

# EL RODEO

## FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

Myanmar water project,  
changes in communication,  
efforts to be a club that gives 100%

What else?

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ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 · ISSUE 13 · VOLUME CXI  
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

**2019 - 2020**

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TALK TO US:  
elrodeola5@gmail.com

**CLUB OFFICERS**

Rick Gibson, President  
Matt Ball, President Elect  
Paul Ekstrand, VP & Program Chair  
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Christopher Kim  
Shahla Reynolds  
Kumar Vinod

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Melody St. John





## HELLO AGAIN, READER!

Summer is officially over (yesterday was the last day); the weather is even starting to feel a bit cooler at times so as to make you believe it's true.

And we, dear fellow LA5er, are a full three months into our Rotary year! How time flies! To mark the auspicious occasion, we thought we would treat this issue as a special update. We've tapped into the minds of the club's leadership and hope to provide both a recap of what has been done, and a glance toward what's to come for LA5.

President Rick shares his usual words of wisdom, but isn't quite alone on his high horse - the Past Presidents have weighed in on some preliminary scores for him this year.

It's all here- drama, intrigue, emotion ... and the opera will continue for another 9 months!

We hope you will play your role, and continue to let us know what you love, or maybe could do without.

Remember, this is *your* club. Take part in its journey, its growth, its story.

YOURS TRULY,

**El Rodeo**  
ELRODEOLA5@GMAIL.COM



from  
the  
editors

**ROTARY IS COMMITTED TO...**

**ENDING POLIO**

**PROMOTING PEACE**

**FIGHTING DISEASE**

**PROVIDING CLEAN WATER**

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION**

**SAVING MOTHERS AND**

**CHILDREN**

**GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES**

**DISASTER RESPONSE**





# *A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*

## ANYTHING ELSE?

Rotarians are compassionate, giving people, committed to the idea of living selfless lives. In addition to building careers, serving families, hosting scout meetings, volunteering at schools, serving in neighborhoods, churches and synagogues, Rotarians, who are doing each of these things, still gather once a week to ask: "Is there anything else I can do?"

Thankfully, people are still asking that question. In spite of tremendous resources and scientific advances and engineering marvels, many people on this planet still lack clean water, suffer from poor nutrition, benefit from little to no education, are impoverished due to wars and conflict. You would think that some of these problems would have been eliminated by now, but in fact, in some parts of the world, the problems are worsening. Thank goodness Rotarians are still asking, "What else can I do?"

Last week, our Club took steps to encourage our members commit to support the good works of Rotary globally and our Club locally. The initiative, led by the Foundation Division of the LA5 Board of Directors, is meant to start a conversation about making philanthropic and service commitments. Last year, LA5's participation rate for giving was about 14%. We are confident that a Club of compassionate and generous people can do better. Much better.

If you are like me, you will want to know how your gift is making an impact. To that end, we will commit to sharing impact stories of those who benefit directly from the work we do and the funds we provide. You will be amazed by the good this Club is doing and yet, I suspect you will ask the question all great Rotarians ask, "What else can I do?"

Yours in Rotary service,

*Rick Gibson*

President,  
Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
2019 - 2020



# Mark the calendar



- Oct 03** Golf Committee - Chevy Chase Country Club
- Oct 04** Courageous Citizen Awards with DA Jackie Lacey - Lunch at the Jonathan Club
- Oct 11** Ken Basin - Lunch at the Cal Club
- Oct 15** District 5280 Breakfast - Proud Bird Restaurant
- Oct 18** Commissioner Warren Stanley - Lunch at the Cal Club

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CLUB CALENDAR](#)



10TH ANNIVERSARY

Angel City  
Celebration

December 7, 2019  
Jesse Owens Park

*To volunteer:*

*Contact Rick Gibson or Marjorie Heller*

**THIS FRIDAY**  
LUNCH AT THE CAL CLUB WITH  
**ALEX**  
**BLOOMINGDALE**  
L . A . T A C O



**The Media in Los Angeles; The Landscape,  
The Opportunity**

Alex Bloomingdale is an entrepreneur with an interest in education and media,. as co-founder of enotes.com, he created one of the world's most-visited education websites that serves 15m students worldwide every month.A native of Southern California, he co-founded L.A. TACO, a media brand focused on food, culture, and local news, due to his love of Los Angeles, the city his family has called home for over 90 years

**CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS**



# LAST WEEK

A VIDEO RECAP OF THE SECOND BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR LA5  
FEATURING SPEAKER DAVID EADS, CEO OF THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY-ITES

Frank Acevedo  
Bob Aldridge  
Adam Bar  
Chris Chen  
Jack Dibb  
Tuan Do

Jeff Goodman  
Michael Hart  
Paul Jacques  
Paul Netzel  
Lloyd Ogilvie  
Adam Pilder

Seda Rashidi  
Keith Renken  
JR Richardson  
Charlie Slemaker  
Paul St. John  
Spencer Walch

# Q1 HIGHLIGHTS

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An inspiring report was shared with the club about ongoing efforts for clean water in Myanmar led by **Herb McGurk, JT Warring** and sponsored by **Dr. Sumi Kawaratani**. Club members spent a wonderful day with Interactors and scholarship recipients volunteering at Camp Paivika. Service co-chair **Ana Rosales** has been quick to identify dates for LA5's cornerstone service celebrations and events. The foundation has been set for a busy year!

Two successful breakfast meetings! Three new interns. The addition of a Rotaractor to the LA5 board. The early makings of an LA5 Business Exchange. **ED John Green, President Rick, VP Paul Ekstrand**, and the club's administration have shown they are not fearful of the right changes for the club, and continue to mentor the next generation of Rotarians!

**John Spokes** and **Michael Hart** spent the first quarter with heads down and pencils to paper, strategizing ways to ensure all LA5ers receive clear communication and gain a robust understanding of the impact of their giving efforts; as well as how to give, and to whom to give.

## SERVICE

## ADMINISTRATION

## FOUNDATION





# Q1 HIGHLIGHTS

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## SOCIAL

The wine committee, comprised of **Christina Moses** and **Denise Anthony**, coordinated an amazingly successful wine tasting event at **Tony Medley's** beautiful home, with **David Bland** as the generous sponsor. The golf committee, chaired by **Bo Lee** and **Jared Smith**, hasn't lost a beat, consistently hitting the green the first Thursday of each month.

## COMMUNICATIONS

With a promise toward member-focused messaging, the marketing committee committed to the revival of the El Rodeo as a weekly newsletter and a consistently active social media presence. This hard-working group of 12 has held calls for continued productivity on a weekly basis, and continues to forge forward in support of the club's story-telling efforts.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Laine Wagenseller** has initiated the troika concept - a method by which Rotarians can get to know each other better. **Charlene Dimas-Pinedo** and **Maureen Tepedino** have been hard at work, exploiting their talent for personal connection; both building the new member pipeline and reconnecting with existing LA5 members.



# OUR GOALS FOR THIS ROTARY YEAR

**100%**  
participation in  
the '365'  
community  
grant fund

**25**  
new members  
sponsored by  
**20**  
Rotarians

**50%**  
participation  
from the club  
for club service  
projects

**4**  
large venue  
lunch  
programs

**8**  
new LA5  
Foundation  
Fellows

**60%**  
participation  
from the club  
for club  
fellowship  
events

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### Engage!

- Participate in events and fellowship with your fellow club members.
- Attend club meetings frequently.
- Join a committee.
- Engage others - bring a guest to Rotary.


### Give!

- Participate in the club's Community Grant '365' fund.
- Donate your time and participate in the club's service projects.



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# MAKE AN IMPACT



*“There is nothing intangible about Rotary: It is reality itself. To give is to receive; to lose oneself is to find oneself; to be happy is to serve. These are old truths...for the individual...and the mass, whether application be in the exchange of goods, toil, knowledge, or love.”*

*— The Meaning of Rotary, THE ROTARIAN, November 1921*

## IF EVERY LA5 MEMBER PLAYS THEIR PART, THIS CLUB WILL ...

- Gift over \$200,000 in scholarships to high need, high performing future LAUSD graduates
- Ensure thousands of young Angelenos will have health check-ups and receive toys for the holidays - both of which they might not receive if not for Angel City
- Continue to help provide clean water to needful communities in Myanmar
- Help Rotary International complete its mission to eradicate Polio
- Gift tens of thousands in grants to local organizations who directly service impoverished and homeless youth
- Develop life-long friendships within its membership
- Continue its support of hundreds of foster children and the DCFS
- Have fun!

# President Rick's First Quarter Scorecard

Scale = 1-5

"Rick is doing a superb  
job!" - PP Mike Birkholm

5

"Our meetings have been excellent with  
exceptional content, reports from our wonderful  
committees and extraordinary speakers. Keep up  
the good work! xx Dave"  
- PP Dave Meshulam

5



"Definitely a 5!"  
- PP Megan O'Rourke

5

"Great meetings and good  
energy." -  
PP Todd Johnson

5

"The speakers have been very good, and President  
Rick has done an excellent job at the podium as well  
as running the Club."  
-PP Bob Aldridge

5

".10 deduction for the watch incident.  
Otherwise FLAWLESS!"  
-PP Erick Weiss

4.9

# THE PAST PRESIDENTS GIVE A PRELIMINARY SCORECARD FOR PRESIDENT RICK BASED ON Q1

5

"I leave the meetings each Friday feeling better than when I arrive. I look forward to attending every Friday. It's the best way to start my weekend!"

- PP Jose Vera

5

"Leadership has done a great job engaging members! Although I struggle to be at the Friday meetings, there has been no shortage of opportunities to be involved. "

-PP Charisse Lara

1

"President Rick just fined me \$50 for going to the UCLA game. I give him a 1! Jk he is doing a great job."

-PP Ken Chong

10

"Not doing too bad for a rookie. Since he is still a little new and does not yet understand that Ken Chong can pay triple that fine he should get a five. But the fact he fined the "king of finers" and a Bruin I give him a ten coming out of the gate."

- PP Dave Tomblin

6

"I give Rick a 6! He's doing an amazing job with great energy and talent!  
SUPER! "

-PP Alan Bernstein