

# EL RODEO

JULY 9, 2019

ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 · ISSUE 2 · VOLUME CXI  
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD



## 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  
Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Membership  
Laine Wagensellar, Membership  
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



DON'T  
MISS  
THIS  
FRIDAY

LUNCH AT THE CAL CLUB  
WITH  
LA KINGS PRESIDENT  
LUC ROBITAILLE

.....  
*Our first meeting of the year!*

## MARK THE CALENDAR



**Luc Robitaille**  
Lunch at Cal Club



**Grant Delgatty**  
Lunch at Cal Club



**Nathan Elson**  
Lunch at Cal Club

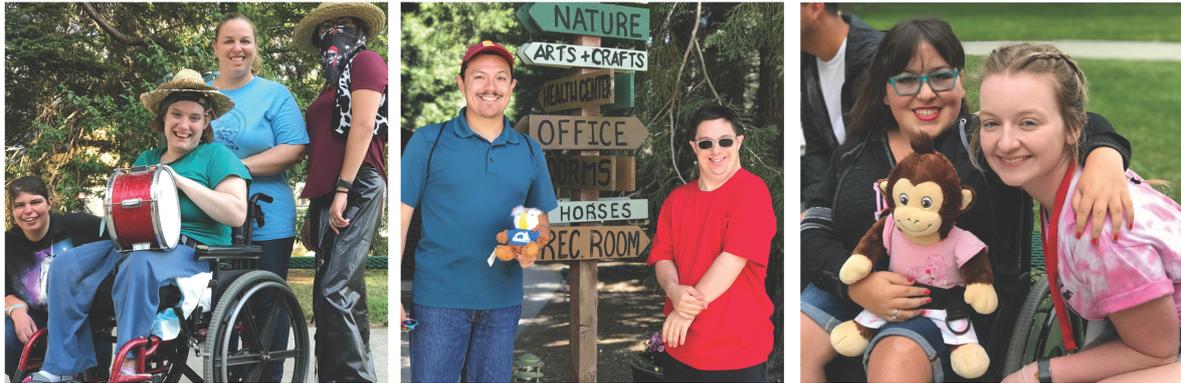


**Camp Paivika  
Carnival**



**Michael Gates**  
Breakfast at Cal Club

<<CLICK TO VIEW THE CLUB CALENDAR>>



## LA5 Rotary Camp Day



**Saturday, July 27th**  
**Camp Activities 9:30AM - 12PM**  
**Lunch 12PM - 1PM**



**LA5 members, along with friends and family, will create lasting memories for 60 adult campers with developmental disabilities by having a Rotarian pair up with a camper throughout the morning to enjoy fun camp activities!**  
**Lunch will be provided.**



Please RSVP to Jessica Hughes  
[jhughes@abilityfirst.org](mailto:jhughes@abilityfirst.org) | 626.316.7988



# PP ALAN BERNSTEIN'S TOP 10 SUMMER JAM COLLECTION



"I Heard it Through the Grapevine"  
- Marvin Gaye

"Uptown Funk"  
- Mark Ronson & Bruno Mars

"Hey Jude"  
- The Beatles

"I Say A Little Prayer"  
- Dionne Warwick

"I Was Born to Love Her"  
- Stevie Wonder

"My Girl"  
- The Temptations

"Respect"  
- Aretha Franklin

"Crystal Blue Persuasion"  
- Tommy James and the Shondells

"Soulful Strut"  
- Young Holt Unlimited

"What'd I Say"  
- Ray Charles

CLICK HERE TO  
CATCH THE DANCE  
PARTY ON SPOTIFY

*you're welcome*



## DISTRICT BREAKFAST



**AUGUST 13, 2019 | 7-9AM**

### **New Location!**

Proud Bird Restaurant  
11022 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Parking is complimentary!

### **Pricing:**

\$40 per person before August 1st  
\$45 per person beginning August 1st

### **Special offer:**

Buy a table of 10 for all three breakfasts before August 1st and lock in a special rate of \$375/table (\$1,125 total for all breakfasts.)

**RSVP & pay online:** [www.rotary5280.org](http://www.rotary5280.org)

**Questions:** [office@rotary5280.org](mailto:office@rotary5280.org) or 310-670-9792



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY, AND HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Let me make a confession. Growing up in middle class America as the son of hard working parents who made great sacrifices to provide for basic needs of their children and to offer them every opportunity, I came to believe that poverty was simply the result of a lack of values or ambition. "A man who doesn't work, doesn't eat," I remember a neighbor saying one night at a backyard bar-b-que. Everyone around the table nodded in affirmation as we filled our plates with seconds.

Thankfully, these sad and regrettable biases are in my past. Though there might be a ring of truth in them regarding some folks I have known, I have come to understand that the vast majority of people living below the poverty line in America are hard working men and women who wish for their children everything I wish for mine. I have truly repented for allowing my self-righteous attitudes to guide my response to the people around me. It's time to take action.

# "IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION."

In an article addressing poverty in America in the July edition of *The Rotarian*, Northwestern University scholar, Alex Kotlowitz, asserts that poverty is more than a lack of money—it has more to do with a lack of safety, opportunity, and hope. The causes of this condition are varied, but the solutions may be related to something profoundly simple—love and empathy. When we address the systemic causes of a problem without a sense of empathy for the people we are serving, we dehumanize the project. Only when we see those who are struggling around us not only as humans, but as neighbors do we find the basis for our service.

As we seek ways to take action in the coming year, it is my hope that we will see the people we serve for what they really are—neighbors seeking a life free from fear while looking for opportunities to improve their future.

*Rick Gibson*



MAKE NOTE:

AUGUST 2 IS A *BREAKFAST* MEETING

**let's change it up sometimes. it might be fun.**

## WEEKLY THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENTS

PP ERICK WEISS ON PASSING THE TORCH...

Whenever I produce a large-scale event that takes months of planning and perhaps days to install, all for a single evening's festivities and the event is epic and exciting and I am rolls around and the decor is coming down I find myself exhausted and happy. And then, slowly, a little sadness creeps in as the dumpsters fill and the empty dishes are wiped into crates.

That's a little how I feel now that I have finished my year as President of LA5.

Fortunately for President Rick I don't think there's a lot of detritus to remove! In fact, I

am super

year we

club. We

huge changes

have

**" ... I AM SUPER  
PROUD OF THE YEAR  
WE HAD AS A CLUB."**

proud of the

had as a

made some

and we

cultivated

the ground upon which we continue to build. President Elect Matt Ball did an awesome

job with our speakers this year. I loved all the after-lunch camaraderie including

beverages at the Standard. I will always cherish our projects together like Camp Paivika

and Angel City. I loved getting more involved with our District. The work our Executive

Committee did to modernize our bookkeeping and financials with Treasurer Darin

Marinov was long overdue and sooooo very satisfying! I am most proud of inspiring John

Green to voluntarily take on the mantle of Executive Director for our club.

President Rick is already demonstrating his impeccable leadership and my only advice to

him will be to continue his incredible consensus building abilities and to have fun pivoting

from one unsolicited suggestion to the next! It's an inspiring intellectual dance and I

know he will do it well.

On July 1 of this year, my first day as immediate Past President, I blissfully returned to

prioritizing my creative business and turned the bulk of my focus to my upcoming events.

Nevertheless, Past President Charisse reminded me that my duties as Chair of the

Membership Approval Committee require immediate attention! And so, now I am very

much looking forward to joining the ranks of our esteemed Past Presidents and helping

ensure our new members are qualified, informed and, most of all, excited to be a part of

our historic and history making club!

# DID YOU MISS IT?

MEETING RECAP: 6/21/19

## (NOW PAST) PRESIDENT ERICK'S DEMOTION

The energy was happy and high as the masses collected for the last meeting of the 2018-2019 Rotary Year, presided over by Erick Weiss. Would there be another flash-mob dance performance, several wondered? While there was no rehearsed dancing, there was music, art, lots of red, lots of love, and lots of joy.



: TONY MEDLEY

<<CLICK FOR MORE PHOTOS>>



All smiles!



Past Presidents showed overall approval in their scoring of Erick's year as President.



"I put some extra red in my hair for this auspicious occasion." - PP Erick Weiss



Newly minted President Rick gets his first crack at the bell. "Glass houses," thinks PP Erick.



Toasts were made. Many toasts. Lengthy toasts.



... and baby announcements! Congrats to PP Charisse and Nick!

# NEWS ALERT!!

**EAGER TO FLEX HIS MUSCLES,  
PRESIDENT RICK LANDS  
AEG AND PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
AS PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SPONSORS  
OF LA5!**

... AND WE'RE JUST ONE WEEK INTO THE YEAR!

PEPPERDINE



"I seriously hope this doesn't mean Willie the Wave is going to be a regular at meetings," thought both PP Ken Chong and PP Alan Bernstein, simultaneously.

*Let's get Social!*



@RotaryLA5



@RotaryLA5



@RotaryLA5

*post, tag the club, use these hashtags.*

#RotaryLA5

#RotaryConnectstheWorld

#PeopleofAction

#RotaryStory