

# Redlands Daily Facts

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## Kiwanis Club of Redlands celebrates 85th anniversary

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REDLANDS — On April 11, 1922, the Kiwanis Club of Redlands was founded.

On April 10, 2007, the club's current members gathered to reminisce about events from the past 85 years, including A Run Through Redlands, the Redlands Christmas Parade and the creation of the Sylvan Plunge.

Member, police spokesman and former Daily Facts editor Carl Baker gave the invocation, and President Tim Murone welcomed everyone. He also mentioned that a table without chairs was set in front of the stage in honor of members who are no longer living.

A video featuring an interview

with member Ken King was then shown. Included in the presentation was footage from such annual events as the pancake breakfast and still photos from service projects like the "Seeds of Science" garden at Lugonia Elementary School.

Special guests also came to the event to celebrate with the Kiwanians.

"This is one of the best clubs, if not the best club, in the division," said Division 36 Lt. Gov. Curtis Aaron, who was on hand to award the prestigious George Hixen Award to members Donna Ferracone and Dick Foerster.

Before announcing their names, Aaron said, "Your club should be proud of the members we're honoring today. This is the

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highest honor we give to members."

Following the presentation of the awards, both honorees were still stunned that they had been chosen as recipients.

"I'm a little overwhelmed," said Ferracone, who is secretary of the club and dean of career and technical education at Crafton Hill College. "It's really cool. This is a really special honor."

"I'm just shocked," said Foerster. "I certainly didn't expect it."

His wife, Tomi Foerster, was proud of her husband.

"I am so thrilled and happy," the past president from 2000 said.

Several members of Kiwanis have been active for years, including Larry Statler, who joined the club in 1983.

"We really do build up a family," he said. "The Kiwanis family. When I came to this community in 1980, I knew no one. I went from being an introvert to knowing everyone. It's a way to expand your horizons."

He also met people he wouldn't have ordinarily, thanks to the diversity of the club.



CATHERINE GARCIA/Redlands Daily Facts

President Tim Murone, left, and Lt. Gov. Curtis Aaron, right, pose with George Hixen Award winners Donna Ferracone and Dick Foerster during the Kiwanis Club's 85th anniversary club meeting.

"We have a wide variety of members," the former jeweler and past president and Lt. Gov. said. "When I was first starting here, I was intimidated by all of the educators here. We still have a lot."

According to Statler, the number one thing the club does is give back wherever it is needed.

"Kiwanis is about helping others," he said. "Mostly children around the world, but also the

elderly and the less fortunate. I joined for the opportunity to network. That's not the reason I stayed. I stayed for the service to the community."

Bob Romero, a former Daily Facts employee, joined in 1968.

"I worked at the old Imperial Hardware Company," he said. "My boss told me to join a service organization, and I knew about Kiwanis from when I was young and they sponsored a Halloween event. So, Kiwanis was my choice."

Romero went on to become president of the club in 1972.

Today, there are roughly 100 members of the Kiwanis Club. It seems as though the club has been successful for the past 85 years due to the dynamic people behind it.

"We have a tremendous amount of camaraderie in this club," said Statler. "This club is open to anyone who wants to serve the community, and we encourage them to join."

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