



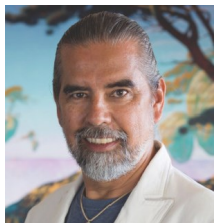
CONNECTIONS

ISSUE 3 — DECEMBER, 2021

Featured Stories in this Issue



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Meet Three Wise Men

LAX Marriott

**Friday, 2/25/2022 -
Sunday, 2/27/2022**

Special Message from Rotary Southwest PETS Chair Bob Duistermars

As we all head into a busy Holiday season we at PETS wish you safe and joyous celebrations with family and friends. Many of us on your PETS team will still be working through the Holidays to make sure we are ready for your visit in February. We truly are excited about your arrival at the Marriott where you will check into the hotel and go downstairs to register and get your attendance packet at the Registration window. Once registered, your adventure begins!

One of the unique characteristics of PETS is the amazing opportunity to meet other Presidents from your district, and from all of the 8 Rotary Districts that make up Southwest PETS. You will be amazed at how much you will learn from each other through your interactions in class, at meals, and while relaxing in our Hospitality suites during your PETS Experience weekend! In addition to the natural exchange of information, you will

make new friends and Rotary connections that may well last a lifetime.

We have planned a great "Guest" program for spouses and significant others on Saturday that will be both informative and fun! After an extremely interesting ice breaker called "The Savage Oracle", there will be an information session on Rotary, a Q&A Session on what to expect during the Rotary year, and a hands-on project. All are designed to inform and engage your close support team in preparation for your term. When you register, be sure to include them! Oh! And don't forget, you will be taking your "Official" President's picture during the PETS weekend so be sure to pack whatever it is you want to wear to get that perfectly Presidential look!

It is important that you try to get to the Marriott as soon as you can! We have a kickoff session at 9:00 am

on Friday that will showcase a fantastic speaker that you really don't want to miss! If you have any questions or concerns, let your DGE know, our get ahold of one of your PETS team members and we will get you the answers and help you need.

Enjoy your time with family, we will be in touch!

PDG Bob Duistermars (D 5330)
Rotary Club of Hemet Sunset

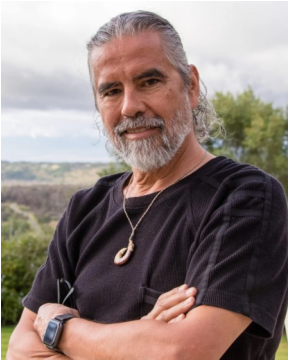
Register Now!

Price Goes Up \$100 on January 1st.

<https://southwestpets.org/>

PETS Saturday Breakfast Speaker

Henk Rogers — International Moonbase Alliance Founder and President



Rise and shine, Rotarians! This is not your typical Saturday morning. At 6:50 a.m. the doors will open to the spacious, music-filled Marriott Marquis Ballroom where a delicious full-course breakfast awaits! You will need it to fortify yourselves for a packed morning and early afternoon of fast-moving sessions. First, of course, find a table and get ready to make more new Rotary friends. After that the fun begins. And as no PETS meal is complete without a carefully selected keynote speaker to energize our future club presidents, this morning will be no different. Following today's bacon and eggs, the PETS keynoter is Henk Rogers.

Dutch-born entrepreneur and innovator Henk Rogers is a technology pioneer, envisioning ways to regenerate the planet and to establish permanent human settlements on the

Moon and Mars. He is founder of the International Moonbase Alliance, which created a 1,200 square-foot Mars and moon habitat on Mauna Loa. But let's not get ahead of the story.

Beginning his career in computer gaming more than three decades ago, Rogers revolutionized the industry by creating Japan's first Role-Playing Game (RPG). He later brought the legendary game, Tetris, to the world. Since then, Rogers has dedicated his career to research, development, advocacy, and implementation of renewable energy sources in his adopted home of Hawaii. His Blue Planet Foundation (BPF) based out of Honolulu, has led efforts to pass the nation's first 100 percent renewable energy mandate, requiring the State of Hawaii to commit to switching to

100 percent renewable sources of electricity by 2045

His newest initiative, Blue Planet Alliance (BPA) based out of New York City, is expanding BPF's "mandate first, business model second" approach worldwide by developing projects that change behaviors of people, companies, towns, and countries, toward sustainability. Rogers continues to explore renewable energy and space settlement opportunities through his Blue Planet Research, which conducts R&D at his off-grid ranch on Hawaii Island.

So, Rotarians, prepare to fire up your imaginations. Shoot for the moon. Lift off is just around the corner.



PETS Saturday Luncheon Speaker

Brady Connell — Hollywood Goes Rotary



There likely are just a handful of Rotarians who earn a living in entertainment. Past club president of the Rotary Club of Westchester Brady Connell is one of them. The two-time the Emmy-award winning executive producer/showrunner/director of *The Amazing Race* had already been senior producer of Emmy-nominated reality TV shows *Survivor* and *Eco-Challenge* and had won a Humanitas Prize for writing children's programming. But he calls "the most rewarding five years of my career" his association with--and ultimately the executive producer of--*Extreme Home Makeover: Home Edition*.

During that time, his team built more than 200 family homes, as well as community centers, health clinics and homeless shelters. They paid off mortgages, started dozens

of businesses for homebound families, food banks, and distributed more than \$1 million in scholarships to students of all backgrounds and ages. Following the severe destruction of the city of Joplin, Missouri by an F5 tornado in 2011, the production team was joined by 13,000 volunteers in constructing seven beautiful homes now at the heart of rebuilt neighborhoods in that community.

In recognition of the production's episodes, he and his staff received the NAACP Image Award, and the prestigious United Nations Peace Award as "The Most Positive Television Show in the World."

Over 35 years as a documentary film producer, Connell has visited all 50 states and 50 countries. But he joined Rotary because he wanted to have a citizen's impact near his Los Angeles home. A member who does nothing

by half-measure, Brady proceeded to chair a 12-club project in association with Habitat for Humanity. The project team logged 1,600 hours to build 12 homes for deserving families. There is much more to tell, of course, but you should hear it from him directly.

Meanwhile, you may want to know what is new for this man who can't sit still. His latest television project *The Great Christmas Light Fight* Season 9 premiered on ABC on Sunday, Nov. 28. No surprise, Brady has received an award nomination from the Directors Guild of America. Stay tuned. If Evanson hears about him, Rotary may have to "go Hollywood." After all, the whole inspiring story of PolioPlus is still waiting to be told in prime time.



Meet Three Wise Men

DGE Dan Ouweleen — District 5320



Like most DGEs, Dan Ouweleen (Rotary Club of Fullerton) is a man who cannot say “no.” Since becoming a Rotarian in 2007, he has held numerous club and district positions, meanwhile presenting at conferences, attending a Rotary Zone Institute and two International Conventions.

With a 40-year history as an international sales and marketing professional in the aerospace and semiconductor industries, Dan is part owner and president of PacMin Inc in Fullerton, California, providing visually dynamic marketing solutions to the aviation, aerospace, and related industries.

And talk about busy: Dan’s Rotarian wife Susan, owner of Assured Audio Visual in Anaheim, was named 2020 Woman Leader of the Year by the City of Fullerton Woman’s

League, meanwhile joining Dan as their club’s Rotarian Couple of the Year. Exhausted yet? On top of that, they five children ranging in age from 12-32.

When asked about his Rotary experience, here is what he said:

Why did you join Rotary? I joined Rotary to have a better connection with my community and to give back and saw it as an avenue for me personally to help enrich the lives of others through Rotary.

How did PETS influence your year as club president? I was president in 2016-17. PETS really expanded my understanding of Rotary globally and helped me get myself better organized and prepared for my year as president.

Should all PEs attend PETS, even if they have been before? *Absolutely. One reason is to connect with all your classmates in our District and southwest region, as they are a big part of your support network. Also there always are new things to learn and new tools available at PETS to help make your year successful.*

Why is PETS important to Rotary clubs? *It gets their PE’s prepared to run great meetings and a full understanding of all the resources available to them and your club. Also helps connect your club with those in our general Southwest Region. It is one of the best Leadership programs ever developed and is a lot of fun!*



Meet Three Wise Men

DGE Randy Hart — District 5000



Aloha, Randy! Rotary Southwest PETS welcomes you and the 48 Rotary clubs of the state of Hawaii. We know that flights from the islands to LAX are more frequent, but we also believe you have chosen to join our region because we were the first PETS in the world of Rotary. As the folks at Farmers Insurance say, “We know a thing or two because we’ve seen a thing or two.”

Randy Hart (as fellow Rotarians, we would never call you Colonel, sir) is the civilian Director of Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), a military recreation lodging (resort) operation inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, his prior military career took him around the world in many assignments, including deployment in Iraq in 2005-06, and culminating with six years as a brigade commander.

As a Rotarian, Randy has served as an international project leader, three years as assis-

tant governor, service on his club foundation board and currently as District Resource Leader for the Hawaiian Islands. Randy and his wife Lydia, have five children and three grandsons.

Here are a few of his thoughts about Rotary and PETS:

Why did you join Rotary? I joined Rotary in 1990 shortly after being assigned to Hawaii as a commander. Expectation for my job was to become involved in the community. My predecessors for many decades were members of the Rotary Club of Hilo. Even though it was not required, it was expected that the commander would join Rotary for the duration of their assignment.

How was your year as club president? Did PETS make it better? Unequivocally, 2016-17 was the best year of the 31 years I’ve been a Rotarian! I worked very hard but had more fun than what I could have ever ex-

pected. We increased membership by a net of 18 members from 69 to 87 or 26%. PETS provided exposure on how other clubs were doing things, like associate and corporate membership, and it expanded my horizons far beyond my club.

Should all PEs attend PETS, even if they have been before? Without question. PETS includes the ingredients of camaraderie, friendship, fellowship, and always new opportunities to learn from peers.

Is PETS helpful to Rotary clubs? Yes. You get exposure, pumped up, excited by learning from your peers and excellent instructors and facilitators that have the experience to share what it’s like to be a president.



Meet Three Wise Men

DGE Don Casper — District 5330



Did you know that the City of Indio ranks number 18 in Smartasset's 2021 Guide to Boomtowns in America? The online financial information provider ranks cities based on a number of factors, including business growth, housing growth, and change in household income. No longer designated as a sleepy desert town east of Palm Springs, Indio is now a destination.

If you go, be sure to visit Indio's Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, where you can play its championship golf course, or be entertained by Dionne Warwick, The Temptations and The Four Tops, all of whom are making special appearances in December and January. You may also run into the casino's vice president of marketing for the past 14 years, DGE Don Casper.

Don started his Rotary journey in 2014 at the 45-member Rotary Club of Indio. Just three years later he was club president. During the past eight years he has served in senior district positions while also leading and assisting in public school projects and competitions and Indio community events. Don received his bachelor's degree in business from Brad-

ley University, and for the past 30 years has spent worked at five different casinos in four states. Don and his wife Veronica, reside in Bermuda Dunes and share three grown children.

We are pleased to present Don in his own words:

Why did you join Rotary? I was asked to join Rotary by a friend. The club was looking for some marketing expertise, which is my vocation. Once I joined the club and started working on projects, I found Rotary to be a great outlet to "give back" for all I had achieved over the year.

How was your year as club president? How did PETS make it better? Being Club President is one of the best roles in Rotary, one of the greatest year's you will ever have. Participating in PETS gives you great education, a new circle of friends to work with, and great ideas you can bring back to your club to engage and inspire them.

Why should all PEs attend PETS, even if they have been before? PETS changes each year as Rotary grows. The education and processes

today are so much better than when I was a Club President. The curriculum continues to develop, and you are getting the best of what Rotary has to offer. And we are now into the second year of RI's Strategic Plan which helps all of us move Rotary forward.

Why is PETS helpful to Rotary clubs? The PETS investment is very important to each Rotary Club. You want your leadership to be exposed to the best training which is paid back ten-fold to the club. To Grow Rotary, we need enthusiastic leaders who engage their members to increase our impact and expand our reach.



PETS Partners

Being a club president can be even more rewarding if your Rotary partner (spouse/significant other) understands your challenges and becomes part of your success. Partners are invited to PETS to learn what to expect during the coming Rotary year, and a special program has been created for them. To take advantage of this free opportunity, they need to be registered as a partner at the PETS website (see link above under Chair Bob Duistermars' column).

Here is a summary of the 2022 Partners Program:

Friday afternoon

3 p.m. Welcome by PETS Partners chair PDG Randy Pote

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Breaking the ice with an event called "Savage Oracle."

Saturday morning

9:10 a.m. "What do you know about Rotary?" Chair Randy will facilitate a lively conversation among partners. You probably know more than you think!

10:10 – 11:30 "How to live with a club president." Rotarian Tim Puliz, husband of Zone Director Vicki Puliz, will lead an enjoyable panel discussion of veteran partners.

LUNCH (optional) with all conference attendees. (Meal registration required.)

Saturday afternoon

2 – 4:30 p.m. A representative of non-profit Yana Cancer Comfort, Inc. will assist you in a rewarding hands-on Rotary service project tying blankets for cancer patients. Service Above Self can also be fun.



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