



Show Rotary Cares
Rotary International

TOMMY NEUMAN

1997 – 1998

Rotary Club of Foothill Highlands



Tommy Newman served as the 3rd District Governor in District 5180. He first joined the Rotary club of Orangevale in 1972 with the classification of “professor”. In 1979 he transferred his membership to the Rotary club of Foothill Highlands with the classification of “Psychotherapists”. His sponsor for both clubs was Steve Stremmel. In 2000 he moved to District 7610 and joined the Rotary Club of Tappahnock with the classification of “Rabbi”. Glenn Kinross from Australia was the Rotary International President and his International Theme was “Show Rotary Cares.” Tommy chose “Celebrating the Differences” for his District theme. Tommy identified five goals for his year; first; To have Fun, second; To double the number of Benefactors in the district, third; To personally help the clubs as much as they wanted, fourth; To assist in the building of Ronald McDonald House and fifth; to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation.

Tommy’s most memorable element of his year was his District Conference held on Mother’s Day weekend, May 7 – 10, 1998 at Hyatt Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nevada. His Friday night event was held at the Ponderosa Ranch (Bonanza TV show set). Tommy was pleased to have such a great turnout of Rotarians to share fellowship at his conference. Tommy had a Group Study Exchange with District 1100 in England. He was successful in having both the incoming and outgoing GSE teams attend his conference. The Rotary Club of Orangevale was the outstanding club of the year.

In 1993, Tommy was honored to serve as a GSE team leader to District 9550. He and his team spent 6 ½ weeks in Darwin, Northern Territory with the last stop being on the coast of Queensland. He describes his GSE experience in one single word, “Fabulous”.

Tommy attempted to hold all his club visits in the evenings so spouses/partners of members could attend. He was pleased to see the various ways the clubs worked in their communities and in the world. One of the club projects that most impressed Tommy was the Fourth of July project hosted by the Rotary Club of Oroville Sunrise.

There were two District international projects in Tommy’s year; both focus on children as the beneficiaries. One project for the children of Russia and the other served the disabled children in District 1100 in England.

Tommy stated he became a “True Rotarian” when he heard Dr. Joe Sera speak about the ‘crawlers’ in West Africa. That event prompted him to become heavily involved in the Rotary Foundation. He first became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1985 and has averaged one new Paul Harris Fellow every two years since then. He is a multiple PHF, a benefactor, a Double major donor and a member of the Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society. He has made it a practice to honor deserving Rotarians with Paul Harris Fellows.

Outside of the District, Tommy has served as a keynote speaker for GETS and has received a Zone membership recruiting award. He continues to serve as a keynote speaker at District Conferences throughout the United States.

In thinking back on his year as DG, Tommy has few regrets. He acknowledges that he should have accepted to visit Ethiopia on a National Immunization Day (NID) Polio trip. He felt the Ronald McDonald House project commanded more effort than initially expected which translated to less being done on other projects in the district. One last item he would reconsider would be maintaining the normal meeting times for the club visits and not require them to meet in the evenings.

His advice to a future District Governor is as follows: *“First; As soon as you know you will be a DG, pick out the place for your district conference and don’t choose Mother’s Day. Second; This is a year of your life. Make it fun. Third; Learn something from each club visit. Finally; don’t overload clubs with District Projects. Choose one and push that one. Beyond that... have a great year.”*