



Rotary International
District 5220

ROTARY TIMES



Serving California's Central Valley and Mother Lode

District Governor David L. Gallagher

CENTENNIAL "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" VOLUNTEER MONTH

April 2005

Rotary Centennial Service Above Self Volunteer Month is here and it challenges us all to think about our participation in our clubs and district. When Paul Harris, Sylvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Gus Loehr started the first Rotary club, the goals were simpler. They wanted to promote their businesses and share fellowship. We still share those needs, but our commitments have become both broader and deeper since the organization evolved and developed as a service club.

We talk about four Avenues of Service – Club, Community, Vocational, and International, and we have that all encompassing Youth service that covers all four. Added to that, we have Arch Klumph's legacy with service to The Rotary Foundation.

Where will your interests take you? Will it be volunteering for projects to improve your community, or perhaps to raise the bar for an underserved international community? Will you bring your specialized education to bear by offering pro bono service to individuals or communities in need?

Club service can offer a seemingly endless outlet for your time, caring and skills. When you show up for a meeting, everything looks just right. Members have been making efforts to prepare an agenda, find a great program, track birthdays and anniversaries. Your club bulletin and club website tell your story because someone volunteered. Greeters meet you and others help you check in, get your badge, and process payments for club obligations. Someone made sure the club banners and trading banners were there to make it look like a Rotary meeting. The part you see is only the tip of the iceberg.

When we say Club Service, we also include service to multi-club, district, multi-district, and zone events. Throughout the year, volunteers work diligently to plan and present top quality meetings, training sessions, and conferences.

So there is the challenge. How will you respond? Enjoying the camaraderie of a weekly meeting is good, and networking is valuable, but you get the most out of Rotary by your service. Pick the way that is fun for you, and jump in.



Dave Gallagher
District Governor 2004-2005

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