



**BRET GERDES**  
**DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2009-2010**  
**ROTARY CLUB OF IRVINE SPECTRUM**



Born in Whittier, Bret attended schools in Orange and graduated from Excelsior High School in Norwalk. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Redlands in Economics and Business Administration. Bret has lived most of his life in Southern California, but for short periods of time has lived in Salzburg, Austria, and Felton, California.

In the summer of 1971 Bret met Natalie in Seal Beach. Their lives took different paths as they started college, married and started their families. After 36 years their paths would cross once more, resulting in their marriage in 2007. In those 36 years Bret raised his two sons, Mathew and Nathan, while Natalie raised her children from her first marriage, Brian, Jennifer and Robin, as well as her youngest, Amy.

After graduation from the University of Redlands, Bret worked as an Engineer Planning Analyst for Rockwell International on the B-1 program. In 1978 Bret formally joined the family real estate business began in 1946 by his grandfather and became a third generations Real Estate Broker.

Service to the community has been a tradition in Bret's family. It began with his grandfather, who was a charter member of the Loins Club in Norwalk, and continued with his father, who was a member of the Norwalk Kiwanis Club.

In 1978 Bret joined the Norwalk Rotary Club chairing most of the committees before serving as President in 1985-86. Bret's service to the District has included working on numerous District Conference committees. He has chaired the awards, demotion, assembly, finance, and foundation dinner committees. In addition, two Governors called on Bret to be their Executive Assistant.

Rotary has been an important part of both Bret and Natalie's life. Natalie and Bret have been Paul Harris Fellows for many years. Bret is a Charter Member of the Paul Harris Society. Natalie's mother Dawn Horner was active in Rotary in a number of Clubs including the Orange Club.

Continuing the Rotary experience, Bret and Natalie have encouraged their children to participate in Rotary opportunities. Both Nathan and Amy have attended RYLA and Nathan has participated in the student exchange program with Japan.

In addition to Rotary, work, and family, Bret spends his time skiing, backpacking and playing paintball. He is a member of the Yuma Rattlers Paintball Team.

Natalie received her Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing from California State College Stanislaus and her Masters of Education from Cambridge University in Boston. She is currently employed by Newport Mesa School District, as a Project Coordinator for a California First Five special needs demonstration site, serving young children and their families.

Bret and Natalie reside in Huntington Beach along with her father and daughter.