

Rotary Club of Point Loma

Rotary Years 1951-52 to 1954-55

During the four years following the PLRC's charter year of 1950-51, the club emphasized membership growth and attendance, encouraged outreach toward other Rotary clubs within the district as well as south of the border, and continued to expand its service project agenda, particularly in the areas of community and international service.

In Rotary Year 1951-52, led by President Paul Wolcott, the PLRC supported the Door of Hope, the Torrey Pines Boys Club, and the Gro-Y club at Frontier Housing. International service featured aid to fire victims in Tijuana. The club held its first joint meeting with the Coronado Rotary Club across the bay. In March 1952 the club's name changed to the Point Loma-Mission Bay Rotary Club.

Leonard Gustafson assumed leadership of the club in Rotary year 1952-53. On August 22, 1952, the PLMBRC published its first newsletter under the name *The RotaPoint*. Meeting highlights included a return visit by the Coronado club and visits to Rotary clubs in Tijuana and Ensenada. Also, as part of its international service agenda, the club donated \$200 to a special foreign student fund then called VISA (Visiting International Student Association). Community service entailed a monetary contribution to the construction of the Point Loma Youth Building on Canon Street and sustained support for the Gro-Y program at Frontier Housing. The club also donated a portable baby incubator to the Door of Hope Home in honor of charter member George Kettenburg, Jr, who passed away during the year.

After what may have been sluggish membership growth during the PLMBRC's second and third years of existence, growth spurted in 1953-54 with the induction of 12 new members, including Carl Ackerman, Marion Crowley, and Rex Gorton. Milton Urner, treasurer during the charter year, presided over the club's fourth year of Rotary service to the Point Loma community. The tradition of meeting with the Coronado Rotary Club continued. Club Service that year also featured a social weekend at Warner Hot Springs in April 1954. In addition to supporting the Gro-Y program, the PLMBRC enhanced its reputation in community service by donating an Emerson Resuscitator to the new Children's Hospital of San Diego, sponsoring a Clairemont Little League team, and supporting the Junior Achievement Program. International service projects included support of a VISA student, Robert Fung from Hong Kong.

Thomas Faulconer became the PLMRC's fifth president during Rotary year 1954-55. That year Rotary District 162—under which the club was chartered—was divided and the club became part of new District 163. In February 1955, the club sponsored the chartering of the Pacific Beach Rotary Club, an act that required relinquishment of PLMBRC territory in order to establish new boundaries. (As a result, two years later (1956-57) the Point Loma club dropped the Mission Bay part of its name and simply became the Rotary Club of Point Loma.) As it had during the first four years, Club Service continued to emphasize attendance. Moreover, it spearheaded the club's fifth anniversary celebration on April 17, 1955. In addition to its tradition of biennial exchange visits with the Coronado club, the PLMBRC made an international friendship visit to the Tijuana Rotary Club in February 1955. Community service projects included sponsorship of the Point Loma Little League team, support for a YMCA program established on what was then the Cal Western campus (now Point Loma Nazarene University), and co-sponsorship of the Aztec-Marines football game for charity.