Welcome to our District 5160 Governor 2017-2018, Gary Vilhauer!  Gary’s first message to us as Governor is as follows: MAKING A DIFFERENCE. There is a continuing focus in all our clubs for making a difference in our communities and the world. Rotary International President, Ian Riseley’s, theme for 2017-2018 is “making a difference”, and I would like to further challenge you and your clubs that there is NO LIMIT to what we as Rotarians can do. It all begins with YOUR club, YOUR members and YOUR leadership. The beginning of the new year is the time for your Club to think about the amazing differences you are already making and then also look toward new directions and paths you may want to take. As you think about your club, reflect on why YOU are in Rotary. In Rotary throughout the world, we know why our members join – for fellowship and a chance to serve our communities. And we know we stay for the same reasons plus we are proud to be part of an organization that is making a difference in the world. We are people of action. The strength of our organization begins with friendship. We get together with people who may be of diverse backgrounds, interests, and beliefs but with the common value of service above self. The great strength of District 5160 is not only the diversity within each Club’s membership but there is diversity throughout the cities and towns and the clubs within those communities. Our clubs all have their own identities and unique culture. This is an exciting time to be a Rotarian as each Club has more flexibility in their operations to make sure each Club can focus on the best ways for our members to get together for friendship and service. As leaders in our communities, Rotary members are making a difference when we get together and exchange ideas not only within the Club but with others in our local communities. We also join other Rotarians at District Area Meetings, District Training at Assemblies, Seminars and the District Conference and at the Rotary International Convention. We learn from our fellow Rotarians, or just as important, share our great projects or what makes our clubs great. We partner with others in our communities to make a difference. Together, your actions make a greater difference. As a Rotarian, you can be proud of what you are doing within your communities and throughout the world because we are recognized as people of action, giving us visibility and encouraging partnerships. You have seen this in your local communities and you see this on the Rotary.org website, on the internet, and in the news. Be proud to be a Rotarian. We are people of action. We make a difference. And there is no limit to what you and your Club can do to make a difference. I invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
Fellowship Fest Update: Thanks to Bev and Clint Collier for hosting a great “Shrimp Feed”; John and Susana Gardner for hosting a well-attended departure party for Japan Exchange Student Yuri Hitomi; and Debbie and Steve Derby for hosting our Fellowship Fest kick-off party and BBQ where 13 future events were scheduled by attending Rotarians. That's more than half our goal of 20 events. Thanks to all who have (and will) volunteer(ed) to arrange an event for us all to enjoy! Examples are Pres Trudy Triner’s “Coors and Croquet” afternoon event on September 24th and Trudy Cumming’s “Havana Nights” event on October 17th. Sign-up sheets will be available soon.

Monument Crisis Center Leader Honored: Last Thursday, Dave Litty, current President of Concord Rotary, hosted an event at Golden State Lumber to honor their “Home Town Hero” Executive Director of the Monument Crisis Center, Sandra Scherer. Dess Benedetto and Pres. Trudy Triner attended with an eye to the possibility of having a similar event in the coming months. Stay tuned

District 5160 Fall Assembly—All Rotarians are encouraged to attend these half-day training sessions. 18 breakout sessions will enhance your Rotary/club experience and enrich your professional life and leadership skills. There are two dates and locations: Saturday, Sept 9th. 8am to 1pm . Simpson University, 2211 College View

Upcoming Club Meetings and Events:
Tuesday September 12th, Linda Adams, LVN from Pacific Urology. She will be speaking on “Stop the 'Just In Case' Bathroom Breaks (Bladder Health and Incontinence)”.
Tuesday September 19th, Our Annual Lunch and Update at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek.
Tuesday September 26th, Bernie Rosner, “Surviving the Holocaust.”

Dr. Redding, OR Saturday, Sept 23. 8am to 1pm Alhambra High School, 150 E Street Martinez. Continental breakfast AND lunch are included for both dates and locations.

Walnut Creek Walnut Festival Parade and Dinner, Saturday Night September 16th. Lineup is at 4pm. We will be walking/riding in the parade again this year, and going to dinner afterwards. Dess Benedetto is working on the details.

Our Annual Lunch Meeting at John Muir Medical Center Walnut Creek is Tuesday Sept 19th at Noon in the Ball Auditorium. The program will feature surgeon Dr. Steven Young and the JMMC Wound Care program. Members and guests are invited; $17 at the door. Sign up now with John McClintic.

Walnut Creek Community Service Day, Saturday October 14th 9am to 1pm. We will be working at the Howe Homestead. Volunteers must register in advance, online, with the City of Walnut Creek. Enter this link in your web browser or click on this link http://wcserviceday.volunteerhub.com/events/indexv1 Scroll down to the link for Howe “Homestead Picnic Grounds (w/ WC Rotary)”. See Jesse Smyers for information.

Annual Rotary Club of Walnut Creek Poker Tournament with Loaves and Fishes, Friday November 10th. St. Isadore Church, Danville, 5:30 pm. More details to follow. See Carl Manna.

LN-4 Artificial Hands Delivery Projects in Ecuador and El Salvador. Our former Club member Bob Romero now with the Rotary Club of Houston, Texas, is planning a 3 city trip to deliver LN-4 artificial hands in Ecuador in early November. And there will be another 2-day project on Friday and Saturday, February 16-17, 2018, in San Miguel, El Salvador. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these projects, please contact Bob Romero directly at romero0425@aol.com. Volunteers are responsible for their own expenses and must make their own travel arrangements, but Bob can provide suggestions.