



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



This Week's Program

Club Meeting

Long Beach
Meets at The Grand
4101 E. Willow St.
Long Beach, CA 90815
Time: Wednesday at
12:00 PM
**THIS WEEK - Meet in
Rotarian Homes**

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Events

January 7th
[Rotary Weekly Club
Meeting - Evening
Dinner Focus](#)
Hosted by individual
members
Subject: Rotary Club
of Long Beach and the
2028 Summer
Olympics

January 8th
[RoToastados - A
Rotary Toastmaster
Alliance Club](#)

January 10th
[Centennial Park
Clean-up](#)

January 14th
[Rotary Weekly Club
Meeting](#)
OFFSITE: Feeding the
Future
Subject: Assembling
food/hygiene bags for
CSULB students

January 21st
[Rotary Weekly Club
Meeting](#)
Twilight Evening
Dinner
Subject: Behind-the-
scenes with US Special
Forces

January 22nd
[RoToastados - A
Rotary Toastmaster
Alliance Club](#)

January 26th
[RCLB Board of](#)

Bikes 4 Kids 2025

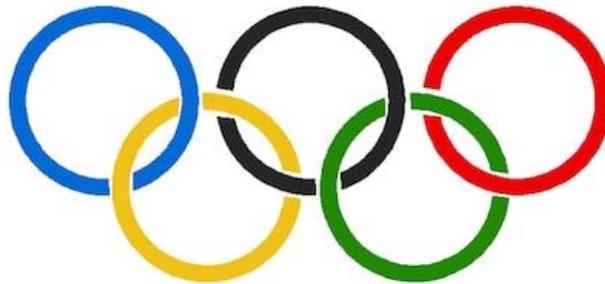
By Tina Barry, Community Service Co-Director

Bikes for Kids 2025: Oropeza Elementary School Success!

Wednesday, January 7

"Evening Dinner Focus in Rotarian Homes"

Countdown to the Olympics!
How will Rotary Club of Long Beach be involved?



"Pizza, Projects and Possibilities"

will be the discussion topic for this year's Evening Dinner Focus meetings.

Once each year, Rotarians spread out across the City
and meet in small groups at the home of a fellow member for a shared meal,
a time of Fellowship and an intimate Discussion of a relevant topic.

We have a few thoughts and some possible projects but we want to know your ideas –
How Should Long Beach Rotary Participate in the 2028 Olympics???

Dinner & Program - 5:30pm

RSVP - Reservations Closed

WAIT LIST only

**Attendees can only be assigned through the Rotary office
(madrid@rotarylongbeach.org)**

Please do not contact a host directly to attend

Directors Meeting for FY 2025-2026

January 28th
Rotary Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Peter Samuelson
Subject: "Finding Happy"

Birthdays

Jesse J. Pazdernik
 January 5th

Mary Zendejas
 January 7th

Robert W. Latimer
 January 9th

Club Leaders

Kelly Ruggirello
 President

Joseph Wayne Hower PE, DEE
 Assistant to the President

Olivia Maiser
 Assistant to the President

Jane Close Conoley
 Vice President

John M. Graham III
 Vice President

Douglas P. Haubert
 Vice President

David A. Lott
 Vice President

John E. Romundstad
 Secretary Treasurer

James A. Ahumada
 Sergeant-at-Arms

Mollie Beck
 Sergeant-at-Arms

Raymond Cervantez
 Sergeant-at-Arms

Sarah

Did you know that **every** third grader at **Oropeza Elementary School** received a bike, helmet, and lock on December 15th?

This is our third year partnering with the YMCA of Long Beach to create this wonderful project. The event brought together Long Beach Rotarians, Interact and Rotaract members as well as YMCA volunteers for bike assembly and fitting. An unexpected benefit was that these youth volunteers had the opportunity to work alongside experienced Rotarians, demonstrating the multi-generational strength of our service community.

We know these bikes help kids stay active and get to know their neighborhoods better, perhaps even exploring areas that are new to them. A lasting partnership is emerging that will help Long Beach families year after year. We don't know where these bikes will take these students, but we've given them the freedom to find out after this week's event.

Thank you to all volunteers who participated and worked so hard. Your commitment to our community's youth made this possible. We look forward to building on this success next year!



Rotary Centennial Sports Trophy 2025

By: Tim Richmond

Congratulations to this year's Rotary Centennial Sports Trophy recipient, **Long Beach Poly** for the **28th** time!



(l-r) Jonas Oware Basketball (committed to Yale); Crystal Irving Girls Athletic Director; Janelle Morris Softball (will be attending Southern University in Louisiana); and Rob Shock Boys Athletic Director

During the City of Long Beach's Centennial Year (1988), and in partnership with the Long Beach Press Telegram, the RCLB, under the leadership of RCLB President #71 Craig Dougherty, created the **Rotary Centennial Sports Trophy**. This award is presented by the **Rotary Club of Long Beach** to the local high school (*all Moore League schools*)



[Soriano](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms

and St. Anthony HS) with the best all-around male and female sports program. This award is based on points earned in league and CIF competitions. The purpose is to challenge local youth to perpetuate the high level of athletic excellence, the legacy established by the young athletes during Long Beach's first 100 years. The inaugural award was presented at the Long Beach Centennial Celebration at Veterans Stadium to Woodrow Wilson High School.

Congratulations Long Beach Poly - 28th Year !

TROPHY RECIPIENTS



[Whitney Leathers](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Officer



[Henry C. Fung](#)
Career Service Director

1988
Wilson High School



[Jeff Kellogg](#)
Club Service Director

1989
Lakewood High School



[Tina Barry](#)
Community Service Co-Director

1990
St. Anthony High School



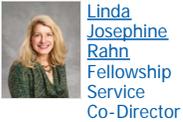
[Shelley Hanks](#)
Community Service Co-Director

1991 & 1992
Wilson High School



[Natalie Hale](#)
Fellowship Service Co-Director

1993
Millikan High School



[Linda Josephine Rahn](#)
Fellowship Service Co-Director

1994-2014
Poly High School
(21 years !)



2015
Poly High School
St. Anthony High School

2016 - 2017 - 2018
St. Anthony High School

2019
Poly High School

2020
No Award Presented
(COVID)

2021 - 2022 - 2023
2024 - 2025
(Total -28 years !)
Poly High School



[Theresa Cornwell](#)
International Service Director

End Polio Now

By Gregory Owen, RCLB President #75 and District Governor 2011-2012



[Tanya Adolph](#)
Membership Service Co-Director



[Leslie Wiberg](#)
Membership Service Co-Director



[Jon L. Mesko](#)
Youth Service Director



[Judy Ross](#)
Strategic Planning

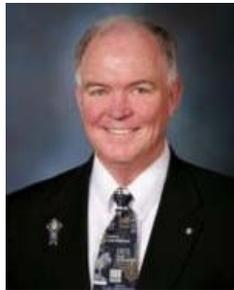


[Steve M. Hockett](#)
iPast President



[Wayne C. Slavitt](#)
President-elect

The Final Push: Ending Polio Now



Polio remains just a few steps away from eradication—but those final steps may be the hardest. The Rotary Club of Long Beach has long been a powerful force in this global mission, and now, more than ever, your commitment is vital. The fight to end polio is not over until every child, everywhere, is safe from this devastating disease.

All contributions to Rotary's PolioPlus Program are put to use immediately— directly fueling vaccination drives, outbreak responses, and the infrastructure that keeps the virus in check. **Recently, after a single outbreak, Rotary's global response team mobilized within days, vaccinating 31 million children under the age of 11.** This rapid action is part of an even greater effort that has seen Rotary help facilitate blanket vaccinations reaching

over 100 million children in just one week to ten days. These numbers show both the scale of our commitment and the urgency of our mission.

Our global network of 179 laboratories continues the exhaustive task of testing feces, water, and wastewater samples to trace the polio virus back to its source—even down to the village level. These sophisticated tracking efforts allow us to respond quickly and contain new threats before they spread further. The technology and infrastructure exist—we simply must keep funding and supporting these operations until polio is gone for good.

For those who have survived polio, the battle often isn't over. Many live with the possibility of Post-Polio Syndrome, a debilitating condition that can strike decades after the initial infection. Long Beach's own Jim Hankla, a proud Rotarian, knows this reality all too well. His story reminds us why eradicating this virus once and for all is not just a global goal—it's a deeply personal mission for many within our Rotary family.

Yet, to continue this critical work, we must meet the annual \$50 million funding requirement necessary to unlock the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's matching funds for PolioPlus**. Every dollar counts, and every donation directly supports field operations, vaccinations, monitoring, and education campaigns.

Thankfully, the Rotarians of Long Beach continue to lead by example. The PolioPlus Society and the wonderfully creative Kennel Klub Society for Rotarian pets are making a real difference. Years ago, an ad placed by **Adriana Lanting in the RotaryGram featured Mollie Owen, a generous canine who pledged to give up \$10 worth**



Freda Hinsche Otto
President-Nominee



Madrid Zimmerman
Club Director
Club Executive Secretary

of treats each month to help end polio. That charming idea turned into something extraordinary: the Kennel Klub Society of Rotary International, now spanning 10 countries with 292 loyal members, each contributing \$10 a month—or \$100 annually—until the World Health Organization officially declares the world polio-free.

Long Beach Rotarians, your innovation, compassion, and perseverance remain at the heart of Rotary's mission. Every vaccination, every sample test, every dollar given brings us closer to the day when polio will live only in the history books. Let's stay the course, keep giving, and ensure that our generation is the one that ends polio forever.



Together, we can—and will—finish the job.

Join the PolioPlus Society:
<https://rotary5320.org/polio-plus/>

Join the Kennel Klub:
<https://www.rotaryppskennelklub.org/join>

Make a Donation to PolioPlus:
<https://my.rotary.org/polioplus-fund>

Greg Owen
'End Polio Now' Coach
Zone 26
(310) 930-9239
grego@trimodal.com

www.rotaryppskennelklub.org

<https://www.endpolio.org/>

Rotary Club of Long Beach
meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon

THE GRAND
4101 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

LB Skyline Photo Credit
Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Club Office

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[District 5320](#)
[Rotary International](#)

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