



SAM ANDERSON

2001 – 2002

Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova

Sam served as the 7th District Governor in District 5180. Rick King was the Rotary International President that year with the theme of “Mankind is our Business”. Sam had a District Theme “Have Fun, Share Rotary”. Sam has the distinction of belonging to eight different Rotary clubs during his Rotary career. He first joined the Rotary Club of Bakersfield South in 1964. His classification was “data processing” and his sponsor was Bud Cenis. Over the next 4 decades, as he moved about the state of California, Sam retained his membership in Rotary. He served as a member of the Rotary clubs of Los Angeles International Airport, Westchester (Los Angeles area), San Carlos, Menlo Park, East Sacramento and Elk Grove. He was President Elect on two separate occasions but relocated due to business before serving as President. Finally 1997 – 98, he served as club president for Elk Grove and achieved the Outstanding Large Club of the Year award. In 2008 he transferred his membership to the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova. In 2017, he transferred his membership to the District 5180 Passport Club.

Sam is no stranger to service. Over the years, he has chaired all four avenues of service, been a fund raiser chair, a Foundation chair, club trainer and a club newsletter editor. Likewise at the District level, he has served as secretary, assistant governor, conference chair, trainer and Sergeant At Arms. Having mastered all those roles, becoming a District Governor was a given.

Sam’s focus for his year was to survive, to have fun and share Rotary as well as to have the clubs achieve both their Foundation and Membership goals. Being a strong advocate of technology, Sam urged clubs to have a presence on the Internet via developing a website. To further encourage Rotarians to visit the district website, he chose not to print a District Directory but have it available to the membership on the District website.

Sam stated that he really became a “True Rotarian” in 1970 when he hosted two GSE team members from Germany. Sam’s most memorable experiences in his year were the visit of the Russians to our District, the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain and his tour of Spain and Portugal afterward. Of all his club visits,

two stick in Sam's mind; the final visit to his club (Elk Grove) where he got lost in his speech and the visit to Folsom where the club cut off his tie and took control of everything. Many clubs in the district had International Projects. Those recognized included Citrus Heights, Carmichael, Roseville-Sunrise, Orangevale, North Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Marysville, Point West, Oroville, and Citrus Heights for their International Projects. One club project that most impressed Sam was the Rotary Club of Walnut Grove's flights to Mexico to provide medical and dental care for needy children.

Sam is a true believer in District Conferences. As of 2017, he had attended a total of 24 in his years as a Rotarian. He held his District Conference at the Reno Hilton on May 17 – 19, 2002. He participated in the Group Study Exchange Program with District 4815 of Argentina and had both the incoming and outgoing teams in attendance at his conference. The Outstanding club of the year was the Rotary Club of Oroville. PDG Tom Campton was awarded the "Service Above Self" award.

Outside of the District Sam has served multiple roles in the community, at Zone Institutes and Far West PETS. He and his wife, Pat, served as the Rotary International President's Representatives to District 5630 in Gothenburg, Nebraska in 2015.

Sam's advice for future DGs is *"to not blow your talk at your home club and try to be more accessible. Plus involve your spouse. Don't try to do it all yourself. Have fun, share Rotary!!"*