



FRED TEICHERT

2014 – 2015

Rotary Club of Sacramento



Fred Teichert served as the 20th District Governor in District 5180. He joined the Rotary club of Sacramento in February 1986. His sponsors were his father, Henry Teichert and Tom Hammer. Fred's initial classification (1986 – 1990) was "Real Estate: Property Management". But when Teichert Foundation was created, his classification changed to "Foundations: Corporate". Fred noted that his father served as club president in 1961 - 62 and he served as club president in 2005 – 06. At the time Fred was club president, there were three living father/son president/past presidents in the club. Gary Huang from Taiwan was the Rotary International President when Fred was District Governor and his International Theme was "Light Up Rotary". Fred chose "BUILD Rotary" for his District theme, not just because of his family's construction business. To help people remember the focus areas of motivation, Fred used "BUILD" as an acronym for Belonging, Usefulness, Influence, Laughter, and Do it (bias for action). Fred's main goals for his year were; 1. Grow membership (District membership grew by 30 in Fred's year); 2. Provide the club presidents personal encouragement and the tools to offer a well-rounded Rotary experience and 3. Concerning the District accounting, pay receivables within a week or two of receiving the reimbursement forms so Rotarians were paid promptly for district expenses.

Fred noted the club projects were always impressive. One of the local club projects he saw was the result of a joint venture between two Rotary clubs; Elk Grove and Laguna Sunrise. Both the presidents were "Math Geeks" and they felt a legitimate extension of Rotary's "Youth Literacy" theme would be math literacy or "Numeracy". They guided their clubs in creating an innovative multi-school program called "Math Attack" which was a cross between engineering and math Olympics. On the International scene, many Rotary clubs in the district mounted significant responses to victims of the Ebola outbreak in Africa and the major earthquake in Nepal.

Fred's most memorable experience of his year was also having his wife, Nancy, become a Rotarian. Nancy surprised Fred with the announcement on the last day of his District Conference. Fred had his District Conference at the Sonoma Wine Country Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park, California on April 24 – 26, 2015. His Conference theme, "Celebrate Our Heroes" was to honor the returning veterans from the Middle East war. Saturday evening was chaired by RCoS PP Thom Gilbert, a Vietnam helicopter pilot, honored and acknowledged dozens of our district veterans, many of whom came in uniform for the event. One of District

5180's favorite radio talk show hosts, Kitty O'Neal, captured everybody's interest with her stories of growing up in a Rotary veteran family. Retired veteran Air Force SR-71 pilot, Brian Shul, presented unforgettable stories and photographs, building on the theme of leadership as well as service to country. PDG Bob and Chris Deering were the attentive and generous hosts for the RI President's Representative, PDG Sam Fontanilla from the Philippines. According to Fred, PDG Sam was so impressed with all aspects of the conference that he waved the need to do a post-conference critique; he was submitting a glowing report back to RI. The outstanding club of the year was the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks. Two additional awards were presented; "Rookie of the Year" went to Heather Gregory from the Historic Folsom Rotary club and "Rotarian of the Year" went to the Passport Club president Mike Reiner.

Fred stated he became a "True Rotarian" when he saw the enthusiasm with which the Rotary Club of Sacramento adopted the idea of bringing a Boys & Girls Club to Sacramento to support the community's children, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances. The club dedicated the lion's share of its annual benefit, Bids for Kids, towards the hiring of its first executive director.

Fred and Nancy are multiple Paul Harris fellows, major donors and Paul Harris Society members.

Fred responded "Book to follow..." when asked if he would change some things. Fred believes the DG should have more actual experience in district leadership in order to help the person blend individual style with district and RI requirements. GETS and GNATS are helpful but not really a substitute for having done activities such as chairing an Assembly or organizing a Midyear Retreat. The district roster is a balancing act between completeness and timeliness. Earlier rosters had incomplete or incorrect entries but they were done within a month or two of the start of the term so people could fill in the blanks during the year. Fred's roster was complete and accurate but printed almost too late in the year to be helpful, other than as a reference.

When asked if he had any advice to a future District Governor, Fred made this recommendation. "You are the servant of the clubs, which are the servants of the members. You are not the boss of everything, though your role is vital, including its authority. Listen more than talk! Do not just surround yourself with the usual district helpers; reach out to find leaders in clubs who are not necessarily high profile and encourage them just as much as the traditional leaders. Balance proven leadership with bringing in innovative leadership. Note: this takes a lot longer than I thought, and you need to plan enough time to regroup from the inevitable "not this year" replies from otherwise ideal district staff candidates. But be sure the new leaders receive the needed preparation and training. Your job is ultimately to help the clubs be successful, not to boss them around."