

Chartered on April 28, 1977, the **Rotary Club of Rohnert Park - Cotati** has served the communities of [Rohnert Park](#) and [Cotati](#) for over thirty-five years. Contributions to both of the communities have been numerous and include several [Xericape landscaping](#) projects, park benches and picnic tables, kitchen fixtures for the Boys & Girls club, dictionaries for local schools, computer labs for community and senior centers, and neighborhood beautification projects. Additionally, Rohnert Park-Cotati Rotarians have been involved internationally, assisting directly with [Polio Plus](#), [Rotoplast](#), [Festival of Brotherhood](#), and [Adopt-A-Village](#) projects.

The club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Petaluma Valley, of which Sonoma State University professor Robert Tellander was a member. Upon creation of the new club, Bob was one of its first members and became its charter president. The District Governor (District 513 then) at the time was George P. Newlon, from the Rotary Club of San Mateo.

Club Beginnings, as chronicled by charter president Robert Tellander:

"...We had our first meeting at the Gold Coin Restaurant (College View Dr and Southwest Blvd.) as a luncheon club. One of the Wong brothers (who owned the Gold Coin) joined the club also, but when they went out of business we moved to three different places. The Mexican Restaurant on Commerce Blvd @ Old Redwood Hwy (Las Parrillas for the longest time, but currently called Mi Pueblito Restaurant) designed by club member Vern Avila (architect) and when they went under we moved back to the old site of the Gold Coin which was then called McChesney's, an excellent fish restaurant, and when it went under we moved into the new Greek Restaurant at the intersection of Redwood Highway and Gravenstein Highway (currently Star Restaurant) also built by Vern Avila. We left there when Past President Jerry, (Gerald Kohler) Chief of Police Cotati, wanted to move upscale to the then Red Lion Hotel and we stayed put while the hotel changed names to the Doubletree Hotel. Spiro, the Greek (I can't remember his last name.) was not pleased and quit the club. We had our Charter Night at the Green Mill Restaurant on Old Redwood Highway in Penngrove.

The first Project the club did was to create a proper sign to Identify "Rancho Cotate High School and to dress up the bleak facade with a row of young Redwood Trees. That worked so well, that the city asked us to help plant the redwood trees along the RP Parkway and we threw in the concrete benches along the route with our names and Rotary seal embossed in them. Mine is located at the intersection of Rohnert Park Expressway and Country Club Drive.

I technically served one and one-half terms as your Charter President because we were chartered mid-year. Four of my officers dropped out the first year because of career and personal conflicts so I ended up being interim everything until we could replace them. Since no one but I, Roger Sanderson, Harold Alexander, and Mort Johnson had been Rotarians, we spent a lot of time explaining Rotary to the members. My impression after attending meetings twenty-five years hence was that the idea got through."

Note how volatile life was in the early days of Rohnert Park. Jobs, businesses and homes were all on the margin. Businesses failed because the market would not sustain them. Ray Deitz, our second president, never wanted the job and refused to serve at the end of my term. Fortunately, others persuaded him to follow through so I could get back to teaching, and my life. But he resigned and left after his last meeting. We were not a status club but a service club and that required time and effort, not necessarily money. I gave .25 cent fines at the beginning..."







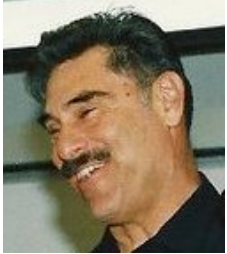




Rohnert Park was founded as a master-planned community on the former site of the Rohnert Seed Farm. Each neighborhood was designed around a pool, park and/or elementary school. At the time of incorporation, in 1962, Rohnert Park had a population of 2,775, and the city limits encompassed

approximately 2.1 square miles. Cotati, which was incorporated in 1963 had a population of about 1400 and encompassed approximately 1.5 square miles.

The cities grew quickly as the Bay Area economy continued to grow, and the demand for housing exploded. When the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park-Cotati was chartered, Rohnert Park had an approximate population of 20,000 and Cotati about 3,000. Today, Rohnert Park has a population of about 41,000 and an area of nearly 6.9 square miles, with nearly half the land dedicated to residential uses. Rohnert Park contains 469 acres of park and recreation land, or approximately 11 percent of the total net city area. Cotati has a population of approximately 7,200 and an area of 1.8 square miles.






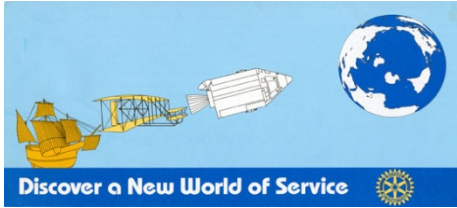

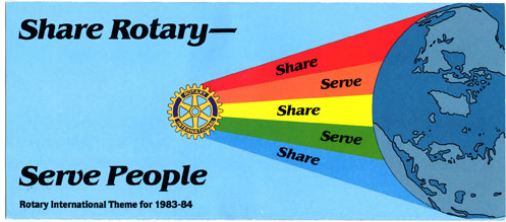

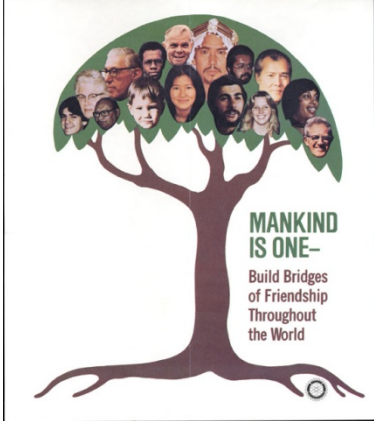
Club Presidents (d) = Deceased




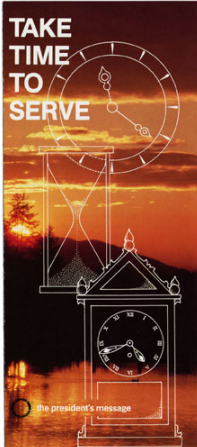




Rotary Year	Name Classification	Picture	RI Presidential Theme
2012-2013	<p>Wayne Sutton Dentist Owner, Sonoma Smiles Dentistry</p>		
2011-2012	<p>Mike Pastryk Custom Door Manufacturing Owner/President, Liberty Valley Doors <i>"From the wine country to the world, helping others is what we do!"</i></p>		
2010-2011	<p>Wulff Reinhold Public Safety Sergeant, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety <i>"Where fun and fellowship combine to do good in the world."</i></p>		
2009-2010	<p>John Hackenburg Vintner Owner, Hummingbird Hill Vineyards <i>"The 'Top Gun' Club"</i></p>		
2008-2009	<p>Paula Reinhold Home Mortgage Senior Mortgage Banker, Petaluma Home Loans <i>"The funnest club in the district"</i></p>		
2007-2008	<p>Joe Perry Engineer Owner, California Energy Experts</p>		

<p>2006-2007</p>	<p>Tim Miller Realtor Owner/Partner, Prudential California Realty</p>		
<p>2005-2006</p>	<p>Michael Doyle</p>		
<p>2004-2005</p>	<p>Dale Ann Knight Insurance Owner, Knight & Associates Insurance Services</p>		
<p>2003-2004</p>	<p>Becky Rishe Realtor</p>		
<p>2002-2003</p>	<p>John Brown Public Safety Public Safety Officer, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety</p>		
<p>2001-2002</p>	<p>Anne Kinsey-Goldy Education</p>		
<p>2000-2001</p>	<p>Tim Mattis Personnel Services Owner, Ensearch Management Consultants</p>		

<p>1999-2000</p>	<p>Michael Lyle Education Professor, Sonoma State University</p>		
<p>1998-1999</p>	<p>Arthur Sweeney Public Safety Sergeant, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety</p>		
<p>1997-1998</p>	<p>Vida Jones</p>		
<p>1996-1997</p>	<p>Kenneth McCoy Home Mortgage Owner, Petaluma Home Loans</p>		
<p>1995-1996</p>	<p>Robert Barbaro Maintenance Services</p>		
<p>1994-1995</p>	<p>Louise Mason Banking Senior Vice President, Exchange Bank</p>		
<p>1993-1994</p>	<p>Linda Spiro City Government Councilwoman, City of Rohnert Park</p> <p>** Terri Palido-King was the president-elect for this term, but moved out of the area prior to her term. Linda was elected to replace her.</p>		<p>BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN</p>

<p>1992-1993</p>	<p>Marshall Goldy Public Safety Public Safety Officer, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety</p>		
<p>1991-1992</p>	<p>Bill Kirkpatrick</p>		
<p>1990-1991</p>	<p>Diane Parker ** Diane was the club's first female president!</p>		
<p>1989-1990</p>	<p>Alan Murray</p>		
<p>1988-1989</p>	<p>Dennis Amantite Public Safety Captain, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety</p>		
<p>1987-1988</p>	<p>Gerald Kohler Public Safety Chief, Cotati Police Department</p>		

<p>1986-1987</p>	<p>Gerald Lombardi (d) Travel Owner, Rohnert Park Travel</p>		
<p>1985-1986</p>	<p>Thomas Sawyer (d)</p>		
<p>1984-1985</p>	<p>Mort Johnson</p> <p>** Gus Hutton was the president-elect for this term, but due to personal issues, he had to resign from the club two weeks before his term was to start</p>		
<p>1983-1984</p>	<p>John Jones</p>		
<p>1982-1983</p>	<p>Ed Felciano (d)</p>		

<p>1981-1982</p>	<p>Richard Roberts</p>		
<p>1980-1981</p>	<p>Ransome Sare (d)</p>		
<p>1979-1980</p>	<p>Arthur Roberts (d) Pharmacist Owner, Rohnert Park Pharmacy</p>		
<p>1978-1979</p>	<p>Raymond Dietz</p>		
<p>1977-1978</p>	<p>Robert Tellander Education Professor, Sonoma State University</p> <p>** Bob was our charter president!</p>	