



Dr. Steven Rocchi

Class of 2011

Steve Rocchi was born in Houghton, Michigan and moved to Oroville in 1963. He graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1972. As a student, he was a National Merit Scholar and in the Top Ten, CSF, and National Honor Society all four years. He served as President of the Honor Society during his junior and senior years. Awards he received included the American Chemistry Society Award, the Community Achievement Award, and the Bank of America Award in laboratory science. He also maintained membership in the Latin Club for three years and participated in the Brain Brawl.

In addition to his outstanding scholastic achievements, Steve found time to play football all four years and earned two varsity letters. He was a four year member of the Block O Society.

After his graduation from OHS, Steve enrolled at the University of California at Davis (UCD) and graduated in 1975 with honors, earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Genetics in three years. Although his intentions were to go into the medical field, and not being sure of what specific direction he would take, he decided to do his graduate work at Michigan Tech located in his hometown of Houghton, Michigan.

Completing his graduate work in 1976, he still did not have a specific career in mind, so he went to work for his father in the composing room of the Daily Mining Gazette in Houghton. Following his working at the newspaper, Steve returned to the west coast where he attended the University of California at Berkeley school of optometry, receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in optometric science in 1979 and his doctorate degree in 1981. He subsequently joined the optometry practice of Drs. Leno Mastache and David Mennucci in downtown Oroville.

In his professional life, Steve is a member of the Golden Empire Optometrist Society where he served terms as both Vice President and President. Following his election as President, Steve said, "I decided to run for the office of President to give a little back to the profession that has been so great for me. I can contribute to the growth of optometry and better address the needs of patients around the state by being more actively involved in the decision making process."

He was a delegate to the California Optometric Association for thirteen years and a delegate to the American Optometric Association for four years. He has also been the recipient of the Recognition Award given by the American Optometric Association.

During his thirty year career as an optometrist, Dr. Rocchi has found time to serve his community in a wide variety of ways. He devoted eight years each to the Oroville City Elementary School District (OCESD) and the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) boards, where he served as a Trustee. He also spent four years on the Oroville Cemetery District Board and, in January 2011, was seated as a Director on the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

In the political arena, Steve was on the Republican Butte County Central Committee for two years and the Republican State Central Committee for four years. He is currently a member of both the Oroville Downtown Business Association and the Oroville Economic Development Council. He also currently serves on the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee for Harrison Stadium.

The youth of Oroville have also been blessed with Steve's presence as he coached youth soccer for ten years, Little League for two years, and officiated youth soccer games for eight years. He also found time to be a parent volunteer in kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms where he donated his services on a weekly basis while his four children were attending Ophir School.

Dr. Rocchi is co-owner of Oroville Vision Optometric Group and maintains his residence and practice in Oroville where he continues to give back to his community.