

# Rotary



# Club of Merced

## Club Meeting

Merced  
Meets at Merced Elks Lodge  
1910 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

## Club Leaders



RoseMary Parga Duran  
President



Mary K. Camper  
President - Elect



Don Bragonier  
Club Director  
Club Program Chair



Joy Alexander  
Secretary



Edward C. Spinardi II  
Treasurer



Clark Kellogg  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Lauren Marks-Royer  
International Service Chair



Matt Hoffman  
Club Service Chair



Vinton Thengvall  
Bulletin Editor  
Webmaster



Brenda J. Callahan-Johnson  
Vocational Service Chair



James G. Marshall  
Rotary Foundation Chair

## Merced Rotary - Wednesday June 8, 2022 - Lester Knox

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Join us for today's meeting at the Elks Lodge, 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

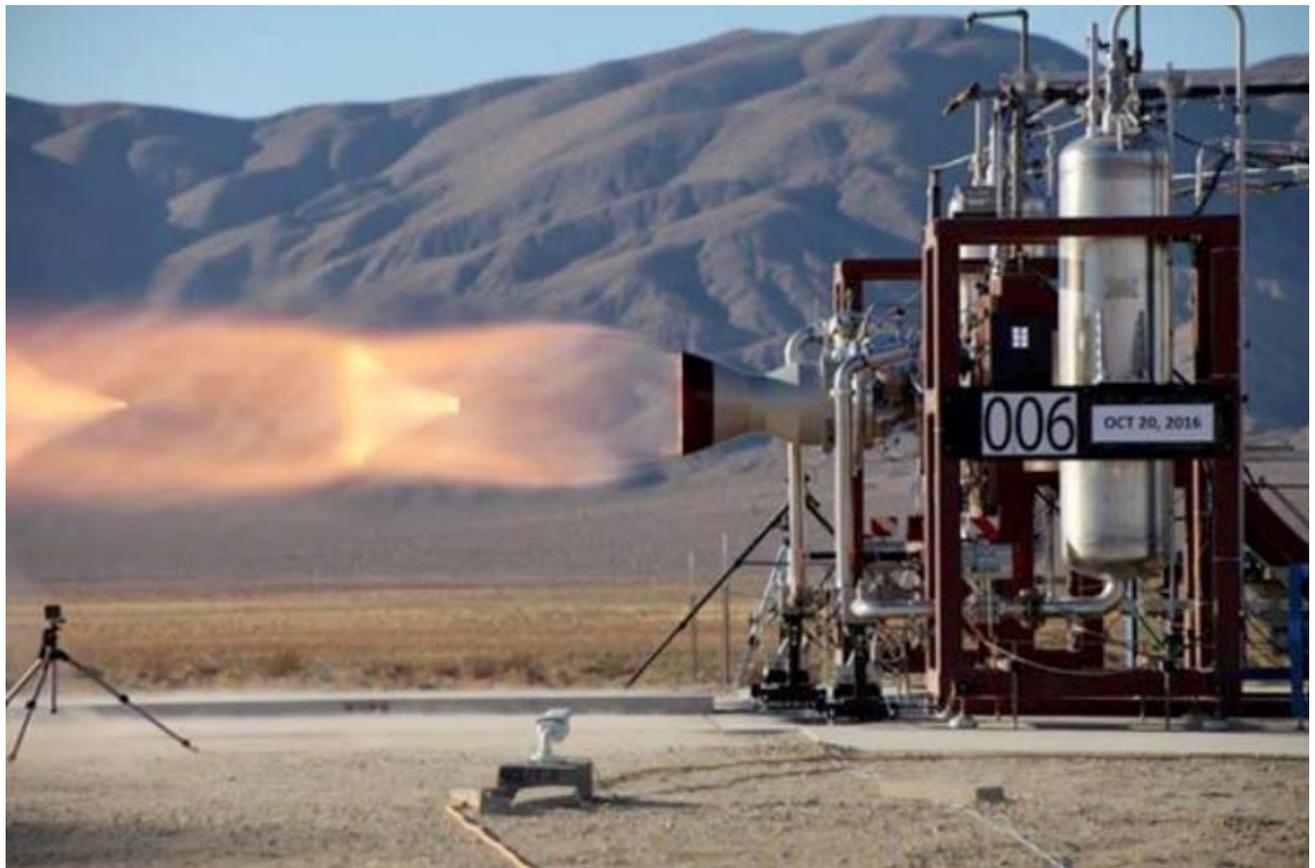


Our speaker today is Lester Knox, Aerospace Engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Edwards AFB, California. Lester grew up in Atwater and Merced, receiving an AS degree from Merced College in 1995. He continued his education at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, graduating with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering in 1998. In his senior year Lester received an employment offer from AFRL based on his senior project presentation. He started work at the AFRL as a DoD Civilian that year, with an emphasis on solid rocket motor propulsion.

We are meeting at the Elks Lodge in person. The speaker today will join us via Zoom, which is also available for those who want to join us remotely.

**Zoom Link** - The meeting portal will open at 11:45 AM and close at 1:15 PM. The link is open to all, no waiting room and no passcode required.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://mcoe-org.zoom.us/j/96217100820>



## Lee Andersen Receives Paul Harris Award

Tuesday, June 7, 2022



**Steve M. Tietjen**  
Membership  
Chair



**David P. Spangler**  
Attendance  
Secretary



**David S. Dunham**  
iPast  
President



**Michael Nelson**  
Assistant  
Governor

Merced Rotary recognized Lee Andersen, former Merced County Superintendent of Schools at our May 25th meeting.

Lee began working for the Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) in August 1978, in the position of Special Education Coordinator. Over the next 32 years of service, he served in a variety of positions giving him the opportunity to improve access and services for all students, especially those with special needs. He was a tireless advocate for children and families.

As Principal of Shelby School he was involved in transforming the original school site to a modern state of the art school facility complete with swimming pool, therapy pool, developmental center for older students with the functioning level of preschoolers, and life skills training apartment for students with moderate disabilities to learn how to care for themselves and their home. A pair of hydroponic green houses were built for the ROP program, one of the first programs in the area to provide actual on the job training for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

As the Special Education Local Plan Area Coordinator (SELPA), he supervised the school psychologists and worked with all the districts in the county to ensure every student who was identified with special needs had access to appropriate services. In this role he developed local plan area policies and procedures, worked with the Citizens for Special Education, wrote grants for vocational training programs along with the ROP Department, and acquiring the first student computers.

As Special Education Director and then Assistant Superintendent he oversaw the expansion of the move of classes off segregated sites like Shelby School to their home school district, expanded the vocational services programs for students in the district, the development of programs specifically designed for students with Autism, and the expansion of the information technology services for all districts countywide.

As County Superintendent of Schools Lee boldly led the effort for MCOE to become the Head Start and Early Head Start grantee for all of Merced County. Under his leadership all Head Start sites were renovated, new standards for teacher quality were applied and best practices for early education were implemented. Lee also led the effort for MCOE to be the grantee for child care resource and referral services and child care support services for children and their families in Merced County. Under Lee's leadership MCOE became the most recognizable face of quality early education in Merced County. Strategic partnerships with foundations, including the Packard Foundation and with its support established the Business Education Alliance of Merced. This Alliance led an effort to bring business entities into partnership with education to promote quality education, including early education.

Two of Lee's exceptional gifts were his coaching and mentoring of new leadership talent. He challenged his leadership team to take risks and to try new approaches to solving problems. He supported his team through failures and always praised successes. Working with Lee provided a safe place to grow intellectually and professionally.

Congratulations Lee!

Pictured are Don Bragonier with the Paul Harris Award, Lee Andersen, and Ann Andersen.



### Events

June 11th  
**Rahilly Park Day of Service**

June 29th  
**President RoseMary Kick Out Party**

### Speakers

June 08, 2022  
**Lester Knox**

June 15, 2022  
**Chris Tomford**

June 22, 2022  
**Rebecca Burton**  
California Highway Patrol

June 29, 2022  
**Kick Out Party**

### Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

### Wedding Anniversaries

Rick Marchini  
June 9th

Cyril L. Lawrence  
June 15th

Ernest William Bizzini  
June 19th

### Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

## Go Gator!! Rotary Donation for Kiddie Land

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Go Gator!

Merced Rotary donated \$2,000 in March to Kiddie Land in Applegate Park to maintain the Gator Ride. Here are a couple pictures of the ride.



Merced City Cleanup - Rahilly Park - June 11

**Merced**  
**Community Clean Up Day**  
JUNE 11TH | 8 - 11 AM



**Rahilly Park &  
Rascal Creek/Bike Path**  
BRING GARBAGE BAGS, GLOVES, TRUCKS AND  
TRASH GRABBERS

Meet at 3400 Parsons Ave, Merced at 8 AM, June 11th  
Lunch at 11 AM



**District 5220 Leadership Assembly**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Rotary District 5220 Leadership Assembly  
June 18, 2022

Let President RoseMary know if you plan to attend, let's make it a Merced Rotary event!



## District 5220 Learning & Leadership Assembly

### *Inspirational Speakers & Engaging Instructors*

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

8:30 - Breakfast

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Pitman High School**  
2525 W Christoffersen Pkwy  
Turlock, CA 95382

#### **Register by June 15, 2022**

<https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77591635>

Need more information:

Tina Gong, District Trainer - [tgong@gemperle.com](mailto:tgong@gemperle.com)  
Maryn Pitt, Assembly Chair - [marynpitt@yahoo.com](mailto:marynpitt@yahoo.com)  
Chris Daly, District Governor Elect - [RotaryDaly@aol.com](mailto:RotaryDaly@aol.com)

### *Choose 3 Topics*

Tips for Treasurers

DACdb - sending group email easily

Getting involved in international projects

PETS Make-up

Enter club goals in My Rotary

DACdb - Print a club Roster

Donate to The Rotary Foundation Easily

Council on Legislation updates for your club

Lets Talk Global Grants - How to get involved?

Pitfalls and the Joys!

How to keep your club legal!

My Rotary - How to get in & Navigate

Attracting and Retaining Members

Encouraging giving to The Rotary Foundation

Community Projects Think Tank

Easy Club Newsletters

Get your club started on Social Media

Club Fellowship Think Tank

*Thanks to our generous Sponsors this opportunity to grow and learn is free to all District 5220 Rotarians!*

*Turlock School District  
Gemperle Family Farms  
Turlock Rotary  
Turlock Sunrise Rotary*

