

# EL RODEO



ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 34 • VOLUME CXI  
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

**2019 - 2020**

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TALK TO US:  
elrodeola5@gmail.com

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Rick Gibson, President  
Matt Ball, President Elect  
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# ASSUME TOO MUCH AND YOU MISS TOO MUCH

A message from the President

LA5 welcomed the world last Friday at our annual Consuls General Day. The event was hosted by President-Elect Matt Ball and his amazing team of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. What a joy it was to make new friends, exchange ideas, and to commit to building a more peaceful and prosperous world.

The large gathering reflected not only the great diversity of the world but of Los Angeles itself. My hope is that Friday's meeting inspired you to assume little about the others you meet and to extend a warm hand of friendship to people who are different than you are.

I find that when I visit with someone and assume too much I miss too much. Most people share a common desire to care for families, friends and neighbors and want to live peacefully with one another. That common ground is a good place from which to start a conversation and to make a friend.

Thank you for being a part of such a special day. May a spirit of grace and peace cover the friendships you made last Friday and carry over to new friends you are yet to meet.

See you at lunch this Friday.



*Rick Gibson*

President,  
Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
2019 - 2020



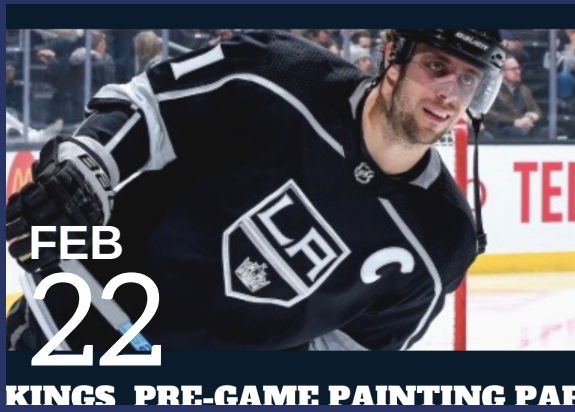


**THIS WEEK:  
ED REYES**  
Executive Director, River LA

Lunch at the Cal Club

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

# Mark the calendar



Feb 22

Paint with a Purpose - Evening at Staples Center / LA Kings

Feb 28

Pageant of the Arts - Lunch at the Cal Club

LA5 Board Meeting - Immediately following lunch

Mar 04

Richard and Helen Close Golf Tournament - Wilshire CC

Mar 06

Jerry Mitchell - Lunch at the Cal Club

Mar 13-15

LA5 Homecoming Weekend

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

# PAST PRESIDENTS GATHER TO WELCOME PRESIDENT ELECT MATT

by PP Erick Weiss



**LA5** has a long-standing annual tradition that the Past Presidents who are able, available and willing, gather together for a dinner planned by the Immediate Past President, on the Thursday before Valentine's Day, to welcome the President Elect into the fold. This past Thursday, February 13, 2020, I was honored to organize our soiree for PE Matt Ball at the Jonathan Club in the Private Wine Room.

We had quite a line-up and were delighted to be joined by Paul and Diane Netzel; Paul having served as President 30 years ago! Our illustrious Executive Director, John Green, joined us and also, on her first night away from her new baby boy, President Charisse was in attendance.

Past Presidents in attendance:

2019 - 2020	Rick Gibson	2018 - 2019	Erick Weiss
2017 - 2018	Charisse Lara, nee Older	2016 - 2017	Todd Johnson
2015 - 2016	Jose Vera	2014 - 2015	Alan Bernstein
2013 - 2014	Ken Chong	2011 - 2012	Jay Richardson
2010 - 2011	Megan O'Rourke	2008 - 2009	David Bland
2007 - 2008	Don Robinson	1999 - 2000	David Tomblin
1994 - 1995	Mike Birkholm	1992 - 1993	Paul Netzel

*continued...*

After a cocktail hour, I invited President Birkholm to lead us in an invocation. His thoughtful presentation reminded us all of our shared values and the power of the Four-Way-Test. I spent a moment reflecting on the five-year plan we put in place beginning with President Jose and how President Rick represents the culmination of that first plan.

Then President Paul Netzel talked about how LA5 has changed over the years and struggled with membership and vision, but also how proud he is of the direction the club has taken over the last ten years. He stressed how well we have adapted to the new Rotary, the new, younger, more diverse and eclectic Rotary, while still exemplifying the best in Rotary as a model - not only to our District, but to Rotary International as well. He told us that he circumnavigated the globe as many as five times while serving as the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Trustees. On those trips he said LA5 was always on the forefront of the international Rotarian's minds.



President Rick followed those remarks by emphasizing the importance of building a bridge from the legacy of LA5 to a future that is responsive to a changing Los Angeles. He outlined specific initiatives like 'Families are Forever'; a Community Grants Day that builds upon a legacy project and pairs it with a new tradition like Fast Five. He highlighted several current initiatives around membership and donor development that demonstrate progress and growth. Finally he welcomed President Elect Matt.

President Elect Matt delivered an eloquent and inspiring message about how his work is just a perfect fit for Rotary and how excited he is to build on that strength hoping to open up new avenues of success in international projects and specifically looking at Afghanistan as one of the few remaining countries in the world still plagued with Polio. PE Matt has big plans and a broad vision that is sure to inspire our membership and to entice new members to join us.

It was a terrific evening of fun and fellowship among a wonderfully diverse group of LA5 leaders. We shared ideas, stories and vision. It's an exciting time to be a part of LA5!

Join a committee, serve on the board, become a part of this great leadership team! We all look forward to see you introduced at this table in the future!



# **CHECKING IN WITH LA5 SCHOLARS**

**LUCIA, 2016 RECIPIENT  
CURRENTLY ATTENDING  
UC SANTA CRUZ**

**How did you use the scholarship money?**

**"Textbooks/course materials, transportation to visit home during breaks, housing/utilities (to minimize loans)"**

**Brag to us about what you did this year...**

**"This past summer (2019) I went to Brazil for an EAP summer program. I was the recipient of the Gilman Scholarship and the EAP Promise Scholarship which helped me fund the costs of the program. I also continue to work at EOP, a program on campus that serves underrepresented (POC, first gen, low-income) like me."**



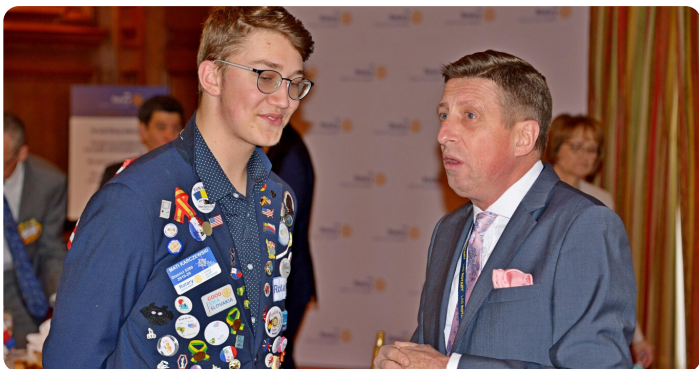


# LAST WEEK IN PHOTOS

CONSULS GENERAL DAY



Tony Medley





LA5 MEMBER SINCE 2004,  
DIRECTOR '06-'09,  
VP & PROGRAM CHAIR '11-'12,  
PRESIDENT-ELECT '12-'13,  
PRESIDENT '13-'14,  
LA5 FOUNDATION TREASURER '14-'17,  
DISTRICT 5280 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
'14-'17,  
LA5 FOUNDATION BOARD '17-'22,  
GATEWAY COMMITTEE CHAIR,  
MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL COMMITTEE,  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE,  
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE,  
AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE,  
WASHED UP PRESIDENT'S PODCAST,  
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

# KEN CHONG

EVP, Investor Capital,  
BRC Commercial Bridge Fund

**How did you become a Rotarian?** Several people, all at around the same time, who I respected, said I should join.

**What is your favorite thing about your career?** Everyday is something different. There is always a problem to solve. I need to be creative and be fast on my feet on a daily basis.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?** Getting Heidi to marry me. It took all my salesmanship skills to land the girl.

**Are you usually early or late?** 15 minutes early = on time. On time = late.

**If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?** Judge, because they have a gavel...

**What's your favorite thing about LA5?** The people. When I miss a few meetings, I miss seeing my friends.

**What gets you fired up?** I hate selfish people.

**What are you addicted to?** Caffeine.

**How do you relax after a hard day of work?**  
What is that?

**What job do you think you'd be really good at?** Chef or restaurateur

**What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?**  
Go to Disneyland.

**What's your claim to fame?** I like to fine people.

**What do you want to be remembered for?**  
As a great dad, husband and friend.

**Name your top three podcasts to recommend:** Washed Up President, Conan Needs a Friend, Arm Chair Expert in that order.

**Who inspires you to be better? Why?**  
My children. Most kids look up to their parents no matter what. But, I would like to be a worthy example of such responsibility.

**What irrational fear do you have?** Zombie apocalypse. I watch way too much TV. I think about what I would do if it comes true and then the trip down the rabbit hole starts...

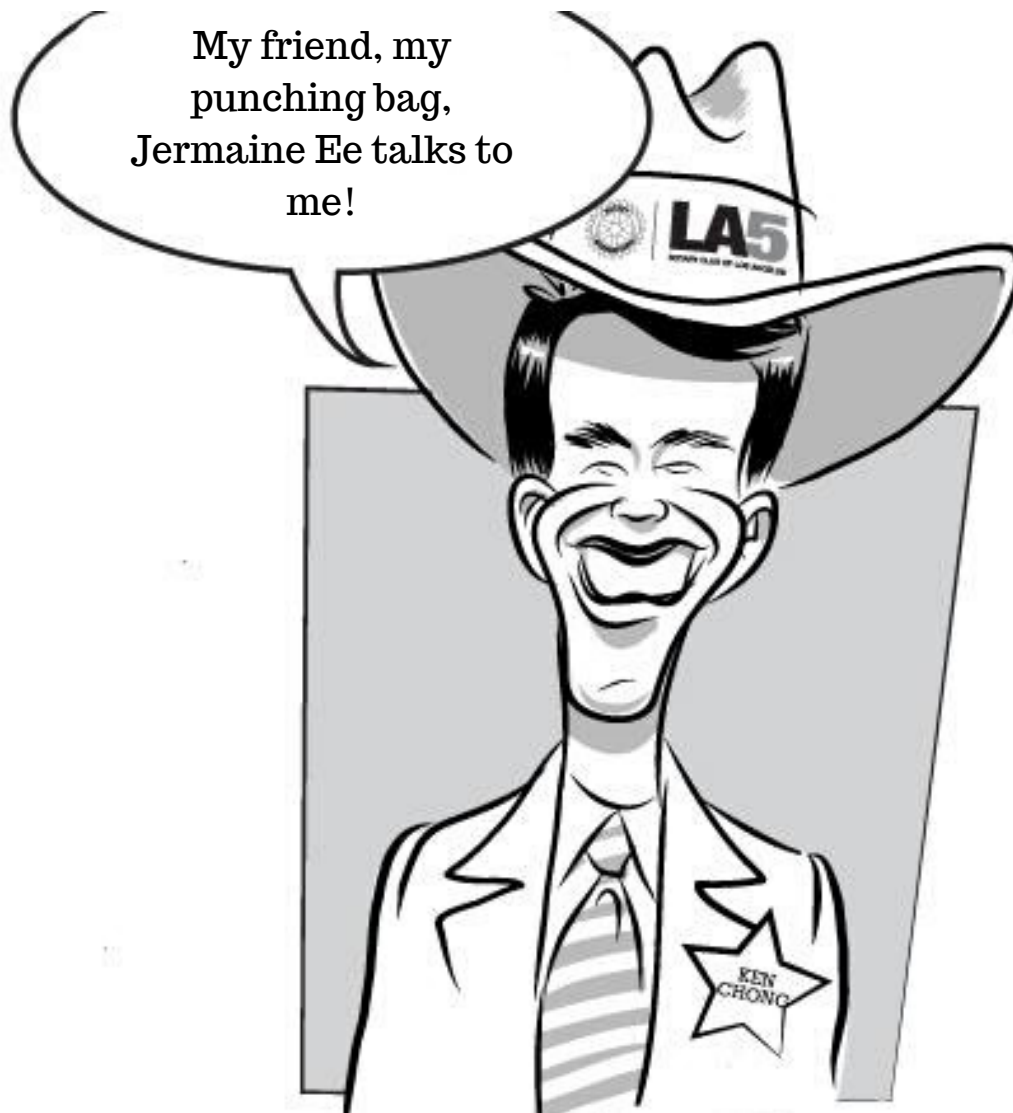
**Anything else?** Please listen to the Washed Up President's Podcast!

*New Episode!*

# THE WASHED UP PRESIDENT'S PODCAST

AVAILABLE ON

SPOTIFY, GOOGLE, APPLE, BREAKER, RADIO PUBLIC, POCKET CASTS



**CLICK HERE TO LISTEN**

CELEBRATING 111 YEARS  
SERVING LOS ANGELES

ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

# HOMECOMING WEEKEND

MARCH  
13-15

[click here for details](#)





**MARCH 28th**  
**SATURDAY**



**\$50  
BUY-IN**

**CARDS  
FLY AT  
3:00 PM**

**ROCKWELL TABLE & STAGE**

**TOURNAMENT-STYLE TEXAS HOLD 'EM**

**\$50 BUY-IN ♠ PRIZES ♠ UNLIMITED RE-BUY UNTIL TBD LEVEL**

**♠ \$3k in starting chips ♠**

**1714 N. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90027**

**Questions? Rob Menz, 323-316-6333, rjmfinancial@gmail.com**

**REGISTER BY:**

- March 10th for an extra \$1,000 in chips
- March 26th for an extra \$500 in chips

**WINNINGS:**

- 1st Prize = \$400
- 2nd Prize = \$250
- 3rd Prize = \$150
- 4th Prize = \$100
- 5th Prize = \$75

**SPONSORS:**

- Rockwell Table & Stage
- Rob Menz, RJM Financial Group
- Christina Moses, 3shades design

**REGISTER AT: [www.rotaryla5.org/calendar/events/la5-poker](http://www.rotaryla5.org/calendar/events/la5-poker)**



# Waging Peace

by: Lauren Schlau

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When I first saw Rotary President Mark Maloney's logo and theme, Rotary Connects the World, I ascribed little meaning to it other than what is said. That is until mid-January when I attended the Rotary World Peace Conference 2020 held in nearby Ontario at the Convention Center.

This two-day conference, last held in 2016, was hosted by seven regional Rotary Districts including our own 5280, with others from Southern California, Northern California and Arizona. It attracted some 800 attendees from these areas and well beyond, literally connecting the world. There were 13 tracks, each with 10 to 14 topics, or a total of about 150 presenters as well as another 25 keynote speakers.

Topics too numerous to list here were discussed in the tracks that covered creating peace in your life, education and literacy, protecting and rehabilitating community, peace in the workplace, international and Rotarian peace efforts, human and civil rights, diplomacy and war, creating personal peace by connecting science, spirituality and religion, media's role reporting/eliminating conflict, sustainability, understanding how to deal with trauma in peace-building and women as peacemakers. Whew!



LA5 attendees also included Manisha Javeri who was a presenter, and President Rick. His impression is that "Rotary's World Peace Conference featured inspiring speakers and data driven-workshops. The quality of the conference demonstrates that Rotary is committed to lowering the barriers to peace."

*continued ...*

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What this conference experience showed me first and foremost is that as bad as I sometimes lament this world is, I now know that millions of people literally everywhere are helping out in all kinds of ways to make it better. I heard them speak, I visited their exhibits, I read their biographies and about their good deeds. It gives me hope to know this. And I feel inspired to continue in my own small way.

In that regard, as you may be aware, our club is reviving our Peace Committee, in conformance with Rotary International. As chair I am seeking another one or two others to serve on the Peace Committee to wage peace at LA5! One upcoming event is a Peace Conversation at our Friday, March 27 breakfast meeting. There we will sit at our tables and together offer our views on – not necessarily solve – a topic of common interest to our club, to be announced soon.

Also February 26 – March 1, Grace Farrell and I are joining about 100 others from District 5280 for the annual Humanitarian trip this year to Oaxaca, Mexico. Our projects will include installing solar panels on homes to provide electricity for the first time, converting a small jail into a bakery and community center and refurbishing a school yard and a senior center – all in 4 days! I will take lots of photos!

All of this to say that peace building is a process that needs much and continuous TLC to overcome the negative forces fighting against it. Yet the positive outcomes are as large as saving the planet! I encourage you to attend the March 27 breakfast conversation and consider the effect you can have as one person doing good things connected to the world!