

Lodi Service Clubs Enhance the Lodi City Welcome Sign on South Hutchins



(L-R) Lodi Kiwanis President Jonell Steckman; Lodi Mex-Am Lions Club President John Pena; Lodi Lions Club President Darlene Carrera; Lodi Rotary Club Co-Presidents Doug Holck and Mike Hodge. (Doug participated in the construction of the original welcome).

Lodi service club presidents gather to celebrate the addition of Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary signs to the “Welcome to Lodi” sign on South Hutchins Street. The sign, along with the trellis and landscaping in the median were donated in the mid-1980’s by the Lodi Lions Club and Lodi Rotary Club.

Each of the service clubs have distinct missions and focus but all are dedicated to serving their community in unique ways. For example, the:

- Kiwanis Club – A global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. This is achieved primarily through local clubs who focuses on programs which provide leadership training and educational programs within area schools. They also assist local community outreach programs in building a better community.
- Lions Club -- “We Serve” sums up the Lions purpose. Lions International supports world-wide humanitarian efforts and understanding among nations. In addition, sight, hearing and diabetes support and education are high priorities. The local clubs support these efforts with contributions to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Canine Companions for Independence along with other local organizations.

- Rotary Club - Provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The “Sign Saga“ began in 2017, with a lunch meeting at the Hollywood Café. The three club presidents met and decided to create a sign for the service clubs like those found in many communities throughout the country.

The clubs collaborated to add their signs to the existing Welcome to Lodi sign and received City Council approval in December 2019. Thus, the clubs each purchased metal reflective signs available through their respective International Organizations and Richard Prima and Doug Holck did the renovations. The clubs are exploring additional locations and sign types for the future.

The three clubs have been friendly rivals for years with each club latching on to signature fund raising events and perpetuating them through the years. Each club uses their funds to support local nonprofits such as Grace and Mercy, The Village (developmentally disabled adults), Lodi USD (dictionaries for each 3d grader), LOEL Center, Lodi Boys and Girls Club, Lodi Library Foundation, Lodi House, Salvation Army, San Joaquin County Woman’s Center, the World of Wonders Museum (WOW) and many others.

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi organizes and offers two major community events annually: the 4th of July of Pancake Breakfast at Lodi Lake and the Lodi Parade of Lights each year in December. They also present an annual Best of the Best Lobsterfest. 100% of all proceeds from these events are fed back into the community in such programs as college scholarships, Key Clubs/Circle K Clubs which develops leadership within area high schools and colleges, key leader programs, Kiwanis House which aids and assist families with emergency housing while their loved ones (children) are in the hospital, middle school honor roll programs, elementary school motivational programs, and more. For more information please look us up on the web at <https://greaterlodi.kiwanisone.org/> or email lodi.kiwanis@gmail.com.

There are two Lions Clubs serving Lodi, the Lodi Mexican-American and the Lodi Lions Clubs. The Lodi Lions clubs raises funds through various activities including a crab feed, golf tournament and direct donations. The clubs have also undertaken many “active” projects in which club members do some are all the work, including various park improvements. Learn more at www.lodilions.org and send us an email at lodilionclub@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to speak with a member.

There are three Rotary clubs in the Lodi area – Lodi-Tokay Rotary, Lodi Sunrise (Woodbridge) Rotary and the original Lodi Rotary club chartered in 1921.

Lodi-Tokay Rotary Club puts on the Lodi Craft Beer Festival which was unfortunately cancelled this year because of the Covid pandemic. For more information visit <http://loditokayrotary.com/index.php>.

The Lodi Sunrise Club puts on the Tour Delle Vigne (Tour of the Vines) Cycling Event' which features 50k, 100k and 100-mile courses through the wine-country of Lodi, California. The proceeds from this event fund all the various Lodi Sunrise Rotary Club projects and Charitable giving! For more information visit <https://www.tourdellevigne.com/lodi-sunrise-rotary-club>.

The Lodi Rotary club has conducted Shrimp Mania in the Spring of each year. This year the club will hold a virtual auction and possibly a drive through dinner of some type to replace the traditional Shrimp Mania dinner normally held at the Japanese Culture Center. It will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2021. The Lodi Rotary club provides dictionaries each year to all third graders. It also has a Satellite club composed of younger working adults and their signature project provides bicycles to the Salvation Army for distribution to children at Christmas time . The club also sponsors an Interact club at Jim Elliott High School. The women of the club also conduct a fund raiser each "Corks for a Cure". The funds from this project are donated to UC Davis' Breast Cancer Research program. For more information visit <https://www.lodirotaryclub.com/>.

If what you have read strikes a note with you and you would like to learn more consider contacting the clubs via email or through their respective websites or attending one of their meetings. Check with the clubs before you go as many are meeting via Zoom during the Covid pandemic.

Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi – Meet each Thursday morning at 7:00 AM at the Eagles Lodge, 217 E. Lockeford St., Lodi, Ca. 95240. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic please contact lodi.kiwanis@gmail.com or call 209-426-0965 for updated meeting information.

Lodi Lions Mexican American Club – Meets at 6:30 pm, the first and third Tuesday. at the Moose Lodge, on Woodbridge Road just west of Highway 99., Acampo, Ca.

Lodi Lions Club - is meeting at Burgundy Hall at the Lodi Grape Festival (with COVID-19 conditions) at noon on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

Lodi-Tokay -normally meets at noon on Mondays at Richmaid Restaurant,100 S Cherokee Ln, Lodi, CA 95240 .

Lodi Rotary – is currently conducting hybrid meetings at the Fairfield Inn, 262 Rocky Ln, Lodi, CA 95240, Thursdays at noon (Brown bag bring your own lunches and we are socially distancing). Zoom meetings are also held on Thursdays at noon. [MH1]