

El Rodeo



ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 52 • VOLUME CXI
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

JUNE 22, 2020

2019 - 2020

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THANK YOU, LA5

A message from the President

What started out as a very promising Rotary year took an unexpected turn in March. When COVID-19 hit I pulled the Rotary President's Playbook off my shelf and looked for the tab marked PANDEMIC and found that it had been omitted. It has been a surprisingly tough year and we are not out of the woods yet.

In spite of social distanced meetings and an email inbox filled with praises and criticisms over the same subject, I would do it all again. The friendships made will last forever. The knowledge that we accomplished some good with the time and resources we had still warms my heart.

But make no mistake about it. While all those things are motivating, I signed up to be president of the famed Rotary Club of Los Angeles for one reason—to receive an original Don Crocker painting at the end of my term. This one appeared on my doorstep last week and it is a beauty.

Thank you, Don. Thank you, LA5.

Yours in Rotary Service,

-----Rick



LA5 LOVES RICK GIBSON

A message TO the President

President Rick,

Each week this Rotary year, without fail, you wrote to the members of this club. You poured your heart and soul into LA5, and your letters were written reminders of just how much you love and care for it and its members.

You wrote us through passing of friends and icons, celebration of new life, toasting of accomplishments, reflection on our purpose, and kept us hopeful and connected during a global pandemic and civil unrest. Your commitment to remaining connected in every way possible is a reflection of your commitment to the Club.

We thought for this one issue we might give you a break. It's our turn to write to you.

This issue of the El Rodeo is wholly dedicated to you, President Rick. It is full of letters from the members of LA5, and laced with happy memories.

We hope this small gesture reminds you of your many achievements with the Club, and gives you some semblance of our appreciation for your leadership, your friendship, your open-heartedness, and simply just you.

Read on.

LA5 ❤️'s Rick Gibson.







On any given evening, our dad can be found creating. Sometimes he is cozied up in the living room armchair by the fire, sketching furiously on his iPad. Other times, he is painting in the cool evening air in the makeshift art studio along the side of the house. When he finishes his work for the day, either with Pepperdine University or the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, he doesn't immediately plop in front of the TV for some well-deserved R&R. Instead, he almost immediately launches into creating something new in his art. His mind is constantly working, constantly creating, and constantly thinking of things unseen, of things he has only envisioned in his mind. His task, as a vice-president for Pepperdine, as president of LA5, and as an artist, is to pull those visions from the depths of his mind and to put them on paper. From cultivating lasting relationships for Pepperdine, to working on the Rotary Committee that interviews potential scholarship recipients, to painting a breathtaking portrait of a bison in Yellowstone, our dad is a creator. Turning something out of nothing is what he does best, and it is a rare talent indeed. What if we all could be creators and not only consumers? What might the world look like? Rick Gibson shows us just all that can be accomplished.

How many others has Rick Gibson inspired with his creative impulse? As a Rotarian and this past year as president of LA5, we have seen him bring this same energy (always at 150%) to this remarkable club. He has handled the COVID-19 pandemic with grace, rapidly transitioning LA5 into a new era of remote activity. He has also considered how he can lead LA5 as a force of good in Los Angeles as it trembles under the weight of unrest. Our only hope is that more people in leadership could be as thoughtful as our dad and as cognizant of the power of creation and forward-thinking over maintenance and managing.

Congratulations, dad and Rick, for one full year as president of LA5. We love you so very much and are beyond proud of your creative mind and compassion.

Love,
Agnes, Emily, Abby, and Max





Dear Rick -

Thank you! You are an extraordinary man: artistic, passionate, humble, honest, caring and family-centric. I treasure all your leadership qualities, particularly your clarity in setting a vision and aspiration. You let me win some and honored me more when I lost some. And finally, when the World turned upside down, you guided us all back to those simple words: service above self. I will forever value the 111th Rotary year and the chance to have known and worked with you.

All my best wishes,
John Spokes





Dear Rick,

I've been a Rotarian for around 30 years, and a member of LA 5 for 13. I've seen lots of Presidents and you have been, without doubt, well, this is how Cole Porter would put it:

You're the top

You're the Colosseum

You're the top

You're the Louvre Museum

You're a melody from a symphony by Strauss

You're a Bendel bonnet, a Shakespeare sonnet

You're Mickey Mouse (well, Cole wrote this in 1934, so that's a compliment)

I'm sorry that the number of meetings has been cut short because I always enjoy the way you run everything. You are going to be a tough act to follow.

I'm attaching the requested picture of you and me (and 90 others in the huge group at the wine-tasting party at my house last summer that you said was your favorite...and one of mine, too!).

Thanks for a great year!

Tony Medley



May 14, 2020

Via E-Mail

Mr. Rick Gibson, President
c/o Malinda Monterrosa
Rotary Club of Los Angeles
555 W. Fifth Street, 35th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Congratulations and Gratitude

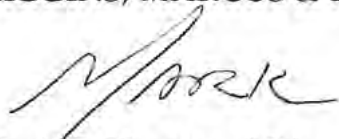
Dear Rick:

Another Rotary year has flown by. Congratulations on a job well done! You brought an extraordinary combination of warmth, humor and professionalism to the role of President. It was evident in every Friday meeting, but I know also benefitted the Club and our community in countless ways behind the scenes. Thank you for being so generous with your time and talent.

I regret that we cannot assemble to give you a proper demotion. I look forward to raising a glass to you when we see each other again.

Sincerely,

HIGGINS, MARCUS & LOVETT, INC.



Mark C. Higgins, ASA
President






MCH/mch




The first-five clubs in Rotary invite you to join

A ZOOM-SIDE CHAT

Featuring

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| MARSHALL SCHMITT Chicago (#1) | CASEY BLAIR San Francisco (#2) | PETER SHERRIS Oakland (#3) | KIM MOORE Seattle (#4) | RICK GIBSON Los Angeles (#5) |

facilitated by special guests



MARK MALONEY
President
Rotary International

THURSDAY MAY 7

11 am PDT / 1 pm CDT

Register at: <https://bit.ly/2RNEOPS>





Dear President Rick,
I really appreciated your leadership during this most challenging of Rotary years. From the outset, you were warm welcoming open to feedback. The meetings ran smoothly. Members were engaged. Even with the derailment of in person meetings on Fridays, you jumped right on it and got the meetings on track. You set up phone trees to reach out to the membership. This year seems like it has gone by so fast! Wishing you a wonderful safe and healthy summer with your family and loved ones.
Best wishes Always,
Sumi Kawaratani MD



Dear Rick

First I am presenting to you as an accomplished artist my painting of your spectacular Pepperdine University campus in the moonlight in appreciation for your incredible crisis management Presidency of our LA5 Rotary Club 2019-2020. We have been extraordinarily fortunate that you have been willing and so able to serve as VP and Program Chair, President Elect and currently our President and that Pepperdine University generously supported Your service!

And your leadership coping with the impact of the serious challenges of the worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic has been masterful. The Club under your leadership has performed amazingly and lived up to the 4 Way Test. So please accept my heartfelt thanks and respect.

Don Crocker, joined Jan.1,1971



**DEAR RICK,
YOU WERE MOST-
FRIENDLY AS
PRESIDENT AND
NOTABLY DIFFERENT
THAN THE PAST
PRESIDENTS I
OBSERVED. YOU
WERE INNOVATIVE
IN YOUR RESPONSE
TO THE NOVEL
CORONA VIRUS AND
PRESENT REALLY
WELL ON ZOOM.
YOU ARE A
FANTASTIC
REPRESENTATIVE OF
PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY.
THANK YOU, DJ \$\$\$**





HI RICK,
THANKS FOR YOUR ASTUTE
LEADERSHIP AND SENSE OF
HUMOR THAT KEPT US ENGAGED
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WISH
YOU ATTAIN DISTRICT
GOVERNORSHIP!

REGARDS,
NISHAT





Dear President Rick,

Thank you for all your energy, guidance and inspiration during your year as LA5 President. You have a special way about you that has made its positive impact. These past few months have been a struggle with an unforeseen worldwide pandemic - yet LA5 has continued with great zoom meetings and successfully launched an awesome PPE project.

OK so I just googled *leadership qualities* and don't see one of these that you're lacking - Honesty and integrity, Confidence, Inspire Others, Commitment and Passion, Good Communicator, Decision Making Capabilities, Accountability, Delegation and Empowerment, Creativity and Innovation, Empathy, Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, Humility, Transparency, Vision and Purpose.

Thank you for your commitment, energy and time. Please thank your wife, your children and your employer for allowing us the HAVE you this year!!!!

Much love and respect, Sally Gallagher





May 28, 2020

Mr. Rick Gibson
President
Rotary LAS
555 W. 5th Street, 35th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear President Rick:

Thank you for your leadership during one of the most challenging years on record for RotaryLAS.

You have brought your marketing might, personal touch, sincerity and integrity to lead this organization.

Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to participate with you on major service projects. However, I intend to visit with you and support major service projects next year.

I look forward to becoming better acquainted, personally and professionally, and even hope that one day I may be fortunate to earn and receive a caricature from your artistic mind and fingers!

Although the current LAS marketing committee possesses quite a brain trust, your marketing experience and wisdom offered in meetings has been welcomed with open arms.

Thank you for making this multi-year commitment of time and energy leading up to the president position and supporting this worthwhile organization.

All the best to you and your family for the rest of 2020 and beyond.

Thank you.

Michael Stevens

What kind of leader does it take to calmly navigate the seas of change during a pandemic? Someone knowledgeable in crisis management, an expert in epidemiology, one who will rule with an iron fist and make us all stay at home?

NO....what the world needs more of are President's like Rick Gibson!

A man of action, yet calm composure. A man with strong sensibilities and a compassionate heart. A man who without hesitation had to learn to lead a club remotely....and yet still managed to call our club members to action in so many way. A man who has exemplified repeatedly the true meaning of service above self.

Thank you Rick Gibson, for your leadership and service.

You are a true gift to LA5 and a constant reminder of why I am proud to be a Rotarian!

Now get demoted lol

Cheers, Mandi



MANDI BUDD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FACE FORWARD, INTERNATIONAL

9735 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 300, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212

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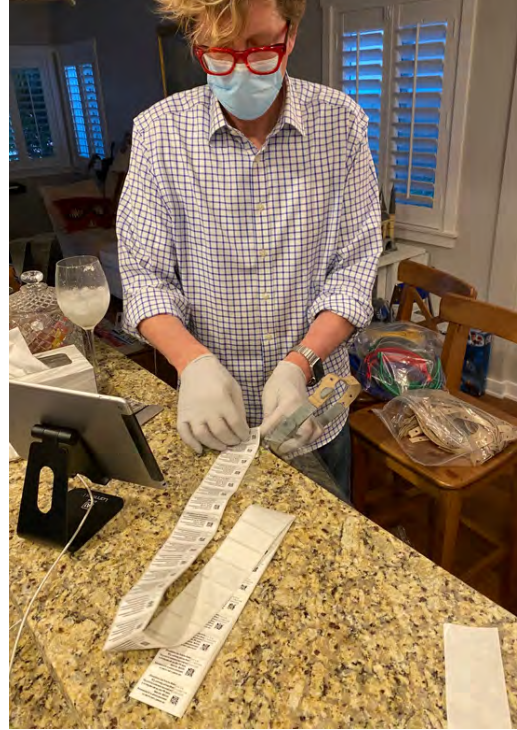
LA5'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT RICK

| | |
|---|-----|
| # of kids adopted on National Adoption Day | 232 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|---|
| # of new Foundation Fellows of the LA5 Foundation | 8 |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|----------|
| total dollars the new Foundation Fellows translates to | \$40,000 |
|--|----------|





**LA5 FACE
SHIELD**

PROJECT

**LA5
Rotary**
Club of Los Angeles





Rick,

When my wife and I met you during the Gateway Dodgers game, I knew deep down that your leadership was going to be stellar. Your steady and kind guiding hand has helped all of us weather this tumultuous time. My only regret is not being able to enjoy more of your comedic deadpan jokes during our Friday lunches. Stay classy bud and see you on the other side!

Adam Reusché



RICK GIBSON, AKA EL JEFE

All LA 5 presidents are special. Rick Gibson was the special one in this august and special group. The Rotary Club of Los Angeles was in good hands with Rick at the helm. Rick was ever upbeat, no matter the circumstances. Everyone felt comfortable with him. Rick invested considerable time and effort to manage and improve our club. This is someone you always want to have on your team. Behind Rick's words was a reservoir of modesty and the underrated quality that marks the best leaders, namely, good will. Thanks for all that you did to serve us Rick. Blessings to you

Christina Hurn

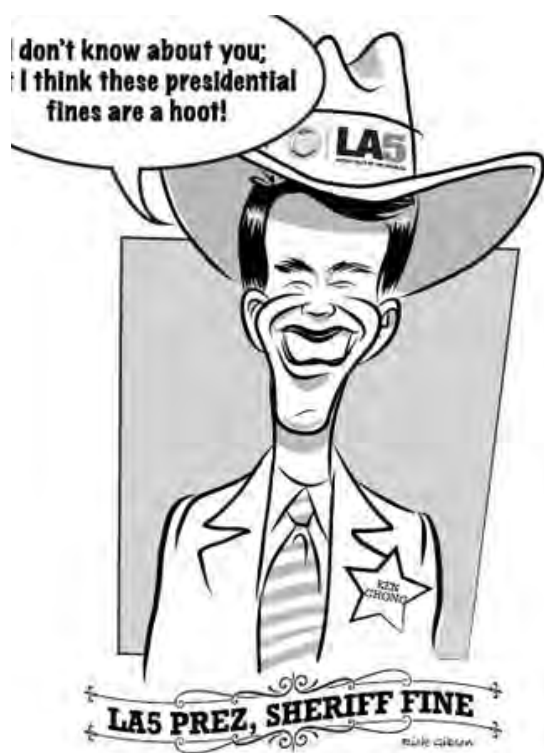


Dear President Rick,

I know how hard it is to be President of LA5. There are fun parts: the powerful gavel, the "Mr. President" greeting, the fines and the applause. There are also parts that aren't so fun: saying no, disappointing people, unwanted advice and balancing the budget. You've handled it all with a steady hand and grace even with the the added bonus of a global pandemic that shut down the world. You've been a great leader for our club. Some words I would use to describe you: creative, reasonable, open to new ideas, caring, steady and quick on your feet. I welcome you to the coveted fraternal order of the Red Badge society. Membership allows you to sit in the back of the room and heckle anyone you want at the podium. You also get to throw grenades from the peanut gallery and upend any plans of an LA5 committee. You survived our multi year hazing process, welcome!

Yours in Rotary Service,
Ken

President 2013-2014





Dear Rick,

Just a few thoughts as we near the end of this most significant year in the life of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles.

SPRING ORIENTATION: You hosted a meeting in the Fireside Room last May for your incoming leadership team. As you began to facilitate the discussion it occurred to me: you had thought long and deeply about the Rotary Year ahead.

EXPECTATIONS: You had High Expectations for all of us and Exceptionally High Expectations for yourself! You sparked commitment and devotion in all of us during a year that absolutely demanded nothing less than OUR BEST!

INNOVATION, ENERGY, HIGH IMPACT: not sure when this slogan was first pronounced but its essence infused your leadership efforts through out the year.

HOMECOMING: The most valuable LA5 event that never happened! You had the painful duty of pulling the plug on this less than 24 hours before the brass band was scheduled to welcome our members and guests. The six months of intense preparation brought our Club together as nothing before it. The full value of this project will only be known in the year's ahead.

THIS ROTARY YEAR IS SO OVER! (Weren't you pleasantly surprised it was not!) During the week or so after an international pandemic was declared, it looked to us all that your year was over. How wrong we were! As happens in times of extreme crisis, our Club rose to the occasion, under your truly inspiring leadership. Through Zoom meetings (200+ people logged on for Ann Romney!) and overwhelming support for the Face Shield Project, your year is coming to a close with even more Innovation, Energy and High Impact than it began!

FAREWELL MY FRIEND! Now as you are about to transition to the spot on Mount Olympus where the august LA5 Past Presidents hang out, please know that you are intensely respected, admired and loved by us all!

John Green

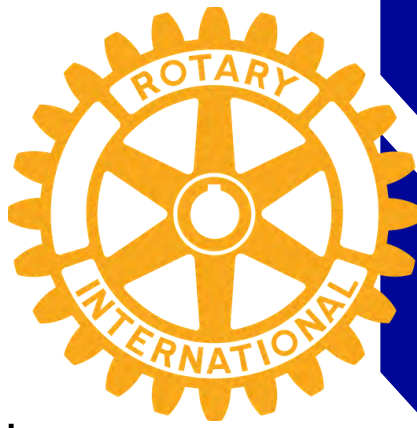






LA5'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT RICK

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| # of incredibly fun and entertaining parties | 1 |
| # of pandemics navigated | 1 |
| # of history-making meetings (First-Five) | 1 |
| # of caricatures drawn | too many to count? |



Dear President Rick,

Words cannot express how much I have enjoyed, respected, admired and loved having you as our President! You lead with knowledge, strength and compassion which makes it easy for us to have continued gratitude and appreciation for our Rotary family!

Thanks for all you do and may God continue to bless you and your family.

My best always,
Maureen



Dear President Rick:

I know what it is like to head a non-profit organization! All the nudgy people asking to consider and do things for them all the time! All the e-mails at midnight and starting again at 6am! All the board and committee and member meetings and events! Trying to plan ahead and to run the organization at the same time. Being a cheerleader and the million other things asked of the president, doing all with style and grace, a smile and a reassuring word or two along the way. But enough about me...oh, Rick this is about you! You are this leader, this one-of-a kind man of wit and wisdom, caring and sensitivity, with the passion and drive to keep our club going strong especially now in these most extraordinary circumstances! And your unhesitating support of our new Peace Initiative truly meant a lot to me!

Rick, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve on your board and please know I learned so many things from you that will always inspire me as a LA5 member.

I will miss you as president but look forward to be seeing as Past President Rick for many years to come!

Take good care,
Lauren Schlau



Dear Rick,

Unbelievable. A year. Already. It seems both a short and long time ago that I joined you for my first LA5 Rotary meeting so I could meet some of the people you'd be working with during your upcoming term as president. It was my first week at Pepperdine and I was seated next to one of the Consuls General in one of the biggest meetings of the year. A few months later, on July 12th, we celebrated your inaugural meeting – another meeting that was packed with your family members, the Pepperdine community, and the great folks at LA5. An auspicious start to an ambitious year!

When I think about the meetings and events I attended as your guest, I realize that most of the meetings were the bigger ones. I was thrilled to be part of those meetings and really enjoyed the opportunity to listen to the speakers and become acquainted with the members of LA5. When I consider the meetings I enjoyed most, the November 15th meeting with the Rose Queen and her court and Fritz Coleman is right up at the top. It was also no hardship to have lunch at the California Club!

The Angel City Celebration is another event right at the top of my list. What a great way to kick off the holidays and celebrate an amazing LA5 service project. The guests had a wonderful time, the venue was beautiful, the food was delish, Carly and the King entertained us all, and the program honoring Marjorie Heller and Melody St. John was delightful. I hope it was the start of another LA5 tradition because it was the perfect way to end the year.

Just as we were putting the finishing touches on the Homecoming Weekend and the L.A. Kings game (I was putting hockey tickets in envelopes), the coronavirus changed the world. It's interesting how people react to adversity and how they let things affect them. In true form, you saw an opportunity, geared up, switched formats, and the following week started having your Rotary meetings on Zoom. It must have been a record turnaround!

Certainly, this isn't how you wanted your year as president to end. There were other events, other meetings, other conferences, and other service projects you were looking forward to. But when I consider the last few months, I don't think LA5 could have had a better person to lead them through these tough times. It took someone special. It took you.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on a successful year. I'm sure you'll be just as busy next year in your role as past president, and I'll be happy to help wherever and whenever I can. Fair warning though...I plan to invite myself to some of your meetings next year when the world gets back to normal and we can drive in the daunting LA traffic again. Your stories always made the drive worthwhile!

All the best,

Karen Ash



Dear President Rick,

Let me start by acknowledging the thoughtful and empathetic spirit with which you and your board of directors have responded to an ever-evolving and challenging situation with the coronavirus pandemic. Clearly demonstrating your resourcefulness and resiliency! I especially want to thank you for the comprehensive information you have continuously provided to keep the board and membership informed while supporting the mission driven work that RotaryLA5 is known for. The many “difficult” financial and operational strategies you have implemented are necessary responses to the pandemic especially in times of uncertainty but you have done it with heart and hope.

Thank you for your leadership...I am grateful for your dedication and commitment to RotaryLA5 and the very important work that you did throughout the year amidst the coronavirus pandemic. I am so proud of being a Rotarian and our ability to continue the mission driven work through the various service projects despite the daily disruption in our personal and professional lives.

Every board and club member “stepped up” to the challenge because you lead the club with positive energy and optimism. Your efforts have reflected true compassion and a genuine understanding that our work in the community is compelling especially for those most vulnerable in our community impacted by social, educational and health disparities, i.e. vulnerable children and families, homeless individuals, and children in the foster care system.

We are mindful that while you were incredibly busy with your work at Pepperdine University, you were always just as concerned about the wellbeing of those around you such club members and our community. For that reason, you have been successful leading RotaryLA5 - you have made it safe and you aimed high as our President, a true visionary.

A heartfelt Thank You for your extraordinary leadership and congratulations on a very successful year as RotaryLA5 President!

Warmest Regards,

Charlene Dimas-Peinado



I've said it several times before, and I'll say it again: right person - right time.

For over a hundred years the Presidency of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles has largely been about the one person. Your year we grappled with things that were beyond any one individual - that were about humanity and the Club riding a tide of change along with the rest of the world (several tides, actually!).

You were both the lucky and burdened one to lead this for us. I'm sure it took its toll on you - and while I am sorry that it did - my gratitude for you outweighs any feeling of sorry for you. (I mean that in the very best way.)

When I look back on the 2019 & 2020 year, I will remember:

- The stream of tears that fell down my face when I witnessed an adoption proceeding and family photos being taken on National Adoption Day. There was one grandpa in particular who just could not hold it together for his family photo with the granddaughters he had just adopted. I was right there with him.
- How you pulled me aside at a dinner to take a moment to mentor me on my future and how I might consider taking my education even further. (At this moment I am 4 courses into my MBA in Innovation and Change Leadership.)
- Watching Paul McCartney take the stage at Dodger Stadium. My favorite moments of that night were when you would get excited about certain songs with your family - and also watching Josh and Marushka cuddle.
- Being the only non-Chinese people in a very Chinese restaurant - relying on the waitress to coach us through our order - and robustly discussing the needs of foster children in Los Angeles.
- A very (if not THE most) entertaining podcast recording over steaks and wine.
- The most warm, sunny, and happy day at Camp Paivika.

Thanks for a wonderful year. A pandemic and civil (club) unrest cannot take away from your influence for good - in our club, in our community, and at a personal level.

-Malinda









President Rick –

As a new Rotary member, I am so thankful to have come onboard with you guiding the Club. It has been an interesting year for many reasons, and your thoughtfulness, dedication, and leadership have been nothing short of inspiring. I appreciate the countless hours you've spent on Club meetings and activities, and how you've kept us on course, heading in the right direction. True, solid leadership is highlighted during difficult times, and we are lucky to have you steering the ship this year.

All my best,
Patrick Chylinski



Dear President Rick,

What a tumultuous year, and what an extraordinary gift your leadership has been. They say, "When the student is ready the teacher will appear", and how fortunate are we to see how far your brand of enthusiastic crisis management has taken us. We both know that one cannot go "back" anywhere, there is only going forward to a new place. Our new place, with constant contact, frequent opportunities to provide service and lively weekly (Zoom) meetings is consistent with the highest standards of our club and Rotary in general. None of us ever know what may be coming our way, and when one becomes president of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, one thing seems certain; It will be Mr. Toad's Wild Ride for 12 straight months. You have made us laugh and cry and we are stronger and prouder Rotarians as a result. God blessed us with you, Rick. May He continue to bless you and your family! You are now about to be crowned with the most cherished achievement of any LA5 president; that of being a Past President. Warmest personal regards,

Most Cordially,

xx Dave David S. Meshulam,

President Rotary Club of Los Angeles #52001-2002

Dear President Rick,

No one could have anticipated your year as President would end like this! It makes me sad that I can't toast you in person, or give you a big hug and to tell you face to face how grateful I am for your service to LA5. You have been an outstanding leader for our club. You have brought our members together and encouraged us to think and act strategically – for the betterment of our community, and the strengthening of our beloved club. Your hard work, commitment, humor, calm demeanor amidst constant challenges, and creative problem solving have impressed and inspired me. Had the past Presidents known two years ago what the future would hold, we could not have chosen a better leader to carry us through these challenging times. Thank you for all you have done for our club, and thank you for your friendship. I hope to see you soon and give you that much deserved hug in person!

Love,

Megan



Rick,

I am just repeating myself from what I have previously told you when I say you have done a fantastic job as Rotary #5's 110th President both before COVID and remarkably during COVID. You have increased my attendance and club involvement since we have started social distancing! I think I have attended all but one of the Zoom meetings! COVID 19 has presented a serious challenge to ours and all other Rotary Clubs and you monumentally have ascended to the occasion. I am sure you have at times felt alone and felt tremendous pressure to not let the club reduce its effectiveness or membership, but you have succeeded beyond measure. It is going to be tough to fill your shoes! You have my respect and friendship.

Yours in the Rotary Bond,
Vic Marovish



550 So. Hope Street
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Los Angeles, 90071
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www.teamCFO.com

May 26, 2020


Dear President Rick:

I cannot believe your term as President of LA 5 is almost coming to the end. As President, you have led with humor, kindness, and strong commitment to the success of LA5. We are all so so fortunate to have you as our President. THANK YOU!

It is indeed trying times that Covid-19 stopped us all at our tracks in March. However, without missing a beat, you picked up the pace and made it better. I enjoyed the coffee meetings, the new business exchange meeting-these activities brought me closer to LA5. As a member that is not extremely involved or active, I have a new appreciation of the LA5 and its members. Without your leadership, LA 5 could have suffered for a time with its members more disconnected.

I am personally more concern with the club's finances, which I know is not healthy and more negatively impacted by Covid19. As my appreciation of your Presidency and in your name, I will donate \$1,000 to the club's operating fund. I hope other members will do something as well.

Until we can all gather in a room and toast, thank you again for your leadership, guidance and direction. Our club benefited tremendously from having you as our President.


Carrie Hidding, CPA MBA
teamCFO Inc.

Thanks President Rick... 2020 an Unusual Year!!

One needs to be a positive influence in other people's lives, whether, family, career or Rotary!

I believe; President Rick, that you lived up to this!

When I was living in Sweden as a young girl there was a saying that stuck with me: "If you give bread to life, it comes back to you with butter!"

I think of your year as President of Rotary LA5 as if you were in sales (like me) you have a constant companion....CHALLENGE!!

You certainly met your challenges HEAD ON and created a success by fine-tuning your ability to motivate. One thinks of all that it takes to create Rotary loyalty. There are many.

Start with COMMUNICATION – Communicating features, benefits, quality and value; listening, asking questions, proactively reaching out.

Follow up: Problem solving: Knowledge provided: Reputation for quality, integrity and the World of Rotary LA5 and beyond.

You showed professionalism and creativity at the same time.

You were always striving for connectivity.

A Year of Rotary Above Self

Respectively submitted,

Denise Anthony







Dear Rick,

There have been some tough years in our 100+ year history, but this has to rank as one of the hardest. Not being able to support and comfort each other in person is a huge hole in our Rotary experience. I can't think of anyone who could have led us more authentically, gracefully and empathetically than you have. I'm profoundly grateful for your leadership, and for helping all of us understand and experience how much we care for and mean to each other. You've held us together and made us stronger together than we ever could have been apart.

Thank you.

Nancy Howard



President Rick,
Thank you for a job superbly done, as it's been a pleasure observing your presidency of our beloved LA5 for the past year! Even when "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", your inspiring, rock steady, compassionate and tip of the spear leadership helped us prevail and continue our purpose of serving our community in the midst of the pandemic. Wishing you all the best, including plenty of well-deserved rest. I salute you!

Yours in Rotary,
Stayce Harris

LA5'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT RICK

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| # of successful breakfast meetings | 5 |
|------------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| total dollars granted to LA5 scholars | \$250,000 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--|-----|
| # of homeless children who received backpacks full of school supplies and Halloween kits | 500 |
|--|-----|

Dear Rick,

The older I get, the more I realize life is about timing.

What we didn't realize going into this Rotary year was LA5 would need a leader who could weather multiple storms (one we could have never seen coming), adapt (enter buzzword pivot here) quickly, decisively, and with grace.

Well, fortunately for LA5, we were blessed with *your leadership this year*.

It was truly an honor to see it unfold from the inside out, seeing a club much more engaged in leadership, the day to day, the foundation, and service projects than I have ever seen with this special club. And, hey, you ended up nailing the online meeting transition too.

Well done fine sir, well done!

Your friend in Rotary Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Ekstrand', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Ekstrand







Dear President Rick,

It's been a true pleasure working with you hand-in-hand this past year to support the projects of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles. You have great empathy for our members, our city, and our world at-large. Your welcoming and warm spirit lifts everyone's spirits with each interaction. Your good sense and leadership have led our club through its most challenging time ever during the COVID pandemic. I admire you and wish you all the accolades you so richly deserve as you pass into the rarefied air found only in the exclusive club of Past Presidents! I look forward to seeing more of your sketches, portraits, and paintings now that you'll have so much free time!

Best always,
Russ Whittenburg



Dear President Rick,

I write to thank you for your stellar leadership of our beloved LA5 Rotary Club. At each meeting, I watched you manage the club and the members with grace and effectiveness. Your comments were thoughtful and your demeanor was instructive and celebratory while maintaining a certain amount of humor that endeared you to us all.

Your meetings were well planned. It was clear that significant forethought went into every gathering. You delivered good news with glee and bad news with minimal dread, all the while being firm, directive, and compelling. The deliberate infusion of the arts was refreshing. When the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our regular schedule, you pivoted with relative ease, and our club continued to flourish amidst the melodious tunes of sweet piano music. In the end, you caused us to love being Rotarians all the more.

Thank you President Rick. Your leadership is deeply appreciated.

Blessings,
Helen Easterling Williams



Prez Rick, what a Year!!

This is just a note to tell you how much I admired you during this craziest of years. I'm so proud of how you kept the Club together and focused on our commitment to our Community.

Right Man at the Right Time—that's for sure.

God Bless you and your family and thanks for your brilliant leadership in these tumultuous times.

PP Alan



President Rick,

YOU'VE HAD AN ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR YEAR. DESPITE COVID-19, OUR CLUB BANDED TOGETHER UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHED ONE OF THE BIGGEST, HIGHEST-PROFILE SERVICE PROJECTS OUR CLUB HAS EVER TAKEN ON, AND ELEVATED OUR CLUB EVEN FURTHER THAN IT ALREADY WAS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK, AND I'M EXCITED TO CONTINUE OUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE TOGETHER.

Adam Weiss







Rick,

I want to congratulate you on an exceptional and challenging year. If you remember over four years ago when we got together as a team and had a four year plan you have more than done your share and I could not be more proud of you. I know your family has had to put up with a lot and I think them wholeheartedly. You are an exceptional leader and it has truly been an inspirational time under your leadership congratulations and enjoy some time off. Always your friend
Todd





5-26-20

Dear Rick,

Your term has been very gratifying for me personally. Getting to know you and knowing you are always available, as well as gaining a friend for the future!

As your leadership officially comes to an end as president, it must be noted how your enthusiasm, leadership and work ethic has carried LA5 through this crazy Pandemic.

Please count on me to be there when you may need someone to bounce ideas around – or just need some assistant with work or personally.

Best always,

Mike Ross

Mike Ross

Calabasas Addition / Remodel



Hollywood Hills Custom Home



West Los Angeles Outdoor Living Space



Your **DREAMS** start here...

Congratulations on your
successful and most
challenging year as a
president. You stood
tall and ended your year
with flying colors. Thanks for
your Service.

Best,
RAZIA Jan

Hi Rick,

**You did a amazing LA5 President
job especially in this
unprecedented difficult time.**

Thank you.

Ted Fukuda

Hello, this is Teruko Weinberg.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

I thank you so much for your hard work as President of LA 5. You made our year so meaningful and special. Thanks to you, I am very proud to be a member of prestigious LA 5. I also would like to give you my sincere gratitude as Chairwoman of LANSCA. I am grateful that you and your wife to spare your precious weekend to attended our 60th anniversary dinner as well as helping us distributing the event flyers. On behalf of LANSCA, thank you and we are forever grateful.

I am very impressed with your passion and leadership. I have learned a lot throughout the events and meetings led by you. I look forward to seeing you in person, hopefully soon.

Teruko Weinberg

LA5'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT RICK

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| # of face shields donated | approx 4,000 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| total bottles of wine consumed | countless |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--|---------------|
| total campers who experienced a day of fun at Camp Paivika | approx 100 |
|--|---------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| # of new Legacy Circle members | 1 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---|-------------|
| ... total dollars this translated to | \$1 million |
|---|-------------|









LA5'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT RICK

total dollars granted in
Community Grants **\$100,000**

which translates to ...

of new programs
supporting foster youth in
Los Angeles **2**

of CASA provided to
foster youth for long term
care **5**

total pieces of furniture
set to be refurbished **approx
100**



Jose Luis Sanchez

Rick Gibson

President of Rotary Club Los Angeles

Dear Rick,

In every special occasion, God selects the correct Leader for those memorable times in history.

The Rotary Club of Los Angeles LA5 will remember you as being a chosen leader for times such as this as the whole world is going through a new reality.

Honestly, I have wished that we could have had the time to get to know each other better, but there will be always tomorrow.

May the only wise God keep you safe and protect you and your family.

Sincerely.

Jose Luis Sanchez
General Agent
Manhattan Life
1055 West 7th Street
33rd.Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
1(213)297-8400 off. 1(323)252-3239 cell.
jsanchez@wealthengine.us

Well what a year !

Rick I remember attending with you not too many years ago the All Star Hockey Game. You were strategizing even then what you thought your year might envision . Little did you /we know what the current times would look like , feel like , and be like !

And you my friend answered the call of duty and purpose in Captaining the LA 5 ship on it's mission in this the most unusual of times. The Art work might I add was off the charts. And as we envisioned thanks for making sure we honored through your sketches those exceptional Rotarians .

Thank you for everything !
Jim Simonds



**“TERRIFIC LEADERSHIP UNDER EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES RICK. IT IS VERY
APPARENT THAT WE HAVE A VERY COMMITTED
MEMBERSHIP THAT HAS PRESERVED THE
CLUB’S HISTORY OF COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT. I’M VERY PROUD TO BE A
MEMBER OF A GROUP THAT HAVE LIKE-MINDED
GOALS.”**

D. BRUCE MURDOCH

June 2020

Dear Past President-to-be Rick,

Welcome to the club. You have truly deserved your red badge!

Congratulations on completing what has arguably been one of the most unusual Rotary years faced by a president of LA5. It was a pleasure and inspiration watching you lead with selflessness, heart, kindness, and thoughtfulness. You certainly were the right leader at the right time. Despite these unprecedented times, you brought this club together in unprecedented ways.

I look forward to the opportunity to gather in person in the future to toast you in a job very well done!

With sincerest appreciation,



Charisse Lara
#109



Dear President Rick --

First, I rejoice with all our members at the optimistic, totally upbeat, kinetic spirit you infused into our entire Club under your energetic leadership during the past eleven months (thus far!)

But that rejoicing is also tinged with sadness that the final 3.5 months of your joyous tenure has had to be somewhat "attenuated" by the unprecedented global scourge of these last months. But still, you have stewarded a momentum for our Club that few of us could possibly have equaled in this trying time. For that, I, and I think all of us, thank you profoundly. You've kept our faith, and our Club, high aloft!

I'm especially thankful to you for your strong support and high enthusiasm for our signature, Myanmar International Project, during your time in office and well before. Quite frankly, your "Can and Will Do" example of ideal leadership drove us of the Myanmar Team to "make no excuses in adversity," and drive through this Season of Obstacles, so as to not let you and our Club down. Inspiration does indeed sire Inspiration! You have hugely led and inspired us all to finish this Rotary year strong.

Thank you so much, Rick Gibson!
J.T. Warring









**Ode to Rick Gibson, President
Rotary LA5 -
July 2019 thru June 2020**

'Twas on that fateful day July
Rick Gibson took to stage,
He rang the bell, applause ensued
He smiled and had no rage.

His feathery hair, his broad bright smile
His notes so carefully made,
He began to speak and all did hark
To hear his wise tirade.

"Rotarians all we gather here
The Four-Way Test to live
Be true, be fair, be good, be nice
But give, give-give, give, give!"

And, so with all his entourage
The ex-com team did lead
The year of change and growth and fun
The year of all good deeds.

But lo the Covid did attack
And luncheons disappeared
And ZOOM became the way in which
Rotarians got weird.

Yet Rick he didn't miss a beat
He kept us all engaged
We had so many lovely meets
and no one was enraged.

Alas the fates were not yet through
Their full pain not deployed
As we all watched in horror as
Police killed young George Floyd.

And to the streets the people took
In protest and in pain.
Peaceful some and some not so
As mothers cried in vain

Still gentle Rick assessed the scene
As gentle leaders will.
He paved the way for all to help
the Four-Way Test fulfill.

Still yet the quarantine did wreak
Its havoc on us well.
Rotarians without a warm
to nastiness they fell.

"Blah blah you supercilious worm
Blah blah you scapegoat too
Blah blah, blah blah, blah blah, blah blah"
The complaint came from - what? who?

Wake up ye LA5ers all!
There's so much more to do.
Our differences are glorious
Our politics are too.

Peace, harmony and grace and love,
Clean water, food and air.
Education, enterprise,
And all that would be fair.

These are the values we espouse.
Rick Gibson lives them true.
We thank him for his service and
His thoughtful, faithful view.

And as his year comes to a close
I must say this with heart
I have learned so much from him
'cause he's so effing smart!

Now goes he to the pasture where
Past Presidents retire.
The one comfort he can have
Is that he can't be fired!

Thank you, Rick. You truly were the leader we needed
this crazy, crazy year.

Erick Weiss
Past President LA5

