

EL RODEO

AUGUST 27, 2019

ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 · ISSUE 9 · VOLUME CXI
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD



LA5
ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

CLUB LEADERSHIP FOUNDED 1909

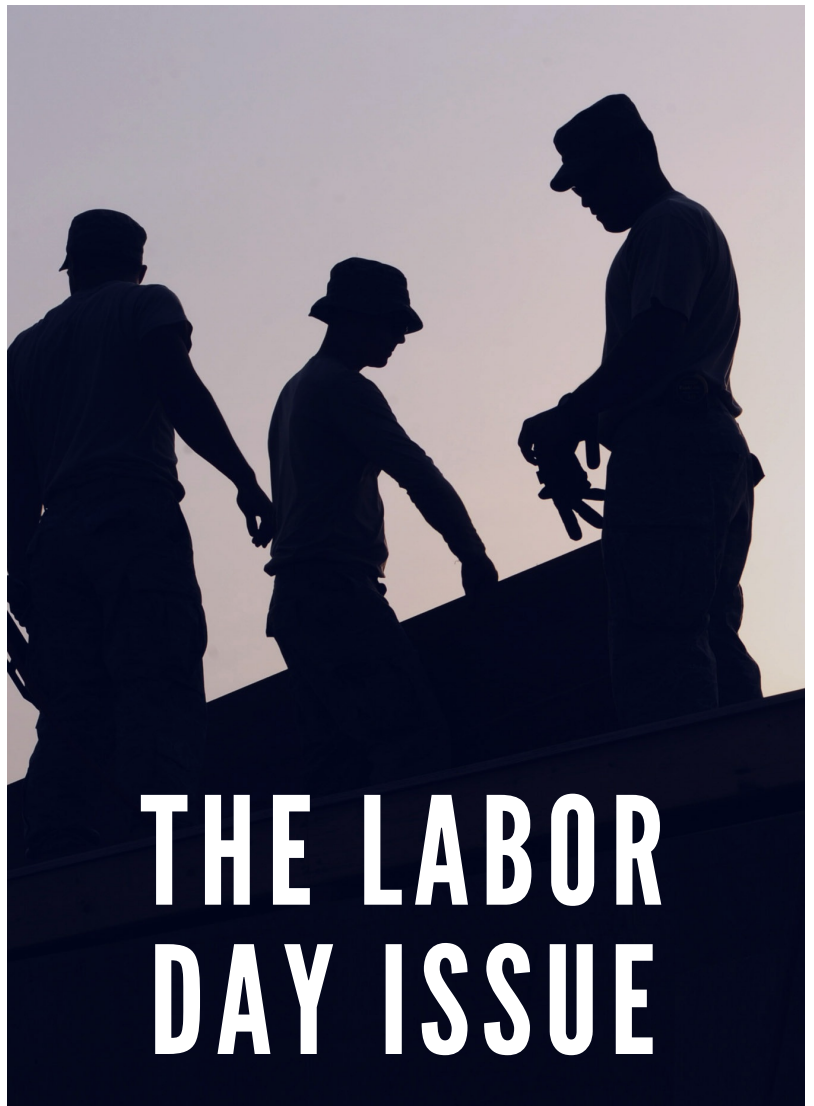
Rick Gibson, President
Matt Ball, President-Elect
Paul Ekstrand, Vice President, Program Chair
Josh Mandell, Secretary
Darin Marinov, Treasurer
Erick Weiss, Past President

Sally Gallagher, Executive Committee
Maureen Tepedino, Membership
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Walker Van Antwerp, Service
Ana Rosales, Service
Kathleen Kavanaugh, Service
Michael Hart, Foundation Committee
John Spokes, Foundation Committee
Nancy Howard, Administration
Anthony Bourg, Administration
Lauren Schlau, Communications
Malinda Monterrosa, Communications

John Green, Executive Director
Jennifer Gregg, Executive Admin

Shahla Rahimi Reynolds, Sergeant-at-Arms
Vinod Budchauhan, Sergeant-at-Arms
Christopher Kim, Sergeant-at-Arms
Joseph Grant, Sergeant-at-Arms

Melody St. John, District 5280 Governor



MARK THE CALENDAR



**Dark: Enjoy Your
Labor Day**



Golf Committee
Chevy Chase Country Club



John B. Emerson
Lunch at the Cal Club



Stephen M. Meade
Lunch at the Cal Club

<<CLICK TO VIEW THE CLUB CALENDAR>>



HELLO THERE, READER!

We hope that you have enjoyed your new El Rodeo experience thus far. It is a labor of love on behalf of about a dozen of your fellow Rotarians. (Pun fully intended there.)

This week, we take a rest to honor Labor Day - an annual constitution of the contributions of workers toward the 'strength, prosperity and well-being of our country'.

Labor Day is also known to mark the end of summer, the beginning of a new school year, a long weekend to spend with family and friends, and for those conscious of the rules of fashion- your last opportunity to wear that all-white linen suit that's been calling your name.

In 1894, Labor Day was adopted into law as a National holiday to recognize the American worker. Just 15 years later, LA5 was born and has been a labor of love for so many ever since. Each and every member works toward the success of our club each and every day. We double our efforts as Americans and Rotarians - toward the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country, our communities, our neighbors in need, and our club. That should be celebrated.

So this Labor Day - reflect on those laborers who have strengthened our country. Then: soak in that summer heat, hug the family super tight, cherish these moments before the littles grow taller, savor that straight-from-the-grill flavor, and really rock that white suit! But let's also take a moment to pat ourselves on the back for all of our contributions toward this amazing club of ours and the impact its had for almost as long as this holiday has existed.

YOURS TRULY,

El Rodeo
ELRODEOLA5@GMAIL.COM

from
the
editors



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WORK HARD. PLAY HARD.

In the same way that Memorial Day marks the beginning of Summer, Labor Day signals that it has come to an end. As son of a grocer and member of the Retail Clerks, I remember the grand Labor Day picnic that was held every year in our town. The food was spectacular and the music exciting. Thousands descended upon Hart Park near the Kern River and enjoyed feasting and a day of rest. The fall term of school would start the next day.

The purpose of the softball game, the music, and the food was to acknowledge and celebrate the American worker. The value that my father and grandfather before him passed down to me was that hard work mattered. Earning a living and supporting a family was noble and worthy of respect.

I still believe that - though I must admit that the kind of work I do today does not resemble the kind of back-breaking work my forefathers did. It is because of them that I have deep respect for those who prepare food, build homes, groom yards, transport goods, and sell groceries.

I realize in this polarized age that even this issue is associated with controversy. But for a moment, I will set those issues aside and will pause on Labor Day to express thanks for the life I enjoy that came through the hard work, sore muscles and calluses of members of my family who were simply grateful to have a job.

As Rotarians committed to strengthening local economies, let us offer our support to those who work hard to earn a respectable wage to care for their families. Whether skilled or unskilled, workers are needed to strengthen our community. Let's get behind them.

Happy Labor Day! See you next Friday.

Rick Gilson



LA5 HQ TRIVIA

WIN FREE LUNCH

Six members from LA5 were dubbed the "Rotarians who have the most fun" at last week's meeting. What was gifted to them by DG Melody St. John?

PP MEGAN O'ROURKE

LABOR DAY MEANS

"The end of summer
... and sending the
kids back to
school."



ROTARY BOARD UPDATE

The second board meeting of this Rotary year took place last Friday at the California Club.

DG Melody St. John, the guest of honor, was presented a report by each of the club's divisions. "My job is to come here and tell you how great you are doing. Because you really are doing such a great job," acclaimed the District Governor.

The board completed some work by approving the following:

- Bestowing the honor of Paul Harris Fellow onto VP and Program Chair Paul Ekstrand, in honor of his ongoing support of the club's communication and website efforts.
- The member resignations of Jonathan Steele, Jessica Lall, Robert Tomiye.
- A member leave of absence for Raymond Mobrez
- A \$750 commitment to District 5280's Youth Service Commitment, that funds Interact clubs.



District 5280 Rotary Foundation Gala OCTOBER 27

RAFFLE TICKETS

Earn points toward your Paul Harris Fellow by purchasing raffle tickets.
\$100 for a book of 12.

\$3000

\$1500

\$ 500

Raffle prizes
will be awarded
at the Gala

RAFFLE TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT THE
REGISTRATION TABLE
AT ALL LA5 LUNCH
MEETINGS

"FOR ME LABOR DAY HAS ALWAYS MARKED THE END OF SUMMER, AND THE START OF THE FALL WHEN OUR KIDS WOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR. HAVING GROWN UP WHERE MY DAD WAS A LIFE LONG UNION WORKER LABOR DAY ALWAYS BRINGS BACK THOSE MEMORIES TOO ... FINALLY, EACH LABOR DAY WE SPEND A COUPLE WEEKS AT LAKE TAHOE, AND ON LABOR DAY WE TRAVEL TO VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA, WHERE WE WATCH THE LABOR DAY PARADE. MOST OF THE UNIONS IN NEVADA PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE, AND THERE IS ALWAYS A LOT OF GOOD NATURED BANTOR FROM THE UNION MEMBERS MARCHING IN THE PARADE, AND THE MANY PEOPLE WATCHING THE PARADE ALONG THE CURBS."

PP BOB ALDRIDGE



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

LAST WEEK: DG MELODY ST. JOHN

LA5 was graced by a bit of Rotarian royalty last Friday with District 5280's Governor, Melody St. John as the featured speaker. There was an equal mix of praise and hard truths, but an overwhelming amount of fun!



: Tony Medley

<< [CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS](#) >>



The room was shining from the presence of so many superstars ...



... from the Club and the District!



The club voted on the Rotarians who have the most fun - and DG Melody bestowed upon them her fun-meter (copyright pending).



Walker moved the club with a heartwarming message about Rotary International and how it truly connects the world.



LA5 gifts DG Melody with a poster commemorating her many years of service to youth.



Arguably the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an LA5er this year is to be the subject of one of President Rick's caricatures. Lucky Melody!



*"When I think of Labor Day,
the first thing that comes to
mind is delicious carne
asada grilled to perfection.*

*Ramey's Meats from
Brawley has the best carne
asada."*

PP JOSE VERA

MEMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW: **MIKE BIRKOLM**

LA5 PAST PRESIDENT, '95-'96
PRESIDENT & CEO, BIRKOLM
DIRECT

What is your favorite thing about your career? Helping my Clients achieve their marketing objectives effectively and efficiently.

What is your proudest accomplishment? Being a son, husband, father, recently becoming a grandfather and always striving to be a good business leader.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be? Enjoy time with my family in our backyard.

Do you have any hidden talents we should know about? Perhaps little know but not purposely hidden ... I played alto saxophone during my school years. Loved being in concert band, marching band and orchestra.

What's the most daring thing you've ever done? Zipline at The Salvation Army camp in the Malibu hills.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share with the Club?

Being a Rotarian, especially an LA5 Rotarian, is an excellent way to help make our community and, indeed, our world a better place for all peoples. Through Rotary I am constantly reminded of the importance and value of Matthew's words: "... your light must shine before others that they see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."



What makes you laugh the most?

Good humor. I especially enjoy the Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour "Road Series" movies and Dean Martin Roasts of fellow entertainers and comedians.

Do you have a motto that you live by? Keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart. Be a good citizen. Be a Friend ... because People Matter Most! Mind The Ten Commandments, Scout Oath, Scout Law and Rotary's 4-Way Test.

Which three books would you recommend everyone read?

Founding Brothers – The Revolutionary Generation

The Old Man and the Sea

Beyond The Hills – The Journey of Waite Phillips

What's your superpower?

Effective and efficient use of the written word to persuade a reader, create consensus and advance human relationships.

LA5 MEMBER SINCE 1986,
PP BIRKOLM IS A

- FOUNDATION FELLOW
- PAUL HARRIS FELLOW
- MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
- FAST 5 GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Labor Day means...

"BBQ."

PP KEN CHONG

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

HONOLULU

JUNE
6-10
2020

REGISTRATION
IS OPEN



HONOLULU
HAWAII 2020

www.riconvention.org/en/honolulu

El Rodeo & President Rick asked and you voted -

THE MOST FUN LA5ers ARE....

CHRISSY MOSES
LANCE MILLER
PAUL EKSTRAND



FUN-METER

PP MEGAN O'ROURKE
JERMAINE EE
LAINÉ WAGENSELLER

LA 5

LO
VE

FOR
ED METVALD

Ed is recuperating at home and enjoys calls and visits from his Rotarian friends.

calls and texts:
818-761-1457

send mail to:
10041 Moorpark
Toluca Lake, CA

(Please check with Ed's wife
Mary to schedule visits.)