In 2004-2005, the Governor's Bell Award was created by PDG Steve Lemmon. The Bell was purchased as part of Rotary International's Centennial Celebration, and was mounted on the storage box, which was designed and built by Roy Fleshman, husband to Rotarian Donna Fleshman.

That year and each year after, the Governor's Bell has been awarded by the District Governor to the Top Club in District 5180. The original idea was to give it to the Club who did the most, earned the most awards, and did a job that exemplifies the true meaning of Rotary during the year. Each year, the District Governor has had their own criteria as to how it would be awarded but following the same principle.

The Club earning the Governor's Bell keeps the bell for one year and then it is passed onto a new Club who has earned it the following year.

Here is the history of the Club recipients