



Rotary International
District 5220

ROTARY TIMES



Serving California's Central Valley and Mother Lode

District Governor David L. Gallagher

From Dave's Desk

February 2005

A Message From Our District Governor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY

In 1905, on February 23, Paul Harris gathered a few friends together. He hoped that this gathering with Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Gus Loehr would be beneficial to all. He had in mind a group that would gather regularly for fellowship and mutual business promotion. That meeting at Gus Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Union building on Dearborn Street in Chicago was scheduled to rotate from one members place to another, and eventually became known from that as Rotary.



As the organization grew, it matured and evolved. An early project involved installation of public restrooms in Chicago. Other projects followed, and soon, service became the dominant feature of the organization.

Now, 100 years later, we have learned to give generously of our time, our funds, and our expertise. We are recognized by the United Nations as a leading Non Governmental Organization in the area of International Humanitarian Services, and we operate the world's largest scholarship fund. In our hometowns we promote literacy, civic pride, and health initiatives among other things.

Ours is an organization of which we can be proud. We promote ethics not only among ourselves, but also lead others in our professions to emulate our standards. The progress we have made over the past century is phenomenal. What shall we do with the next? Different ones of us would respond to the question with panoply of answers reflecting our individual goals. The beauty of it is that we can each be right in our projections by taking the initiative to lead others to support our visions. A wide variety of visions will come true as a result. More people in more lands will enjoy the benefits of clean water, improved literacy, better living standards, and hopefully, Peace.



Happy Birthday, Rotary. We would consider stopping longer to celebrate, but there is work to be done in the name of humanity. We're sure you'll excuse us while we get on with our second century.

David Gallagher

Centennial District Governor

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