



ROD RITCHIE

1995 – 1996

**Rotary Club
of Oroville**

Rod Ritchie was the first District Governor for our District 5180. Rod joined the Rotary club of Oroville in 1993 with the classification “trophies retail” and his sponsor was Maurice Beck. Herbert Brown was the Rotary International President and his theme was “Act with Integrity, Serve with Love, Work for Peace”. Rod’s primary focus in his year as DG was to maintain the quality of Rotary Programs as were performed in the initial District 5190. He established the annual Midyear retreat for club presidents in his year. His most memorable experience as DG was the relationship he had with his club presidents. In fact many are still actively serving the District. During his DG year, the Rotary Club of Valley High (now Laguna Sunrise) only had 15 members yet had 18 club projects during the year. Rod was most proud of the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova under the leadership of Club president Ross Johnson for creating Rotary Park at Mather Field. Rod had a Group Study Exchange with District 4455 in Peru. Mr. Ritchie professes he became a “true” Rotarian in 1995 having visited all the clubs in the District and seeing what was being achieved in service for Rotary.

Rod held his district conference in Monterey on May 10 -12, 1996. His conference theme was “Discover the Spirit”. The outstanding club of the year was the Rotary Club of Foothill Highlands under the leadership of Club President Maureen “Mo” Browning.

In 2001 Rod was selected to serve as the team leader for the Group Study Exchange with Rotary District 1620 in Belgium.

Beyond District 5180, Mr. Ritchie has served as an instructor for five years at Far West PETS, and an instructor at the 1996 Zone Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, he has represented the District on the Rotary International Zone 25 Director selection committee on two occasions.

Mr. Ritchie’s advice to all prospective and incoming District Governors is they “*should do what they are comfortable with and not try to copy past governors*”.