

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

February 4, 2021

**Last week was Assistant District Governor Gary Stewart** on how to connect with Rotary.

Gary is one of our own Past Presidents and here's a little about him.

He was raised in Canby and graduated Canby High in 1969. Gary was also a state FFA officer that year where he attended the national convention in Kansas City, MO, voting to allow girls into the organization for the first time.

Nowadays, if you look at the list of FFA officers, you will find that girls are now running the organization with a "token guy" serving as sentinel or treasurer.

He spent some time in broadcasting. He worked in Seattle and started his own radio network which is what brought him back to Newberg because he could live wherever he wanted so long as there was a post office box nearby.

He actually came here specifically because of FFA. He wanted his kids to have the opportunity to experience FFA and because Bob Beckner (retired 2016 after 40 years) was leading it.

He did broadcasting for 16 years before starting a non-profit called Leadership Oregon, training leaders in the natural resource industries.

It was around that time Gary was invited to Rotary by a fellow baseball coach, Doug Caffall.

His original reason for joining? He was an independent person working out of his house in the country. Rotary gave him a reason and opportunity to meet people in town and build relationships.

Dan Burns was president when Gary joined. Dan went out of his way to take Gary to coffee and made him feel welcome.

Gary went back to school for a Masters from OSU in Adult Education, 30 years after earning his Bachelors.

Rural Development Initiatives was next working with the Ford Family Foundation, out of Roseburg, leading the Ford Institute Leadership Program in 88 rural communities around Oregon and Northern California. Then up to Washington where he worked until retirement.

In the club he has served on the RotaDent Board and served as club president. Serving on the Board has given a great perspective on



how the Austin Family continues to support our community and our clubs through that project.

2017 was his first experience with Rotary training attending President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Seattle.

The level of volunteer support in this organization amazes him. "We have a paid, part-time office manager in the District, who happens to be a Rotarian." There are so many others donating countless hours to their clubs, communities and countries.

Rotary is a club-centered organization. We talk about Rotary International and the goings on in the big office of Evanston, IL, but the reality is this is not a top down organization. It is a bottom-up, and there is no "Rotary Police." In other words, each club can do what they want, in the way they see fit, to meet the needs of their members and communities.

But Rotary does offer a wide array of tools to help clubs prosper, promote and attract.

After his term as Assistant District Governor will be three years as a District Trainer. Following Renee Brouse he will be chairing the Leadership and Development Committee.

Gary's initiative is to determine, "what is our value-add? What is it we can do to attract folks into Rotary and how can we support them?"

There are lots of options for young professionals to serve and give. Why would they feel compelled to make Rotary their choice when there are so many other ways?

There are skills such as facilitation and conflict resolution to be acquired in Rotary service that can be applied at home, their businesses, and their community.

Relationships are what keep people in Rotary, we just have to attract them to join.

This year Gary has a chance to be one of those PETS trainers. Because of COVID they're being done virtually.

Sixteen trainers are leading 45 sessions of small groups training over 600 Presidents Elect from the California border north through British Columbia and into Alaska.

Participating are nine Districts of which our 5100 is one.

On a side note, RYLA will not happen again this year (COVID still) but the age limit will be temporarily expanded from 25 to 30 years old to keep the window open for those that missed out these years.

There are so many opportunities to serve and learn within Rotary.

District and Club database, [DACdb.com](http://DACdb.com) is a super useful resource for the District and our club. Such as:

Member Search in any zone, club name or number, name/email/business, occupation ... even search guests and global options.

Create or update your profile (like I just did because I apparently had no job).

"MyCLUB" has attendance, committees, statistics, "pmail," grants and finance, etc.

My DATA > Make-Up ... ever wonder how people you rarely see at meetings have had "perfect attendance" for 28 years? It's because there are many ways to "attend" Rotary.

[MyRotary](http://MyRotary) is your personal portal to Rotary International.

In the "Brand Center" you can find logos, advertising materials for social media and flyers.

In [Learning & Reference](#) are nearly a hundred courses from Starting a Club to how to Deliver a Speech, to Membership Plans and Diversity.

[Rotary Club of Newberg Early Birds](#) is all about us.

[District 5100's](#) site contains such useful things as a link to DACdb, a checkout portal for pull-up displays, event canopy tents, DVDs, even an 8' tall inflatable Rotary logo.

How to become a member, how to find a club, and a map of the 69 clubs in our district.

Did I miss where to find what qualifies as a make-up? Aw fiddlesticks!