

# LIVERMORE ROTARY CLUB



## A HISTORY

Livermore Rotary Club  
P.O. Box 694  
Livermore, California 94551-0694

Significant interest in forming a Rotary Club in Livermore first appears in an Extension Survey filed with Rotary International on 17 March 1939 by Charles Kraft of the Niles Club. The new club would have 15 members, led by Richard Callahan (general law), Douglas Beasley (banking), George Tubbs (distilleries, Mayor), Joe Concannon (wineries), and Dr. Hector (dentistry). Other key men were Dr. C.W. Mack (Livermore Sanitarium), Ray Hern (grocery), Louis Gardella (grocery), F.C. Lassen (feed store), R.P. Burnheart (blacksmith), E.G. White (warehouse), Frank Fiorio (clothing store), C.H. Power (jeweler), Dan Dutro (barber), and Priola & Ryder (Ford dealers). Charles W. Kraft, of Niles, was appointed special representative by Rotary International for the process.

The Hayward Club also assisted in the process. The population of Livermore was estimated to be 3,500. The principal commercial and professional activities at that time were hospitals, gravel pit, wineries, agriculture, fuse works, and beef cattle. Difficulties were encountered in getting the process to proceed for two important reasons. The key person in Livermore was Dr. Mack and he became seriously ill. None of the other leaders seemed inclined to proceed without Dr. Mack. Also, there was an active Lions Club in Livermore and many of the people who were considering joining Rotary "had been active Lions at one time or another and hardly felt they could take leading part in promoting another club." The end result was that the process stopped.

Another Extension Survey report was filed by the President of Niles Rotary on 23 September 1942. The leaders of this effort were William J. Kelly (petroleum products wholesaler), Joe Callahan (Bank-American Trust), Richard Callahan (law), Vernon Stokes (high school principal) and Dr. Cope (Del Valle Sanitarium). Livermore was noted as being very prosperous with two banks (\$2,500,000 in deposits at the Bank of America). This effort also failed, with no record for the reason although it is likely for the same reasons as the first attempt.

After the war, interest in forming a Rotary Club in Livermore was rekindled and on 6 February 1947 a Provisional "Rotary Club of Livermore" was duly recognized. The officers were E.R. Miller (President), D.G. Harper (Vice President) and W.L. Burr (Secretary and Treasurer). Other members of the Board of Directors were W.J. Burns, F.M. Moses and F.B. Roberts. Regular weekly meetings were held at noon on Wednesdays at Mario's Place at 191 North Livermore Street. The Club's admission fee was \$15 and annual membership dues were \$15.

### Charter Members

Mario M. Acciudi - Insurance-General  
Clarence Beebe - Tire Retailing  
William T. Burns - Feed manufacturing  
Wesley L. Burr - Accounting Service  
Carlyle Carr - Appraising Services  
W. E. Clawson, Jr. - Christianity-Presbyterian

Harold K. Kamp - Furniture Retailing  
John A. Kent - Electric Appliances  
Van A. Meyers - Electric Construction  
Everett R. Miller - Real Estate Agency  
F. M. Moses - Dry Goods Retailing  
Jack Pulse - Agriculture Implements

Edwin R. Collier, Jr. - Feed & Grain Retailing  
William R. Dear - Groceries Retailing  
Don G. Harper - Refinery Products

Frank B. Roberts - Insurance-General  
George W. Sampson - Variety Stores  
Harold L. Terry - Resorts  
Bill K. Zinszer - Refactory Manufacturing

On 10 February 1947 Governor Osburn of District 105, in which District Livermore was included, sent the application for Provisional Membership to Rotary International, recommending that the application be approved. Under "Brief History of Organization", the Governor noted that "Several attempts have been made to establish a Rotary Club, but they usually have solicited older members, this time we have made an entire different approach and practically all the members are different than previously solicited." A major change was in having the Past President of the Susanville Club, F.M. Moses, involved in the process. The Governor concluded, "This will be an excellent Rotary Club."

Rotary International concurred with the recommendation of District Governor Osburn and the Rotary Club of Livermore was chartered on 20 February 1947 as Club #6509 of District 105. Sponsors were C. W. Kraft of Niles, California and Carl Ekoos of Hayward, California.

Initially, meetings were held at the Traveler's Hotel on L Street. Other meeting places included Golden Rule Creamery (near Second and K Street), Eagle's Hall (North Livermore Avenue), Carriage House Restaurant, and Livermore Rancher Restaurant. The club has met in many places over the years and is currently (2010) meeting at the Double Tree Club Hotel in Springtown.

Members comprise a cross-section of civic, educational, business and political leaders in Livermore who not only meet weekly to hear speakers on a myriad of timely topics, but work in committees throughout the year to plan work projects, major fundraising efforts for schools, community needs and charities. The club started with 19 charter members and has increased significantly in recent years to 147 in 2006. The club also fostered interest in Rotary in other communities and sponsored clubs in Pleasanton and Dublin as well as a second club in Livermore. It is possible to attend morning, noon or evening meetings in the Tri-Valley.

The first major activity of the club was collecting and shipping six tons of food and providing \$400 in cash for the countrywide Drew Pearson Friendship Train to provide supplies to the war-torn countries of Europe. The supplies were loaded from the boardwalk at "L" Street and Railroad Avenue. After this project the club began to participate in both international and community projects.

## **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

- The club raised \$50,000 over a 10-year period for the lighting of the Robertson Park stadium; an effort involving many people and organizations.
- Members donated \$4,000 in 1966 to support the early stages of the formation of Valley Memorial Hospital.
- In 1962 the club formed the Student Education Loan Fund (SELF) to assist high school students begin their college education as a supplement to existing scholarship awards. This was a very successful project that was eventually turned over to a community-based board.
- Since 1968 the club has conducted the annual Livermore Rodeo Parade and continues to raise money for prizes and expenses.
- Many local parks have benefited from club members constructing playgrounds and providing equipment at parks such as Arroyo Park (now under Del Valle Dam), Veterans Park, May Nissen Park, Hansen Park, a children's park at 8th and H Streets, and others.
- The club sponsors Interact youth service clubs in the local high schools.
- As a part of its literacy program, for several years the club has provided every third grade student in Livermore with an illustrated dictionary.

- The club publicly recognizes outstanding students and educators in the school system and awards vocational scholarships to local students.
- Many activities for seniors are supported by the club, including an annual Dinner Dance honoring local Senior Citizens.
- All Tri-Valley clubs support an annual speech contest for local high school students.
- The club sponsors an annual Back to School Night for parents at Marilyn Avenue School.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

Rotary is an international organization and the club participates in Rotary's international projects mostly through donations to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and providing operational support to the projects by club volunteers. Some of these projects are:

- Polio Plus – Club Members have donated over \$18,000 to the effort to eradicate polio throughout the world. This is a major international effort to which the Foundation has contributed over \$600 million.
- The Rotary Foreign Student Weekend, through which visiting students from the U.C. Berkeley International House or Stanford University are hosted by club members for a weekend stay in Livermore. The students tour local businesses, laboratories and wineries and at a dinner give a brief talk about their country, their field of study and impressions of the US. This program was started in 1960 and continues at the present.
- Provided a fire truck to the club's sister city Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- Supports the Coaniquem Burned Children Foundation and the Chilean Burn Center in Santiago, Chile, whose objective is integral rehabilitation of the burned child in the Americas.
- Participated in providing \$2 million in medical equipment to the Children's Hospital in Beijing, China.
- Participated in providing \$2 million in cardiac monitoring equipment to a hospital in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.
- Participated in providing \$2 million in cardiac monitoring equipment to a hospital in Ankara, Turkey.
- Participated in providing medical equipment to the Mother Teresa Wing at the Mission of Mercy Hospital in Calcutta, India
- Provided five scholarships each year for five years to disabled children in Katmandu, Nepal.

Additional projects were sponsored in Mexico, Hungary, St. Vincent, Guatemala, Honduras and Lithuania with more being planned each year. Overall, since the club was formed in 1947 it has contributed more than \$500,000 to the RI Foundation

## **ROTARIAN FOUNDATION OF LIVERMORE**

In 1987 the Livermore Rotary Club joined with the Livermore Valley Rotary Club to form the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, focused on youth. The goal of the Foundation is to create opportunities for Livermore organizations that enrich lives and build community spirit. With a focus on youth, the Foundation supports projects which have the greatest impact per dollar spent by helping start up exciting new programs and developing strong institutions and community resources. Since its establishment as a tax exempt qualified charitable fund in 1987, the Foundation corpus has reached its target of \$1,000,000, which will allow it to support major projects in Livermore over many years.

During its first decade, more than 60 projects were given \$230,000 raised from more than 1,000 generous businesses, individuals, and committed Rotarians. Currently over \$30,000 is distributed each

year in grant awards. The Foundation is managed on a volunteer basis by an elected Board of Directors who are community and business leaders, and members of the two Livermore Rotary Clubs.

## **FOUNDING OTHER CLUBS**

As the Livermore Rotary Club grew, it became clear that more Rotary clubs were needed, both to cover a larger area of the Tri-Valley and to provide more opportunities for meeting make-ups. As a result, Past Presidents Andy Anderson and Jim Nordahl worked to form the Pleasanton Rotary Club which was subsequently chartered on 17 July 1965. Runn Bargman and Jim Nordahl (again) sponsored the formation of a club in Dublin; the Dublin Rotary Club was chartered on 19 January 1970. It soon became apparent that a second club was needed in Livermore and John Shirley and Ed Rundstrom led the way to the Livermore Valley Rotary Club being chartered on 26 June 1986. Most recently, the club joined with other local clubs to form the Tri-Valley Rotary Club. This club was chartered in May of 2002 to provide an evening meeting opportunity

## **RECOGNITION**

The club recognizes those of its members who provide special service to the club and to Rotary through several awards, including Rotarian of the Quarter and Rotarian of the Year. In addition, on 13 December 1994, the Club established the **John Shirley Exceptional Service Award**. The following members have received this award:

### **John Shirley Exceptional Service Award**

1994-1995 John Shirley  
1995-1996 Mike Thompson  
1996-1997 Ed Rundstrom  
1997-1998 Ed Coats & Dave Lowell  
1998-1999 Jasper Steele  
1999-2000 Marty Plone  
2000-2001 Susan Gallinger  
2001-2002 Paul Thompson  
2002-2003 Doug Bell  
2003-2004 John Gordon  
2004-2005 Bill Geyer  
2005-2006 Leo Croce  
2006-2007 Jasper Steele  
2007-2008 Phillip Dean  
2008-2009 Jacquie Williams-Courtright  
2009-2010 Peter Poulsen

## PAST PRESIDENTS

In 1997 the club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The officers of the club are elected for one-year terms beginning on 1 July and ending on 30 June the following year. Past Presidents of the club as of 1 July 2008:

Everett Miller	1947-1948	Paul McCune	1978-1979
Gordon Hobbs	1948-1949	John (Al) Lewis	1979-1980
Mario Acciaioli	1949-1950	Jim McCarty	1980-1981
Edwin Rundstrom	1950-1951	Randy Schlientz	1981-1982
James Ingraham	1951-1952	Bob Edwards	1982-1983
Fred Wagner Sr.	1952-1953	Waldo Magnuson	1983-1984
W. Westmoreland	1953-1954	Barry Schrader	1984-1985
Russ Bargmann	1954-1955	Bill Neef	1985-1986
James Fisk	1955-1956	Marty Plone	1986-1987
Hal Bruns	1956-1957	Mel Nelson	1987-1988
Fran Whitbeck	1957-1958	Dale Turner	1988-1989
Siegfred Henne	1958-1959	Mike Thompson	1989-1990
William Bennett	1959-1960	Jasper J. Steele	1990-1991
Elbert Kirkman	1960-1961	David Greiner	1991-1992
Earl Duarte	1961-1962	Lee Horner	1992-1993
Edward Rivinius	1962-1963	Paul Thompson	1993-1994
Lee Gillette	1963-1964	Edwin (Ed) Coats, Jr.	1994-1995
James Nordahl	1964-1965	David Lowell	1995-1996
Ralph Hoffman	1965-1966	Ben Hastings	1996-1997
Andy Anderson	1966-1967	Robert (Rob) Anglin	1997-1998
John Shirley	1967-1968	John Linn	1998-1999
Don Nolte	1968-1969	Susan Gallinger	1999-2000
John Sarboraria	1969-1970	Ken McCartney	2000-2001
Frank Morin	1970 (2 mo)	Gerard (Pete) DeBruin	2001-2002
Earl Odell	1970-1971	Hagop Manuelian	2002-2003
Frank Piper	1971-1972	Thomas J. Gilmartin	2003-2004
Ray Gurney	1972-1973	John E. Gordon	2004-2005
Jim Pearson	1973-1974	Michael Morgan	2005-2006
Earl Mason	1974-1975	M. Weldon Moreland	2006-2007
Bob Tiecke	1975-1976	Jacquie Williams-Courtright	2007-2008
Dick Fitch	1976-1977	Bill Geyer	2008-2009
Hal Kamp	1977-1978	Bill Nebo	2009-2010

This history prepared by Phillip N. Dean. Updated September 2010.