

Honor Roll of Rotary Service Above Self

Emeritus Honorary Rotary Membership

Established January 2025

The Rotary Club of Grass Valley, Honor Roll of Rotary Service Above Self, has been established to recognize retiring senior club members with more than 25 years of Active Rotary Membership with exceptional records of Rotary Service Above Self. Each member has been awarded Honorary Rotary Membership with Emeritus Member designation.

The special designation of Emeritus Honorary Rotary Membership has been established by the club in recognition of a deserving retiring senior Rotarian's long record of exceptional Rotary Service. Honor roll members have been nominated through the club history committee and have been approved by the club board of directors.

Emeritus Honorary Membership Designation can be awarded to currently retired Honorary Members or deceased members as nominated by the club history committee and approved by the board of directors.

Additional awards will be made as appropriate going forward.

Directory:

Name	Active Rotary Service
<u>Al Alstrand</u>	1974-2021
<u>Jon Byerrum</u>	1989-2022
<u>Chuck Elizondo</u>	1974-2019
<u>George Grayeb</u>	1993-2020
<u>Tom Lathrop</u>	1961-2018
<u>John Peplowski</u>	1982 -2022
<u>Ed Sylvester</u>	1980-2023

Honor Roll Members

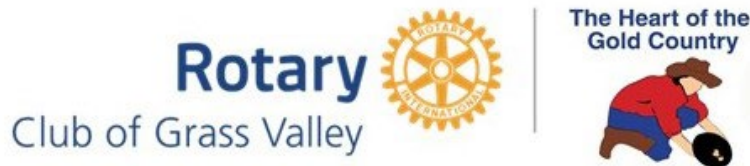
John Peplowski

John Peplowski

Active Rotary Service: 1982–2022

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
September 20, 2022

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

John M. Peplowski

John joined the West Valley San Jose Rotary Club in 1982 and served with distinction until 1987, as a board director in 1985/86, host of a GSE Team, and as an active volunteer in many other club projects and activities.

In 1987 John transferred to the San Jose South Rotary Club. He served as a board director in 1987/89 and in 1989/90, also serving as club president in 1989/90. He additionally was the club casino night fundraiser chair every year in the club. John also hosted GSE teams each year as well as being active in almost every other club project, event, and activity.

After John and Carole moved to Grass Valley and transferred to the Rotary Club of Grass Valley in 1990, John brought the Casino Night Fundraiser to the club under the leadership of club president Ed Sylvester. He chaired Casino Night from 1990-1997, served two terms as a board director, hosted GSE Teams, and was directly involved in Youth Services, especially RYLA, transporting attendees to and from RYLA camp for many years.

From 2008 to 2022 John served as a board director on five different boards, continued his leadership of Casino Night for several more years and continued his direct involvement and support of the club's participation in RYLA. He was also a regular mentor to new club members in their new member orientation program and was a heavily involved volunteer at every Gold Country Challenge Bicycle ride club fundraiser.

John has also been a strong supporter of the Rotary Foundation. He has sponsored Paul Harris Fellow awards to his wife Carole, his two daughters Julie and Jennifer, his grandson Jack, and himself twice for a total of six Paul Harris Fellow Awards.

John retired from Active Rotary Membership in September 2022 and was awarded Honorary Membership in the Rotary Club of Grass Valley. He continues to be a strong supporter of Rotary and will continue to participate in Rotary and club activities as he can going forward.

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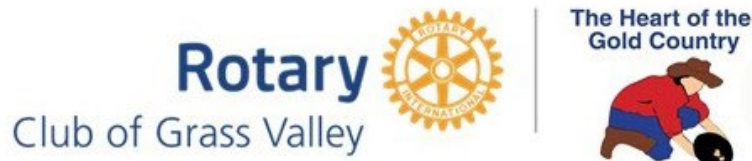
Jon Byerrum

Jon Byerrum

Active Rotary Service: 1989-2022

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
January 17, 2023

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

Jon Byerrum

Jon Joined the club in the fall of 1989 at the same meeting Judy Hess was inducted, our club's first female member (not an accomplishment, but an honor).

He rotated through the club's officer positions culminating in the club Presidency in 1998-99.

His notable accomplishments included:

- Wrote the scripts for and emceed our club's demotion ceremony for many years starting in 2000 and culminating with club member Anita Daniels' District Governorship demotion.
- Club Foundation Chair for many years. Organized and emceed our club's foundation drives during this period.
- Area chair of annual Foundation dinner (1 year). Served on the area foundation dinner committee

multiple years.

- Multiple PHF's
- Participant on panels on Foundation drives at District Assembly (2 times)
- Club speech contest chair and emcee for multiple years.
- District speech chair and district conference speech contest emcee for several years.
- Served on club's casino night organizing committee almost every year of the event.
- Emceed multiple Casino Nights
- Emceed our Club's Music contest multiple years.
- Emceed Area music contest multiple years starting with the first year of the event.
- Worked with Bob Long on the Gold Country Century bike ride since the event's inception.
- Led the club's Environmental Sustainability efforts including the Lithium-Ion battery collection and stretchable plastic collection programs.
- Greatest contribution to Rotary: As the Club president in 1999, Jon was asked by Monty East to select the next incoming vice president candidate for the upcoming club election. After 10 seconds of very careful and thoughtful deliberation, he selected Wyn Spiller. He thought she was extremely capable and would make an excellent president, plus he believed it was high time for our club to have a woman president. In retrospect, he made a good choice.

Rotary and membership in our club has been a wonderful journey for Jon and a very important part of his life for over 33 years. Even after moving to Colorado, he feels he is somehow still connected to our Rotary and our club, with many fond memories.

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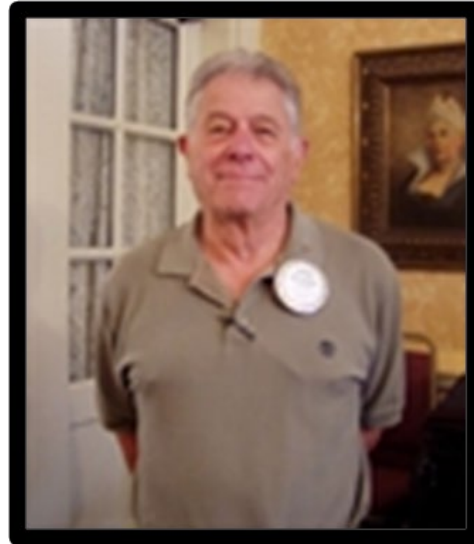
George Grayeb

George Grayeb

Active Rotary Service: 1993-2020

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
September 20, 2022

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

George Grayeb

George was a long time Rotarian and an Active member of our club for over 27 years. His Rotary Service exemplified the best of Rotary "Service Above Self" and was awarded an Honorary Membership upon his retirement in July 2020.

George joined our club in 1993 after his previous membership in the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, CA. He was our club President in 2001-2002, lead a Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team to the Philippines, travelled to Russia as part of the RI effort to establish a Rotary presence in Siberia and was responsible for coordinating a visit to our area from a Russian Rotary Club GSE team. These are just a few of his Rotary contributions.

A few examples of club accomplishments while club president in 2001-2002 include:

- Net gain in membership of 15 new members
- Expanded club's public relation outreach with substantial free coverage in the Union newspaper including a 16-page insert that extolled the many achievements of Rotary Additionally and free monthly radio broadcasts on KNCO's "On the Town" program, and enhanced cooperation with other Area clubs on public relations outreach. were aired.
- Maintained club meeting attendance at greater than 85% per meeting.

- Had the Highest per-capita member Foundation donations in the district.
- Supported club projects including Adult Literacy, Read-to Kids, Boy Scout Troop #856 Support, Adopt-A-School, Dictionary Project, Adventure Playground, 4-Way Test, RYLA, Speech Contest, Scholarships, Russian Interns/Mexico Clinic Projects, GSE and RYE exchanges.
- Established the Team Concept to involve club members in club meeting support activities.
- Conducted successful social and fundraising activities despite some cancellations while dealing with the impacts of the 9/11 disaster and subsequent community reactions.
- Expanded and encouraged greater member involvement in club volunteer activities.
- Recognized by the district convention with the Club Service, Attendance and the Per Capita Foundation awards, and the single best Club of Excellence award for large Clubs.

In recognition of George's leadership and outstanding achievements, the award of Emeritus Honorary Membership is the appropriate recognition for George's many years of Rotary service and our thanks for all he has done for Rotary and as a member of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley.

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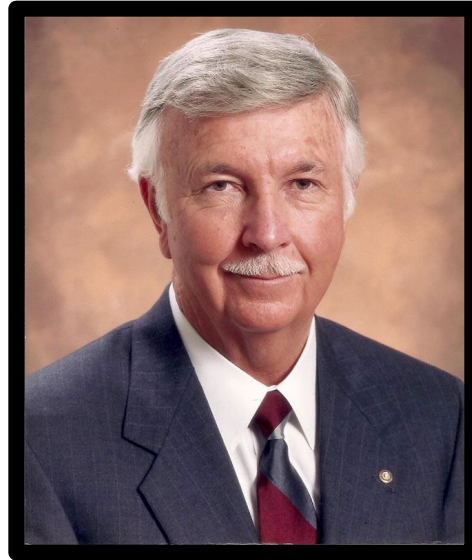
Ed Sylvester

Ed Sylvester

Active Rotary Service: 1980-2023

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
July 24, 2023

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

Ed Sylvester

Ed completed 43 years of outstanding Active Rotary service in the Rotary Club of Grass Valley in July 2023. After joining Rotary and the club in January 1980, he quickly got involved in club activities and rose through the club leadership ranks, becoming club president in 1991-1992.

One of Ed's first actions as club president was to improve the financial condition of the club. Without a major fundraiser and community service project for a long period, club finances had declined to an alarming state. It was imperative the club find a way to not only stabilize finances, but also to broaden its community service programs and involvement. At the end of the year the club was in sound financial condition and established a major fund raiser through the Casino Night event that has endured as the major club fundraiser for 32 consecutive years.

Ed's leadership was also instrumental in the club's design and construction of the Grass Valley Condon Park Disk Golf Course. After over 3,000 Rotary hours and substantial club financial support it was dedicated to the city and in 1999 the Disc Golf Course was named the best disc golf course in California by a disc golf association.

Other community service accomplishments during 1991-1992 included supporting The Foundation of Resources for Equality and Employment for the Disabled (FREED) including financial support for the FREED Pool and raising funds at the FREED county fair booth, support

of the Hospice Jail Fundraiser, extension of a sidewalk at the fairgrounds, and purchase of FFA animals at the fair.

The club's support of youth activities during Ed's year was also extensive. Activities supported included sponsorship of students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference (now RYLA), two \$1,000 scholarships to high school students, support of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, landscaping at Silver Springs High School and sponsorship of a student to an Environmental Summit conference.

The successful professional and personal accomplishments of Ed also represented the highest standards of Rotary Service Above Self. A few of his accomplishments include: A long professional career as a civil engineer, founder and president of Sylvester Engineering and SCO Planning and Engineering, and Chair of the Boards Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital and Nevada County Broadcasters. Other chairmanships included Nevada County Transportation Commission, Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada County Business Association. He is also currently the lead director of Westamerica Bank he helped form in 1974.

While serving as chair of the California Transportation Commission, he was instrumental in securing funds for the construction of the Dorsey Drive Interchange on Highway 49/20 in Grass Valley.

Ed is also still directly involved with the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation serving on the board and leading fundraising efforts to improve hospital facilities and operations.

Other personal achievements included extensive travel with his wife Bernadette, visiting 108 countries, outstanding photography on their travels, and his running of twenty-three 26.2-Mile Marathons including one each of the seven continents, the 14th person to do so.

The long and outstanding record of achievement in Rotary, community service, and professional and personal accomplishments represent the best of Rotary Service Above Self and are truly deserving of inclusion in the club Honor Roll of Rotary Service Above Self.

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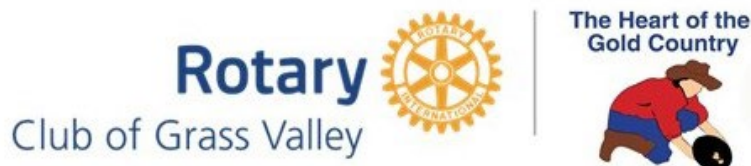
Al Alstrand

Al Alstrand

Active Rotary Service: 1974-2021

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
September 20, 2022

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

Al Alstrand

(August 21, 1932 – May 5, 2021)

Al was a long time Rotarian and an Active member of our club for over 39 years. His Rotary Service exemplified the best of Rotary "Service Above Self" and was awarded an Honorary Membership upon his retirement in 2013.

In recognition of his significant contributions both to Rotary and the Rotary Club of Grass Valley and the establishment of the Emeritus Honorary Membership Designation, he is now nominated by the club membership committee to have Emeritus designation added to his Honorary Membership.

Al was club president in 1988-1989, formed the Past President's Advisory Council, and spearheaded the club's efforts in the recovery from the major 49er fire in 1989. Al was also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Al was also a co-founder of the Early Risers Toastmasters Meeting in Grass Valley in 1982, the club remains active.

Al was the owner of Alstrand Financial Services and served the Bay Area and Grass Valley areas. Al authored and presented a daily financial radio spot called "Money Talk" on KNCO radio in Grass Valley, CA. His spot featured detailed investment trends, market updates and a daily "financial, topics of interest". Al also taught financial education classes at Sierra College.

Some of his accomplishments while serving as club president in 1988-1989 include:

- He led club efforts to help re-establish the burned areas of the devastating 49er Fire in the county by the seeding of grass lands with quality seeds and forest areas with Ponderosa pine seedlings.

The major project was called "GREEN AGAIN" sponsored by the club. Funds were received from U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the California Division of Forestry. Rotary provided \$12,750 of the total \$55,000 project.

Several weekends were used in distributing 60,000 Ponderosa Pine seedlings for replanting of burned over land. The seedlings were supplied by the Louisiana Pacific Lumber Co. Members of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley handled the distribution of the Seedlings to qualified recipients.

- The club Bar-B-Que at the Fairgrounds raised funds for the club to cover contributions to the Boy Scouts, Women's Relief Society, Interact and Junior Achievement.
- Scholarships of \$1,000 were presented to two students from Nevada Union High School and Bear High
- School and \$225 to send a contestant to the Handicapped Olympics held in Los Angeles.
- The balance of a deceased Sustaining Paul Harris Fellowship was paid by the club and the Paul Harris fellowship in his name was presented to his widow and son.
- Coordinated the computerization of member profiles into a new club membership roster.

In recognition of Al's leadership and outstanding achievements, the award of Emeritus Honorary Membership designation is the appropriate recognition for his many years of Rotary service and our thanks for all he has done for Rotary and as a member of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley.

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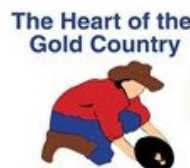
Charles “Chuck” Elizondo

Charles “Chuck” Elizondo

Active Rotary Service: 1974-2019

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
September 20, 2022

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

Charles “Chuck” Elizondo

(January 12th, 1937 - September 23rd, 2019)

Charles "Chuck" Elizondo joined the Rotary Club of Grass Valley in 1974. He served the club as Sergeant at Arms, Bulletin Editor and Board Director. He served as Club President in 1979-1980.

Subsequently, he served at the Rotary District 5190 level in many capacities including:

- District Training Committee
- Governor's Special Representative for formation of the Rotary Club of Penn Valley
- Governor's Area Representative
- PETS Sergeant at Arms
- International Service Chair
- District Governor 2000-2001
- PETS. 2002 General Chair

- Chaired the Rotary Open World Committee involving eight districts in bringing civic leaders to the United States
- Chuck was the 2003-2006 District Rotary Foundation Committee Chairman
- He was the District Advisory Council Chairman for 2008-2010
- District Resource Leadership Chair for the 2013 Zones 25/26 Institute.

Until his passing in 2019, Chuck had 43 years of perfect attendance. He was also a recipient of the Rotary International "Service Above Self Award" which is the highest honor given to a Rotarian. Chuck and his wife Carol were also Major Donors and members of the Rotary International Bequest Society.

Besides work and life as a family man, Chuck was an integral part of society. His long record of perfect attendance with Rotary reflects his dedication and commitment to Rotary Service. In addition to serving as Club President followed by District Governor, through Rotary, he joined Dr. Scott Kellerman's humanitarian mission in Africa, travelling there several times and went to Russia to provide vaccinations for measles, mumps, and rubella. Chuck's service commitment also extended to his faith whereas a youth he served as an altar boy, and as an adult he administered the Eucharist. He also helped to manage church finances.

Chuck's long and distinguished record of Rotary "Service Above Self" and dedication to helping make the world a better place are truly deserving of club designation as an Emeritus Honorary Member and inclusion in the club Honor Role of Rotary Service.

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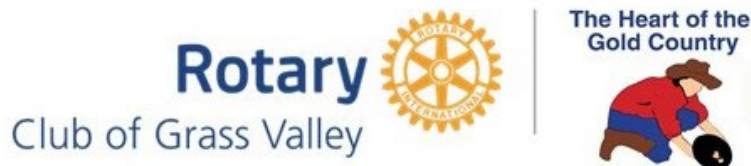
Tom Lathrop

Tom Lathrop

Active Rotary Service: 1961-2018

Emeritus Honorary Membership:
June 17, 2024

[Rotary Biography](#)



Rotary Biography

Tom Lathrop

(September 30, 1923 – May 13, 2020)

Tom was a long time Rotarian and an Active member of our club for 39 years. His Rotary Service exemplified the best of Rotary "Service Above Self" and was awarded an Honorary Membership upon his retirement in 2018.

Tom joined our club in 1981 after his previous membership in the Rotary Clubs of Mill Valley and Santa Monica, CA. He was our club secretary for many years and was responsible for the establishment of many club policies and procedures that kept the club aligned and consistent with Rotary rules and regulations.

He was also the senior advisor to many club presidents and oversaw the club's Foundation contributions and presentation of Paul Harris Fellow Awards and other Foundation recognition awards. He additionally oversaw the processing of new member nominations, board membership approval actions, and entry into the Rotary International membership database. He likewise handled the preparation for board of director

meetings, distributed materials to the board, took notes at board meetings and prepared, distributed and filed Board meeting minutes. All his duties as secretary were handled with accuracy, professionalism and attention to detail.

Beyond his official duties, he was a mentor to newer members on how to get more involved and comfortable with Rotary responsibilities and obligations and his institutional knowledge of all things Rotary helped club members, both old and new be better Rotarians and club members.

Before his retirement in 2018, Tom transferred his extensive club duties and responsibilities to a new club secretary and assumed the new club role of Executive Secretary. In this role, he continued to be directly involved in club activities and helped the new club secretary become proficient in the responsibilities of club secretary.

After Tom fully retired, he still participated in club activities as he could. He led a full life, passing in his 97th year. His service as a Navy Officer, a career in banking, and 57 years of Rotary Service above Self are fully deserving of special recognition as an exemplary Rotarian.

In recognition of Tom's leadership and outstanding achievements, the award of Emeritus Honorary Membership designation is the appropriate recognition for his many years of Rotary service and our thanks for all he has done for Rotary and as a member of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley.

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