

District Leaders



Michael Driebe District Governor





<u>Dennis</u> <u>Franklin</u> District Gov-Nominee



<u>Karina</u> <u>Anderson</u> District Gov-Designate



Michael Soden IPDG



Archuleta Area Governor



Mary Lou Byrne Area Governor



Lydia Carswell Area Governor Manuel



Franco Area Governor



Edgar Garcia-Mora Area Governor



Daniel Harley
II
Area
Governor



MARCH 2025

In this edition:

Memo from the DG

WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS

Altadena Fire Relief Concert

Las Vegas Area Invitation-Watch Party for Fire Relief Concert

Altadena – City of Resilience

Santa Maria Noon—Donations for LA Fire

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

DGE's Corner

Exciting News: Announcing Inclusive Leadership Chair 2025

Rose Float 2026 Planning

Interact Clubs Excellence Awards

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Duarte Celebration of Women in Rotary-March 7

LV After Hours: Reflections on PETS

Claremont - CPR Training for 8th Graders

LV Southwest February Highlights

Pomona Club Service to Veterans

Antelope Valley News

South Pasadena Week of Service, Leadership & Impact, and Invitations

MEMORIUM

Gordon Norman

Memo from DG Mike Driebe

March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene month for Rotary International, a time to emphasize the importance of cleanwater and proper hygiene in building healthy communities. We often think of



Mack Moore Area Governor



<u>Debra Parsley</u> Area Governor



<u>Eric Threeton</u> Area Governor



Nona Tirre Miranda Area Governor



<u>Isaac Hung</u> EAG - CA West



Edward Abad EAG -Antelope Valley/Victor Valley



Rae Kearney EAG - CA East



<u>Rebecca Fritz</u> EAG - Nevada



Vicky Ann Abbott Assistant Governor



Mark Mariscal Rotary Foundation Chair

Events

March 3rd **Walnut Valley Rotary Golf Tournament** March 3rd **Growing Club** Membership March 4th LV SW: Ferron **Elementary Field** Trip to Natural **History Museum** March 6th Career Day at Coronado HS March 6th San Dimas: Brew & Cans: Kickoff **Event to Feed Military Families** March 7th **Duarte: Women in Rotary Celebration** (flier) March 7th **Duarte: Women in Rotary Celebration**



this issue as a problem in the developing world, but ironically, this is a critical issue for those affected by the Eaton Canyon Fire. Many of those whose homes were left standing still have no potable water. But this is just one aspect of the fire's impact, and so, we remain committed to relief for the victims.

District 5300 has already taken significant steps to help. These include \$14,000 in gift cards to affected individuals, which provided immediate assistance for essentials. Additionally, \$7,000 was allocated to the Pasadena Community Foundation, helping provide much needed help to those struggling with the fire's aftermath. The district foundation also made \$40,000 available through club grants

of \$2,500 each to ensure local Rotary clubs could respond directly to the needs in their communities. Another \$40,000 was just authorized by the district foundation for a second round of grants. All of this was made possible because of your generosity!

Many of you are also aware of the participation by local Rotarians in a relief supply distribution event on February 8th when more than 2,200 people received generously donated supplies of food, water, clothing, fresh groceries and much more. Another distribution is scheduled for March 15th at the Grocery Outlet Bargain Market in Altadena from 10-2. If you'd like to help that day, including set up and breakdown, please go to the district calendar and register on DACdb or use this link:

You can also lend a hand by attending the March 27th benefit concert at the Alex Theater in Glendale. Go to https://feverup.com/m/300309?srsltid=AfmBOoq-UUid12ZbOVGL1d5zKd78fOu3bkiBaU7r-5PpcFDG46pnR5RB to learn more about the performers and to buy your tickets. You can even set up a watch party and invite supporters to join you that night for the live-streamed event.

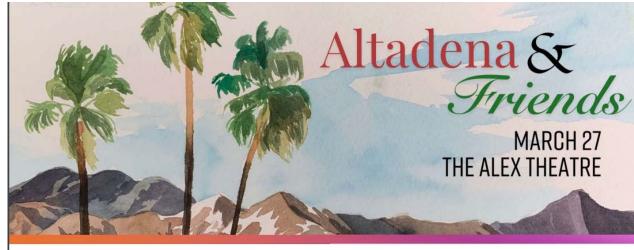
The actions of Rotarians in response to this disaster is an amazing testament of the power of our organization. On behalf of all those you've helped, thank you. You are helping to ensure that the communities affected will recover and rebuild with strength.

WILDFIRE RELIEF EFFORTS

Altadena Fire Relief Concert

By Dennis Franklin

You can join our efforts to support the Altadena fire victims by buying tickets, sponsoring the event, or hosting a live-stream watch party. For more information, please contact Dennis Franklin at dennisfranklinrotary@gmail.com / 626-664-5851 or https://feverup.com/m/300309





Altadena & Friends Fire Relief Concert

Join us at the Alex Theatre on Thursday, March 27, for a 90-minute variety show featuring an extraordinary lineup of artists from the affected areas.

Host a LiveStream party with your club!

Details coming soon

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!







Las Vegas Area Invitation to Watch Party for Altadena Fire Relief

By Gino Reyes, Vegas Verde President and District Inclusive Leadership Chair 2025

Let's come together for a watch party to support our friends in Altadena! On **March 27 at 7:00 pm**, we'll be watching the **Altadena & Friends Fire Relief Concert**, a special event raising funds for those affected by recent fires.

This is a chance to connect with fellow Las Vegas Rotarians, enjoy great music, and support a meaningful cause. Let's show our Rotary spirit—hope to see you there!

Please contact me if you are interested in attending. Looking to secure a venue very soon.

Gino Reyes • DEI Consultant, Inclusive Leadership Chair 2025 Vegas Verde Rotary Club President 2024-26 E: Gino@ginosellsvegas.com C: 206-280-6907 #YouAlreadyBelong

Altadena: A City of Resilience

By Tom Sanchez, Azusa Rotary

The recent fires have brought unimaginable destruction to Altadena, altering lives and leaving families without homes. The devastation included homes, businesses, and historical churches, profoundly impacting the community. This article reflects on the emotional toll of witnessing such destruction and the collective efforts to support affected families, emphasizing the community's resilience and the importance of cherishing life. A few hours were enough to disrupt the normalcy and dreams cherished by families who have lived in this city for most of their lives. It is difficult to comprehend how natural disasters can so drastically change the way of life for an entire community.

Before participating in the Rotary distribution day last Saturday, I walked several blocks to witness firsthand the extensive destruction that spanned not just blocks, but miles. The smell of charred wood hung in the air as families searched through the remnants of their homes, hoping to find some piece of what was once theirs. The scene was heart-wrenching and beyond description.

The resilience of Altadena is deeply rooted in its community. With the combined efforts of volunteers, firefighters, the Police Department, and various groups, there has been an outpouring of love and compassion. As a participant with the Rotary clubs of Southern California, Azusa, Glendora, Altadena, and Pasadena, I witnessed their dedication in serving thousands of items to needy families, bringing smiles despite their losses. Through this tragedy, we are reminded of the adaptability of nature and our capacity to cope with hardships. A

March 8th **Cooking Breakfast** for Aviation Days March 8th **Community Yard** Sale - Hess **Property** March 8th Feeding Military **Heroes Food Drive** March 8th **Lancaster West** 45th Annual **Dinner Auction** March 13th Ontario-Montclair Students of the **Month** March 13th **Azusa Rotary Board Meeting**

Shift
March 14th
Bike Rodeo Second Shift

March 14th

March 14th
Henderson AH:

2nd Friday Round-Up

Bike Rodeo - First

March 15th
Disaster Relief
Distribution in
Altadena
March 19th
LV Summerlin:
Just One Project Grocery Packing &
Stocking
March 19th

Boulder City: Friends of the **Desert Food Kitchen** March 19th **Membership Committee Zoom Meeting** March 21st **RYLA** March 21st **Henderson AH: Student & Teacher** of the Month **Awards** March 21st Upland Club Social @ Claremont **Packing House** March 25th LV Summerlin: It's Time to Mingle -**Evolve Brewing Project** March 26th **Claremont Peace** Pole Installation March 26th **AG Zoom Meeting** March 29th LV Summerlin: Just One Pop Up -March 29 March 29th Azusa: Forever Kids Spring Luncheon April 3rd **Growing Club** Membership--on **Zoom** April 4th LV SW: Golf Weekend in St. George April 8th LV Summerlin: An **Evening with Don** Snyder & Myron Martin April 9th Clark County Fair **Beer Sales** April 10th Moapa Valley: **Clark County Fair Beer Sales** April 10th **Ontario-Montclair** Students of the **Month** April 11th 2025-26 District Training Assembly April 11th Moapa Valley: **Clark County Fair**

Beer Sales
April 11th
Joint District
Conference: 5300

and 5180

united community will restore this city, and we must cherish each day as a precious gift, for tomorrow is never guaranteed.

We extend our prayers to all the families, especially those who have lost so much. May they be blessed with hope strength and belief that we will survive, regardless of our hardships.

Santa Maria Noontime (D5240) Unites for LA Fire Relief

By President Nancy Crawford

When the Los Angeles fires devastated countless families, Nancy Crawford, President of the Rotary Club of Santa Maria Noontime (District 5240), knew they had to act. With compassion and a shared commitment to service, the club organized a community donation drive to provide immediate relief.

With overwhelming support from local residents and neighboring Rotary clubs, along with partner Care Connection Transport Services, the Club collected donations, including men's, women's, and children's clothes, shoes, blankets, pet items, and essential supplies such as toilet paper, diapers, wipes, non-perishable food, N95 masks, and paper towels. Volunteers worked tirelessly to sort and bag the items, ensuring they were ready for distribution upon arrival in Los Angeles.

On the morning of January 20th, at 5:00 a.m., a caravan of a U-Haul, bus, van, and truck—packed to the brim with over 1,037 bags of clothes and blankets and 284 boxes of essentials—embarked on the journey from Santa Maria to Los Angeles. Upon arrival, they were greeted by DGE Gilda Moshir from District 5300, who warmly welcomed the team. Together, they unloaded the donations as Rotarians in Los Angeles marveled at the outpouring of generosity.

In addition to physical items, the club also raised \$1,500 in monetary donations to further support the relief efforts. This collaborative effort highlighted the power of communities coming together to make a difference. The donations brought hope and comfort to those in need, truly embodying Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND INVITATIONS

DGE's Corner

By DGE Gilda Moshir

Congratulations to the 44 Presidents-elect (PEs) who attended & graduated from PETS last weekend at the LAX Marriott. SWPETS is now a collaboration of 11 districts from Montana, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and California. We heard from 2025-26 RI President-Elect Mario Cesar Martins De Camargo, Trustee Larry Lunsford, Roger Crawford, RI Director Brad Howard and RI Director-Elect Wyn Spiller.

Below is a photo of the PEs with the leadership team.

PEs met the incoming Area Governors and Executive Area Governors and the District leadership team for 25-26. Most positions have been filled. These remain open:

Fundraising Chair, Grants Chair, Presidents Advance Chair, Webmaster. And various committees need members: Membership, Public Image, Youth, Inclusive Leadership.

If any role piques your interest reach out to Gilda Moshir: 818-807-6060; gildarotary5300@gmail.com

April 11th
Tarnished Brass
April 11th
Henderson AH:
2nd Friday RoundUp
April 12th
Interact/Rotaract
United Nations
Breakout



Exciting News -- Announcing Inclusive Leadership Chair 2025

By Gino Reyes

I am thrilled to share that I will be serving as the Chair of the Inclusive Leadership Committee for District 5300! We had the opportunity to introduce this important initiative to our Presidents-Elect at PETS, and I couldn't be more excited about the journey ahead.

This committee is for *everyone*—from our newest members to our District Governor—because nobody is above learning how to be a more inclusive leader. We are committed to fostering a culture where all Rotarians feel valued, heard, and empowered to lead with inclusivity at the forefront.

Vegas is looking strong, but we need some passionate Californians to join us and help spread this message to clubs across the district! If you're ready to be part of this movement, let's connect and make an impact together.

I am currently accepting invitations for club visits, so if your club is interested in hosting a discussion on Inclusive Leadership, let's make it happen! Together, we can ensure that every Rotarian feels valued, heard, and empowered to lead with inclusivity at the forefront.

Reach out to schedule a visit—I'd love to connect with your club!

Gino Reyes • DEI Consultant, Inclusive Leadership Chair 2025 Vegas Verde Rotary Club President 2024-26

E: Gino@ginosellsvegas.com C: 206-280-6907 #YouAlreadyBelong

Planning for Rose Parade Float 2026



By Dan Ouweleen, Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee

As many of you are aware, this year's Rotary Rose Parade Float was an award winner for the 3rd year in a row, generating a lot of positive PR in the media for Rotary in the press for our two Zones and Districts.

The theme for the 2025-26 Float will be announced soon.

There are many ways to participate and contribute to the Rose Float.

1. Get Your Club to Join the Ambassador Program

Any Rotary Club contribution of \$500 can become an Ambassador Club. The club must pledge to advocate for support (monetary or volunteer time) for 2025 Float at any District, ZONE or other RI event that their members might attend. Clubs that join will get:

- A Personalized banner for the Club
- A patch of the current year's Float
- The annual theme pin
- If requested, a hat for the President
- Entry to a drawing for a club member (or other designated individual over 18) to be a rider on that year's Float. Drawing is on the 2nd Saturday of October.

Each consecutive year of renewal a club Ambassador will get all the above excluding a personalized banner that year's Float.

You'll find the form for payment here: https://www.rotaryfloat.org/ambassador-signups/

2. Become an Individual Ambassador

Any Rotarian in good standing contributing \$500 or more can become a Float Ambassador at their request. They must pledge to advocate for support (monetary or volunteer time) for 2025 Float at any District, ZONE or other RI event that their members might attend. Individuals who join will get:

- · A Personalized RRPFC Jacket
- · A patch of the current year's Float
- The annual theme pin
- · An official RRPFC hat in blue or yellow
- Entry to a drawing for a club member (or other designated Rotarian over 18) to be a rider on that year's float. Drawing is on the 2nd Saturday of October.

Each consecutive year of renewal they will get the above (excluding a personalized jacket)

You'll find the form for payment here: https://www.rotarvfloat.org/ambassador-signups/

1. Recognize a loved one.

The Rose Parade is a timeless tradition, more than a parade—it's a chance to honor loved ones, celebrate cherished moments, or share a message of admiration through the universal language of flowers.

Recognize A Loved One by Dedicating a Rose. Every rose you dedicate helps build a float that celebrates Rotary's pride, creativity, and togetherness. Donate here. https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/5ab607bb-e9fd-4559-bf69-d62f1492764f

Interact Club Excellence Awards--early notice

The Interact Club Excellence Award is awarded to Interact Clubs that achieve Rotary International goals. Because most Interact Clubs are not active in the summer, we urge Clubs supporting Interact Clubs to consider preparing now.

Eligibility includes Interact Clubs must have an Active Charter with RI; Clubs must report their achievements by August 15, 2025; and the Sponsor Rotary Club's President must complete the online nomination form 08-15-25. To achieve the Award, the following must be part of a Interact Club's submission:

- a. Review the Goals
- b. Select at least 11 Goals to achieve
- c. Set a target for each Goal
- d. Indicate when each Goal is achieved
- e. Sponsoring Club President completes the Nomination Form

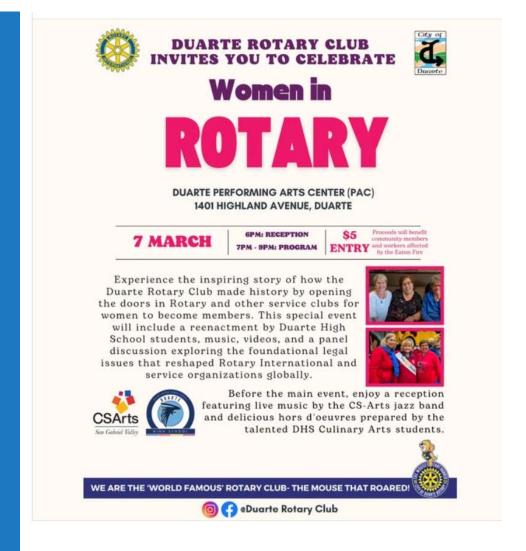
The Benefits include Award recognition for Interact Clubs that support Rotary's Action Plan; the Award helps Clubs stay relevant in their communities; the Award helps Clubs engage their Members; and the Award helps Clubs run more efficiently.

Rotary International also hosts Annual Interact Awards that recognize the work of Interact Clubs. Interact Clubs are encouraged to submit videos, photos and/or essays to showcase their service initiatives.

For additional information please contact Betty Bui, South Pasadena Rotary Club <u>Bettyrotary5300@gmail.com</u> or Diane O'Neal, Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga dorunner5858@gmail.com

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS AND INVITATIONS

Duarte Celebration of Women in Rotary



LVAH - Attended PETS as a Member; Left as a Lifelong Rotarian

By Jeremy Bruner, LV After Hours President Elect

I was lucky to be able to attend Southwest PETS to prepare for my term as President of the Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club for 2025-2026. I came into the weekend as a Rotary club member and left as a lifelong Rotarian.

It was so inspiring to connect with leaders from across the district, sharing the impact we already make and exploring ways to expand our reach. The daytime sessions were packed with valuable insights and strategies, giving me fresh ideas to take our already fabulous club to another level. I left each session not only with practical tools but also with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement for the year ahead.

The evening hospitality suites provided a great space for meaningful conversations with fellow Presidents-Elect and district leadership. Swapping ideas, sharing experiences, and learning from others who are just as passionate about service made for some of the most rewarding moments of the weekend.

We were also treated to engaging keynote speakers during our meals, each offering powerful perspectives on leadership, service, and the impact of Rotary. Their stories reinforced why we do what we do and reminded me of the responsibility and privilege of leading a club.

Being part of one club, I know all the good we do with our service projects and fundraising. One of my favorite aspects of the weekend was seeing all the amazing projects that every club does. I now truly believe there's nothing we can't accomplish when we work together as Rotarians.

I left feeling energized, motivated, and deeply connected to the Rotary mission. 10 out of 10, would attend again!

Claremont - CPR and Emergency Training for 8th Graders

By Rich Laughton, Co-Chair of Claremont Club's Together We Prepare

Over 475 students at El Roble Intermediate School learned the basics of first aid and emergency life-saving

measures this week. Claremont Rotary PP **Bonita Ramos** led all 14 classes, putting the students through the paces involving when and how to report emergencies, including information that should be relayed, first aid, including how to stanch blood loss from injuries, how to handle severe bleeding, choking, and a class on how to perform emergency resuscitation—CPR on Adults and Infants.

Annually, since 1979 (except two years during the COVID pandemic), Claremont Rotary has provided the three-day Together We Prepare program teaching CPR and emergency preparedness for 8th graders at El Roble. Lee Goldstein, who has been with the program since its inception 46 years ago, informed the Club that some changes were made this year in response to feedback from the school. Our program now lasts two days (rather than three), preceded by readings and quizzes handled by the school staff.

The interactive activities during Rotary's TWP, were extracted from the homework videos and reviewed briefly during the two days of classes. For example, the students performed a group interactive task of Building an Emergency Disaster Kit. Pictures of disaster kit items were placed on the floor and team members had to hop out, get a picture of one items, hop back to the team captain. The teams were then scored on the number of correct items retrieved and the winning group was dismissed first from the period. After being taught infant CPR and abdominal thrust, the student teams were challenged to an interactive quiz. They had to determine the correct answer, and run to that designated answer location. This was all organized chaos. Thirty Rotarians and several school and community volunteers participated in the program.

Fun Fact: the annoying song "Baby Shark" is a song you can do CPR compressions to.





LV Southwest--February Program Highlights

By Keith Thomas, Las Vegas Southwest

February was a busy month for the Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club with a focus on "Youth Service" and "International Service". Our first meeting of the month featured our annual 4-Way Speech contest with three outstanding high school contestants. Our second meeting was our annual Dan Stover Music Contest with five very talented performers. During the second week, we put new shoes on 70 elementary school kids through our ongoing "Happy Feet" program that has been part of our regular Youth Service program for 25 years. We work with the local Sketchers store and are able to buy fashionable shoes at a reasonable price.







At our final meeting of the month, we presented a check to the Somerset Academy to buy hard cover books for 4th and 5th grade special education classes. More than a third of the students in the school come from low-income households and spend a lot of time on cell phones and other devices, including their Chromebooks at school. Their teacher believes there is value in reading traditional "paper" books. His intention is to give them a head start on a book collection, having seen the value and power of reading to young children in his own home.

During the second week, two Southwest Rotarians and spouses traveled to Puerto Vallarta to participate with the local PV Rotary Club and a number of other clubs from Canada and the USA in a water filter project in a small village in the mountains near PV.

Pictures of all our projects are in the "Picture Gallery" on our website at www.lvswr.org.





Pomona - Valentines for Veterans

By Josh Landis, Pomona Rotary

On Thursday, February 13, Pomona Rotary participated in a Valentine's for Veterans event hosted by a local non-profit in the City of Pomona. The event took place at one of the newly built veterans' apartment housing complexes. Rotarians served lunch and had raffle prizes. One of the Pomona Rotary members is the CEO of the Humane Society which donated dog and cat food for any of the veteran pet owners. A highlight of the event was the coordination of all service clubs in Pomona, organized by Pomona Rotary Club. Representatives from Kiwanis, Optimist, and Lions Clubs all came together to show support for veterans.





Antelope Valley News

By Josh Konrad, Antelope Valley

February brought a few days of rain to the high desert, breaking up the monotony of the desert sun. February also brought with it an opportunity to serve. Two of our members, PP Tina Borzage and Sargent in Arms Hudson Horner spent the day in Altadena with other Rotarians around the District to assist with distributing items for the victims of the most recent fires that have caused so much damage.

On February 15, our club assisted with the distribution of donated food for Vets for Veterans, a non-profit that serves military veterans living in the Antelope Valley. I was honored to present a \$1,000 check to the President of Vets for Veterans at this event.

Sam Garcia, our Foundational Chair, PP, and upcoming President, spent the weekend at PETs, meeting old friends and making new ones as he attended workshops on Rotary.

For March – the fun of service will not stop! On March 8, we will go to the hospital – not in the back of an ambulance this time – to meet with Joanne Reyes, the President and Chief Philanthropy Officer for Presbyterian Holy Cross Hospital, as we donate items for the Acute Rehab and get a tour of the facilities.

SAVE THE DATE!

Last but certainly not least – Our upcoming end-of-presidential year FUNraiser will be at the Lazy-T in Palmdale on June 8, 2025, from 1p.m.– 5 p.m. More information to follow. I hope you will be able to make it. Space is limited, so I will notify all clubs before tickets go on sale to the general public.

South Pasadena: A Week of Service, Leadership, and Community Impact

By Betty Bui, South Pasadena

A heartfelt thank you to District 5300 for organizing an inspiring PETS for our incoming leadership team. The energy and shared vision for Rotary's future were truly motivating.

The Rotary Club of South Pasadena, alongside the South Pasadena High School Interact Club, had a dynamic week of

service, competition, and community engagement.

On Thursday, we hosted the Dan Stover Music Competition at South Pasadena High School, highlighting outstanding local musical talent.

On Friday, South Pasadena High School triumphed over San Marino in the 4-Way Test Speech Contest Area Competition. Our champion advances to the regional level on March 12, and we look forward to another strong performance.

To close the week, Rotary and Interact members volunteered at the Woman's Club of Arcadia, completing essential repairs and facility improvements, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing community spaces.

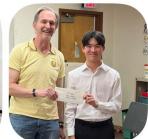
Upcoming Events - Join Us!

Pickleball Fundraiser - Sunday, April 27

The Pickleball Fundraiser will support our club Eaton Wildfire Relief Fund! All ages are welcome, and more details will be shared soon. Email interact.sphs5300@gmail.com to express interest.







11th Annual Taste of South Pasadena - Tuesday, May 13

A celebrated tradition, the Taste of South Pasadena offers an evening of amazing food tasting, great wines and community connection. This year, proceeds will benefit Rotary's Eaton Wildfire Relief Fund. For tickets, email rotaryclubofsouthpasadena@gmail.com. We invite District 5300 Rotarians to join us as we continue to create Rotary Magic in South Pasadena!

Pictures above: Top: Woman's Club of Arcadia Service Project; Bottom Left: 4-Way Test Speech Contest Area 1 Winner alongside Chair of the 4-Way Test and San Marino Rotary Club President-Elect Ginny Hsiang; Bottom Right: PP Rod Gregson and the Dan Stover Club Level Music Competition Winner.

IN MEMORY

In Memory of Gordy Norman

By Sheila Gutierrez, Glendora

Gordon (Gordie) Norman passed recently. He was a long-time member of Glendora Rotary, but known by many Rotarians throughout District 5300. Many will remember his themebased Sargent at Arms duties – dressed as a Viking! Gordie made friends far and wide, and will be missed. A service is being planned by his family and information will be shared when it is known.

