



Lend a Hand

JIM HARRINGTON

2003 – 2004

Rotary Club of Arden Arcade

Retired Brigadier General Jim Harrington was the 9th District Governor in District 5180. He joined the Rotary Club of Arden Arcade in 1990. Needless to say, his classification is “Military”. His sponsor was Jim Pullman. When asked why he chose Rotary, he stated “To make Friends and return something to my community”. PDG Jim served under RI President Johnathan Majiyagbe from Nigeria whose theme was “Lend a Hand”. PDG Jim has also established a District theme for his year; “Pursue your Rotary Dream!” His logo was Don Quixote mounted on a horse. Jim became a “true” Rotarian in 1993 when he and his wife; Maggie, housed a Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Student from Spain in their home for 6 months. Since then, they have visited the young man three times and attended his wedding all since he returned home to Spain. They refer to him as their #2 son. They have also hosted other RYE students over the years.

In his year as DG, Jim focused on increasing membership in the district and was pleased to be able to assist in the induction of numerous new members during his club visits. He was inspired by the number and variety of achievements by both small and large clubs. Jim’s most memorable occurrences in his year as DG was the RYE program and the International project in Pakistan where a school for young children was remodel and updated both inside and out.

PDG Jim held his District Conference at John Ascuaga’s Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nevada on April 30 - May 2, 2004. The conference set a record for the District in the number of attendees. One of the most memorable District Conference programs was the Sunday morning closing where Point West Club President Drew Houghton dressed in drag and strutted on stage to the tune of “Sharp Dressed Man” played by ZZ Top. There has never been a Sunday morning program that was received with such enthusiasm. DG Jim also had both his Group Study Exchange (GSE) from District 5180 and the GSE team from District 9810 in England in attendance. The outstanding club of the year was the Rotary Club of Yuba City.

PDG Jim’s advice to future District Governors is that *“Rotary must continue to grow so concentrate on increasing your membership. Always encourage quality individuals to join*

while promoting club fun at meetings and on service projects. Identify numerous projects such that there will be something for everyone's motivation."