805. During the first half of the Rotary year, we had a high of 1854 members which takes into account departing Rotarians and newly-added Rotarians. As of January 14, the official member count according to Rotary International is 1824. Why the decrease? Twice each Rotary year, the count drops -- once before July 1 and again in late December. That is when dues invoices are issued and Clubs make sure they update their rosters. And, sadly we have had a number of members pass this year. The Club with the highest net increase in membership (+8) is El Dorado Hills.

Of our 41 Presidents, 27 are men and 14 are women. One of the goals of Rotary International President Ian Riseley is to increase the number of women Presidents.

District Aid Benefits Fire Victims

On January 3rd, Rotary District 5180 distributed $20,000 in aid to families and individuals in Butte County affected by the wildfires last fall.

The recipients included a widower in poor health who is caring for a developmentally disabled son, a single mom of an 11-year-old daughter, a veteran and his family, a single mom raising an 11-year-old son and a retired couple who lost an uninsured home and are living in a fifth-wheel trailer on the property.

“Those who donated expressed a desire that the money make an impact in the lives of those who will receive the assistance,” said District Governor Sandi Sava.

“These fires have disrupted so many lives, and the need is great. Rotarians are humbled by the stories — not just of near miraculous escapes, but of courage to push forward after such tragedy,” said Sava.

AG Area 1 Shelton Enochs from the Rotary Club of Oroville organized the donation.
This year’s District 5180 co-directors of Youth Services are Colleen and Steve Lamon, members of the Yuba City Rotary Club. Together they have decades of dedicated service to youth in their communities.

During the past 25 years, Colleen has immersed herself in the local public education system. She has worked as a substitute teacher in grades K through 12 and in the Spanish-English language program. She is a 20-year mentor for the Gifted and Talented Program, and advisor for the River Valley, Yuba City, and Sutter Union High Schools Rotary Interact Clubs (13 years). She is also a 13-year past board member of the Yuba City/Toride Sister City Student Exchange Program. She lead two delegations of dozens of students on exchanges to Toride, Japan and hosted Japanese students for years.

As a vocation, Colleen is a certified independent college admissions counselor and the owner of Colleen’s Creative Consulting based in Yuba City. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies, and the University of California, Berkeley Certification in Rotary worldwide. I am happy to report that the percentage of women in our District is 31% which is higher than the international and national figures.

Our District is leading the way in overall giving to the Rotary International Foundation. In fact, it is NUMBER ONE in the world at $1,384,817.93. While over $300,000 of that is from many members and Clubs, more than $1 million is a recent single endowment contribution through the Folsom Rotary Club. The Folsom Club also leads the District in contributions to Polio Plus.

As many of you already know, our District applied for and recently received the largest national grant through the Rotary International Foundation to help combat human trafficking in our own community. For more information, visit our District website at rotary5180.org. Nineteen other global grants -- involving 17 of our Clubs -- have been approved and are underway.

If you are interested in learning more about Membership, the Foundation or other programs in our District, including Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE), please contact me at go-rotary5180@gmail.com or Chief of Staff Maureen (Mo) McBride at queenmoby@comcast.net. We will put you in touch with the committee chairs and let you know when they meet. We always are looking for people who want to expand their service.

And, last but certainly not least, plans for our 2018 District Conference (May 11-13) at the Hyatt Regency in Incline Village are being finalized. Nearly 200 of your friends have registered, but there is room for many more. We want everyone to have Fun in Tahoe, and we want
Who’s Who (continued)

Program in College Admissions and Career Planning. She is a member of the Western Association and National Association for College Admissions Counseling. She previously worked as a “Senior Coach” at a Sacramento-based counseling firm before she started her own practice. She has served as a mentor to first-generation college applicants in association with the Partners Program in the College Counseling Collaborative based in Oakland, California. Through the program, she assisted an applicant who was granted a full ride through the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Colleen has been a Yuba City Rotarian for 10 years, and for many years served as director of the club’s two high school Interact clubs. She was Club President in 2016-17 and focused many of the club’s service projects on furthering education and literacy. With her leadership, the club continues to fund local literacy programs as well as provide support through the Africa Hope Fund to a school teacher at a rural school in Zambia.

Steve Lamon was raised in Marysville with Rotary “in his blood.” Steve’s late father, John, was a lifelong—and perfect attendance—member of the Marysville Rotary Club. Steve’s family hosted a Rotary Youth Exchange Student (RYE) when Steve was in high school; and shortly thereafter, Steve served as a RYE student to Holland and was followed by RYE students comprised of his cousin and two nephews—amazing Exchange years!

Steve graduated from University of California, Berkeley and Hastings College of Law. For the past 31 years, he has worked as a business litigation attorney, most recently as a partner with the Sacramento firm Murphy Austin LLP. As a prior member of the

Governor’s Spin (continued)

you to be part of it. Be sure to let your Club President know that you want to go. Or, contact me or our Conference Chair Deb Thornton Reyman at debbiesan@comcast.net, and we’ll get you set up.

Who’s Who (continued)

Downtown Sacramento Rotary Club, Steve served for years as a member of the District RYE committee and as a mentor to a college-bound McClatchy High School graduate through the Sacramento Club’s Youth In Progress (YIP) program.

Steve and Colleen have two sons: Tyler, 26, a co-valedictorian of River Valley High School and an honors graduate from Claremont McKenna College, majoring in literature and Spanish. He is currently a teacher and writer in Louisville, Kentucky. Second son, Connor, 24, was also a high school co-valedictorian, an honors graduate from UCSB in Electrical Engineering and is currently finishing his Masters Degree in EE at Stanford University.

Together now for 30 years, Colleen and Steve bring a “dynamic duo” to our Youth Services program as Co-Chairs. They are honored to serve in that capacity!

District 5180 Assembly
Saturday, April 7
Inderkum High School
8 a.m.—1 p.m.
Shelter Box

Tobin Achieves Milestone

Bill Tobin from the Rotary Club of El Dorado was recently entered in the Shelter Box USA Hall of Fame for reaching the $100,000 fundraising milestone.

As Rotarians know, ShelterBox USA provides emergency shelter and supplies to people who have lost their homes to natural disaster or fled because of civil conflict. Bill is the 22nd person to reach the $100,000 milestone. In all, his fundraising has meant over 100 families will receive emergency shelters.

Bill Tobin first began working for the program in 2010 after the Haitian Earthquake and the inspiration provided by fundraising efforts by the Oak Ridge High School Interact Club.

Read his whole story in a recent issue of the Folsom Telegraph.

District 5180 Tree Plantings

Well, in last month’s issue we asked who and where are trees being planted in pursuit of RI President Ian Riseley’s request that every Rotarian plant a tree.

And, we found out. They have been planting them in Citrus Heights at the C-Bar-C Park. A team of 45 volunteers planted 170 live oak trees in 2.5 hours!

A competition was made of the event involving Rotarians from the Passport Club, the Sac State Rotaract Club, Sacramento State students, and assorted community volunteers. Of course, Rotarians led the way, with the Passport Club planting 35 on their own!

“We rock & roll,” said Judy Harris from the Passport Club after planting 35 trees.

And, the Rotary Club of Midtown-Sacramento has reached out to the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa-Sunrise to combine forces for a tree planting project. This project is focusing on the idea that, after the devastating fires, Santa Rosa needs trees more than Sacramento does right now. So, the Midtown Rotarians plan to purchase trees, meet up with their Santa Rosa Club counterparts, and plant them where they will do the most good -- in Santa Rosa.

They welcome other District 5180 Clubs to join them, hopefully, later this month. Contact Club President Ellie Kuechler-VanAcker at rotarykva@gmail.com.

If your club needs some tree planting ideas, contact Ken Wilson, District 5180 Tree Project Chair, at kenneth@wilsonvineyards.com.

District Human Trafficking Project

Volunteers Needed for Grant Implementation

PDG Bob Deering and the District 5180 Human Trafficking Project Committee are looking for volunteers for 2-3 hours a week.

Now that the RI Education and Outreach grant has been obtained for the project, the District has formed three implementation committees: education, public relations, and fundraising. If you can help out, these are the contacts:

Education – Joanne Hilton (jhillon777@gmail.com);
PR – Desiree Wilson (desiree918@comcast.net);
Fundraising – Connie Correia (connie@fc360.com)
International—Roseville

Roseville Proposes Bangladesh Water Project

The Rotary Club of Roseville seeks support from District 5180 Clubs for a new Global Grant (GG) to provide deeper wells in Bangladesh.

Many wells in Bangladesh are too shallow, and become highly contaminated with arsenic—often 70-90% arsenic. This leads to a number of deadly diseases, particularly for women who have to fetch drinking water, often over long distances. Or, children and women who use the water each day for washing, cleaning, cooking, and bathing.

The project will provide up to 40 deeper wells, called tube wells. The new GG will be designed so that one tube well can benefit up to 200 people in a community. The 40 new tube wells will help over 8,000 women, children and their families to receive safe, arsenic-free drinking water.

Each tube well will be tested by the Dept. of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) Zonal Laboratory to verify that the water is arsenic free; all tube wells with their current Global Grant have come back with extremely low levels of arsenic (less arsenic than we have in the US). To the left is a picture of women and children receiving arsenic-free water thanks to the current Bangladesh Tube Well Global Grant.

If this project interests you or your club, please contact Kathy Clemens at kaclemens@earthlink.net for more information. If your Rotary Club can help with $250 or more, they would love it!

Rotary Standards

The Four-Way Test: A Local Connection

By John Lemmon, Rotary Club of Sacramento
(reprinted from a talk John recently gave to his club)

We are all familiar with Rotary’s 4 Way Test…we have it here on a banner to remind us to ask these 4 questions about all decisions in our lives.

But, do you wonder how it came about? Here’s the answer. It resulted from the experience of a Rotarian, Herbert Taylor, who was dealing with business pressures in the Great Depression. Taylor had taken over the Club Aluminum Company and was working to save it from bankruptcy. Club Aluminum made cookware. Taylor was trying to figure out just what his Company had to offer customers over goods being offered by other makers of cookware. Taylor realized that Club Aluminum did not have anything that much better than what his competitors were selling. So, he decided to offer one thing above all…the character, dependability and service-mindedness of the company’s personnel. In line with this determination, he devised the 4 Way Test. Rotary International adopted Taylor’s 4 Way Test in 1943.

Since becoming Rotarians, we make mention of the 4 Way Test at meetings and in our publications…but we could do better.

Take a look at this Sacramento Union article from March of 1960. It reports that our Club, along with the Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks and Folsom Clubs publicly pledged their allegiance to the principles of the Four-Way Test and invited their communities to do the same. The then Mayor of Sacramento, James McKinney, proclaimed a week in 1960 as the “Four-Way Test Week.” The article reports that our Club also arranged for ten Billboards in the Sacramento area to display the Test.

The Sacramento Union published a follow-up article on April 10, 1960 presenting more information about the Four-Way Test and quoting the President of our Club as saying:

“If we could get a good percentage of business people and the community as a whole to recognize the value of the test and to apply it, the quality of goods and services offered to the public would be inevitably enhanced.”
The Four Way Test (continued)

And, our President in 1960 was……my Dad, Vince Lemmon. He was 43 years old….before I gave him all that grey hair.

So, my suggestion is that we follow the example our Club set in 1960. Put a copy of the Four-Way Test up in your office and talk it up to your friends and business associates.

It certainly wouldn’t hurt.

End Polio Now

Since 1988, we’ve seen a worldwide reduction in polio cases of 99.9%.

Last year, we only saw wild polio cases in three countries.

- Here is the latest country report.
- Here are polio facts.
- Here is how to donate.

Club News—Sacramento

Rotary Club of Sacramento Raises Funds for the Rotary Fire Relief

By Nancy Teichert

The Rotary Club of Sacramento raised $22,000 for people who lost family and homes in the October wine country wildfires; but members gave more than just money.

Members teared up as Rotarian Kathy Herrfeldt told of her family in Santa Rosa fleeing the fireball at 3 am. She left that meeting with $400 in cash to buy food and supplies. Christie Holderegger used trucks from Volunteers of America and President John Lemmon loaded up his truck with soft drinks, T-shirts and other supplies left over from the Club’s Century Bike Ride and delivered them to the 50 evacuees being sheltered at Herrfeldt’s family’s business warehouse.

District 5130 Governor Bob Rodgers and DG Elect Barbara Spangler later came to express their heartfelt thanks. Everyone was visibly moved by the devastation and the club’s outpouring of support.