

# northeast salinas

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**R**otary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The object of Rotary boils down to this: service – to others, to our community, to the world – is our goal. We achieve this through our network of business contacts and friends. We strive to see ethics emphasized in the workplace. We continue to work for goodwill and understanding among nations, so that peace may be realized.

Every year, Rotary International establishes a worldwide theme. This the year the theme is "Lead the Way", as Rotarians around the world help lead their communities with countless good works in their home communities and around the globe. We are in more nations than currently have seats at the United Nations. Because of our humanitarian efforts, our worldwide Rotary network, and our status as a non-governmental organization (NGO), we have access to people in need in countries where governmentally-based agencies do not. When the terrible tsunami struck South Asia, we did not need to have meetings with cabinet ministers, nor send in assessment teams to judge the damage and report back weeks later. We picked up the phones, called our Rotary counterparts in South Asia, and learned firsthand what we needed to do. Rotary aid was on its way within hours. The same scenario occurred following Hurricane Katrina – Rotarians got involved immediately. This is how we "Lead the Way" in community service.

This Rotary year marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of Rotary's Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution. Graduates of these programs, known as Rotary Peace Fellows, conduct in-depth studies on issues of global and local conflict, which they then utilize in their chosen fields upon graduation – many of them in their home countries. The Centers are located at universities located in Japan, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, France, and Argentina. 70 scholars annually attend and graduate. Alumni have gone on to become leaders in their home countries and in the world. Many former scholars serve important posts with their governments; others are highly respected in their fields. Examples of outstanding Rotary alumni include Bill Moyers, a prominent U.S. journalist; Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board; Carlos Alberto Da Mota Pinto, former prime minister of Portugal; Otto Borch, Danish ambassador to the U.S.; and Roger Ebert, a popular U.S. film critic.

We are fortunate to have four Rotary Clubs in Salinas. Salinas Northeast Rotary is the second-oldest Rotary club in Salinas, having

been chartered in 1966. In our 40+ years of existence, we have continually evolved and continually succeeded in our desire to do good things in the community and in the world. We are a club of 32 hard-working Rotarians, dedicated to the creed that "Service Above Self" is what defines the club.

Locally, there is much we have done and continue to do. We have recognized the Top 100 Scholars at North Salinas High School for many years, with a festive dinner celebration, awards, and scholarships. We sponsor a Student of the Month, and we participate in Mock Interviews with the seniors. We send several students each year to Rotary Youth Leadership camp (known as Camp Royal). We completed a two-year project to replace aging and ailing band instruments at North Salinas High School, and provided funds for the new athletic field as well. Two years ago we began a high-school level of Rotary, known as Interact, and the members have been engaged and productive. During the last school year, the Interact Club raised funds to participate in a water project in Ethiopia, and raised funds to purchase mosquito netting for an orphanage in Zambia. Salinas Northeast Rotary matched the funds raised by the Interact Club for these two projects. Additionally, they "adopted" a family in need over the Christmas holidays. This year, they plan to continue fundraising for international projects, will assist during the Oldtown Christmas Parade, and will participate in our Hope Services Winter Ball. For the third year, our club hosts a gala social event for the clients of Hope Services, who are developmentally disabled adults. The Rotary Club, and the Interact Club, work together to plan and stage the event. Over our club's lifetime, we have donated nearly a quarter million dollars to North Salinas High School!

Our club continues to be involved at the international level as well. Over the past few years, we obtained a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to install a computer lab in a K-12 regional school in Santa Marta, Colombia, South America; we obtained a matching grant for the installation of a deep-bore water well in Zambia, Africa; and we have sent wheelchairs to victims of polio and landmines in Africa. We will continue during this Rotary year with our emphasis on clean water for the world's disadvantaged. Like all Rotary clubs, we have been committed to wiping polio off the face of the earth. We are in our final drive for the finish line, and countless millions of lives have been saved because of Rotary's determination to eradicate polio.

Our major fundraiser which helps us to underwrite the funding of our projects, is our annual "Spring Fling", which will be held next spring. It is a Black Tie at McDonald's – yes, that's right, McDonald's. We have fabulous served hor d'oeuvres, champagne, wine, dinner, and silent and live auctions which feature wonderful items. Community support is vital to help us continue to do good things at home and abroad.

Above and beyond all that, we manage to have a great deal of fun at our weekly meetings, our seasonal socials, and our projects. We would personally invite any person interested in community service, fun, business networking and fellowship to check out Rotary! ■



## Proud Sponsor

### Rotary Clubs

We salute the Rotary Clubs and their invaluable service to our community. Our community is our commitment.




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