Ordinarily, the District Governor completes official club visits by December 31 of the Rotary year. This year has been anything but “ordinary” or “official.” The clubs have decided when and how to have me interface with their members, and two have been after January 1.

I met with members of Loomis-Sunset, led by President Carrie Pronesti, on January 9 for an informal, cozy dinner and had the chance to talk with everyone during the evening. Although the club is relatively new (chartered 2012) and relatively small, the members are very engaged and get things done. They have a number of youth activities and have decided that their tree project will involve the planting of fruit-bearing trees. Sustainability is an important focus for them.

February 8 marked my last formal visit, and it was to the Lincoln Club. President Dan Johnson made it spectacular. Several PHF presentations were made, two new members were inducted, and good social time was had by all. Did you know that the Lincoln Club has met in
District 5180 Key Dates

June 5  Rotary at the River Cats—River Cats (Giants) vs. Oklahoma City - Benefit for End Polio Now

June 24  District 5180 Dinner at the Rotary International Conference — Toronto.

July 14-29  District 5180 Wine Pouring at State Fair

Details and registration on the District 5180 website.

Who's Who

Deb Thornton Reyman
2017-18 District Conference Chair

For the many members of District 5180 that recently returned from the 2017-2018 District Conference at Incline Village, you may well be saying I had the, “time of my life.”

Well, you have Deb Thornton to thank for that. She has spent the past 3 years arranging the conference, which was incidentally themed, “Time of Your Life.”

It is a demanding job to find a site, get the best speakers, negotiate deals, develop fun activities, and sell the conference to Rotarians. And, to do this while working your regular job.

Deb has been a Rotarian for 16 years, joining the Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast in 2002. She served as Club President in 2007-08.

Deb soon began helping with several district conferences and events over the years, including stints as conference registrar and sergeant at arms at district and zone events.

“As Chair for the Conference for District Governor Sandi Sava, we tried to capture Sandi's vision for Conference and put together a strong and dedicated District Conference Committee who implemented that vision,” said Thornton.

She also has served as treasurer for her club for the past eight years. She also served as her club’s representative for the Oak Park Rotary House for 6 years.

When she’s not carrying out service projects or duties for her club, she spends time with her husband, Matt, their two dogs, and her family. Her favorite vacation is always in Hawaii, and her favorite animal is the zebra.

Join Us! The District 5180 Dinner in Toronto at the RI Convention
June 24, 6:30—8:30 a.m.
Scaddabush Italian Kitchen & Bar, Toronto
Awards (con't)

large club category.

Within Rotary, there are always a few individuals who strive to do a little more than others. As such, the Rotarian of the Year Award was given to Assistant District Governor Area 4 Angela Spease from the Rotary Club of Laguna Sunrise. A rising star in District 5180 and named Rookie of the Year was Richard Olebe of the Rotary Club of Carmichael.

One of the goals of R.I. President Ian Riseley was to have Rotary clubs throughout the world plant trees. At the district conference, a special recognition “The Golden Shovel” was given to the club which planted the most trees throughout the year. This year’s winner was the Rotary Club of Oroville.

Another coveted recognition is the one given to the club which consistently publishes an informative, interesting, aesthetically pleasing, and timely newsletter. This year’s winner is The Rotary Club of Foothill-Highlands.

Service is probably the core of Rotary and this year found several clubs earning high honors for their service. North Sacramento, Pocket/Greenhaven, and Sacramento Breakfast took honors in the small club category. It was Clarksburg, South Placer (Rocklin) and Rancho Cordova Sunrise leading the pack for medium sized clubs. For large clubs, it was Sacramento, Fair Oaks, and Roseville leading the way.

With increased emphasis on retaining and recruiting new members, there was much anticipation for the Membership Award category. The stalwarts this year in the large club category were Point West, Fair Oaks, and Passport One. For medium clubs, it was Clarksburg, El Dorado Hills and Elk Grove. And, for small but growing clubs, it was North Sacramento, Pocket/Greenhaven and Midtown.

Activities involving youth are always a high priority, in part, for providing a lasting imprint of Rotary. Recognition this year was given to Elk Grove, Laguna Sunrise and Clarksburg in the medium club category; Roseville, Fair Oaks and Sacramento in the large club category; and Pocket/Greenhaven, Placer Valley Sunrise and Midtown among the small clubs.

The R.I. Foundation remains the primary source by which individuals and clubs can be part of larger international efforts to provide service and conflict resolution throughout the world. The District as a whole excels in its support, but these clubs just had to do a little bit more: Sacramento, Point West, Roseville, East Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Clarksburg, North Sacramento, Midtown and Foothill-Highlands.

A common Rotarian attribute is probably humbleness, which unfortunately leaves many good deeds unknown. Fortunately, more clubs are helping to shed light on Rotary’s accomplishments. The District Awards Committee particularly commended the Rotary Clubs of North Sacramento, Midtown, Placer Valley Sunrise, Carmichael, Clarksburg, Lincoln, Fair Oaks, Point West, Roseville, and Sacramento for their accomplishments in publicizing Rotary.

This year there was much speculation preceding announcement of the Club Administration award winners. Who really does go online and fill out those District and RI reports? Well, they are Carmichael, East Sacramento, Clarksburg, North Sacramento, Midtown, Sacramento Breakfast, Fair Oaks, Roseville and Sacramento.

To complete the awards ceremony, special time was taken to induct members into Rotary District 5180’s “Cooperstown” Hall of Fame. For their many contributions to the District over the years, six members were
Gov's Spin (Cont'd)
the same location since it was chartered in 1925? If
you’re looking to make up, this is the place to
come!

I had the pleasure of being with current Presidents
and Presidents-Elect at the Mid-Year Retreat on
January 27. It, too, was different. The Presidents,
not the District Governor, decided on the format
and further decided that Presidents-Elect should be
invited. We had interactive table sessions on top-
ics that were important to the Presidents and clubs.
Needless to say, it was a huge success. Thank
you, Presidents!

I really dreaded putting on that yellow vest. Not just
because it was yellow (not my best color) but be-
cause it set me apart and I’d get noticed. I am a
"behind the scenes team player" and don't really
want to stand out. But, being the Chair gave me the
opportunity to assemble an amazing team of fellow
Presidents Elect who would also be sporting the yel-
low vests…and as a team, I think we felt proud to
stand out, get involved and help support our great
organization.

The word "sergeant" is derived from the Latin
word serviens which means servant. To me, that's
what Rotary is all about and I am proud to support
our theme of "Making a Difference." In order to "Be
The Inspiration" moving forward, I need to remind
myself to always step up and be that servant.

I am so proud to be a part of this organization. I val-
ue the work we do. If I have to wear a yellow vest, I
will. The bottom line is that it doesn't matter what
you wear. It's what you do to contribute that matters.

I want to thank everyone who wore a yellow vests
and to all the attendees who followed the rules and
made our job so fun! I secretly loved hearing people
yell “Hey Sergeant!” as I was walking down the
hall! President Elect Sergeants…it was a joy to
get to know you better and I look forward to see-
ing the inspiration you give to your clubs next
term!

As for
the line
up:
Front
row of
ladies L
-R: PE
Lawana
Welch (Pt. West Satellite), Leslie Naake (PE
Carl's wife), PE Valerie Mebust (Roseville), PE
Anna Lester (Loomis Sunset), PE Sandy Mayo
(South Yuba Sunrise), President Carrie Pronesti
(Loomis Sunset). Back row of men L-R: PE Carl
Naake (Pt. West), President/PE Tommy Peno
(Orangevale), PE Richard Krupp (Granite Bay),
PE Jim Tracy (South Sac) and PE Greg Herrera
(Carmichael). Not shown: President/PE Karen
Cendro (Laguna Sunrise) and President/PE Lewie
Donhost (East Sac).
Amidst the festivities at the recent District Conference, a few Rotarians took time to conduct official business. The result was one change in District By Laws pertaining to the nominating process for District Governors.

Earlier this year, the Rotary Club of East Sacramento proposed that District bylaws be changed in regard to the makeup of the Nominating Committee for selecting the District Governor Designate. District Club Presidents were provided a draft of the proposed amendment. Furthermore, they were notified that a vote would be held on the proposal at the 2018 District Conference. Representatives from 30 of the 41 Clubs completed written ballots at the meeting. The result was approval of the amendment by a vote of 28 (yes) to 2 (no).

The change reduces the number of past district governors that will now be on the nominating committee. Under the amendment, the Nominating Committee will now be the immediate four Past District Governors, District Governor, District Governor-Elect and District Governor-Nominee. Previously, it was the past five District Governors.

This amendment will take effect immediately and apply to selection of the District Governor for the 2021-2022 Rotary term.

Who Done It?

The Case of the Missing Bell

Well, it wouldn’t be a district conference without a little intrigue. This year’s involves the apparent abduction of a club Rotary Bell.

These are the facts as we know them. The Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast, from whence DG Sandi hails, brought their bell to the Conference to use for official purposes. After beach parties, tantalizing speeches, and sumptuous meals, the bell ended up in the luggage of the Rotary Club of Yuba City. Then, while in transit to return the bell to the Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast at a District-maintained safe house, the bell disappeared again.

So, where is the bell? And, what is going on here? Is this a friendly game of taking hostage of an out-going district governor’s club bell? If so, who would be a likely suspect? The incoming district governor’s club—the Rotary Club of Roseville? If so, how did Yuba City get involved? Are they an accomplice or an innocent bystander? Or, is there a larger conspiracy going on targeting district conferences and Rotary bells?

The theories are boundless, and the clues are wanting. Yuba City Rotarians maintain everything will be “peachy” in the end. While investigators may be zeroing in on Roseville, the club maintains it will not be “railroaded” into an admission of guilt. Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast has had to silently begin and end its meetings.

To unravel this mystery, District 5180 has assembled a crack investigative team consisting of any PDG who is five or more terms past. If you, or your club, has any information leading to the recovery of the Sacramento Breakfast bell, it will be welcome.

Awards (cont’)

inducted. This included three past district governors: Hal Shipley (Pocket/Greenhaven), Sam Anderson (Passport One), and Jim Thompson (Carmichael). Also, inducted were Sheila Romero (Arden Arcade), Ginny Porter (East Sacramento) and Clayton Lee (Sacramento).

“I really want to congratulate not only the award recipients, but all the Rotarians and clubs that have done so much this year for the good of our District and the world. They have done a lot, and inspire us all to do even more!,” said District Governor Sandi Sava.

Learn more about the award winners on the District 5180 web site.