



Club # 684 District 5240
Chartered March 10, 1959

Come and join us on Wednesdays 12:15 PM at
The Royal Scandinavia Inn at 420 Alisal Road in Solvang

“When one door closes, another door opens; but we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.”

~ Alexander Graham Bell



President's Message

Our Rotary slogan is “Service Above Self”. But, just how do we accomplish that service? Sometimes we are able to have a “hands on” effort, such as when Rotarians travel to other locations and assist the locals, perhaps after a natural catastrophe, or for a polio immunization day. However, most of us are not able to participate in such events for one reason or another.

We also have events at home such as building the playground at Sunny Fields Park and our upcoming Community Day. But there are not many opportunities like those available. (I would like to hear suggestions for more)

So how do we provide our service? With good old fashioned cash!! And where does the cash come from? If every Member donates \$100, we have \$6,000. If we leverage our efforts through a fundraiser, we may be able to raise \$20,000 (The Auto Raffle), \$30,000 (July 4th) or more.

That's why we do fundraisers; to raise money to support the Charities, Scholarships, and events that we sponsor. Even though Sunny Fields was a “Hands on event”, it could not have happened without the money we raised.

Since we are now providing the fireworks free to the Community on the 4th of July, I don't think that will ever be a very large fund raiser. Therefore, I think we should have a second large event to help raise funds and I am proposing “A Taste of the Santa Ynez Valley”. This would replace the auto raffle.

Although many details are yet to be worked out, the “TASTE” will be an all afternoon/evening event of food from the best local restaurants, wine from our local wineries and beer from our local brewery. It will be a fun Community event that people can attend at reasonable prices and we will be giving people something for their money rather than just a chance to win something. We plan to have the Taste on Saturday of the Labor Day weekend.

Yours in Rotary Service,
David Wyatt



RI President

William (Bill) B. Boyd

District Governor

Richard Abbott

Club President

David Wyatt

Incoming President

John Rasmussen

President Elect Nominee

John Patterson

Past President

Deepa Willingham

Secretary

Louis Karpf

Treasurer

Bob Hinrichs

Club Service

Verva Enoch

Community Service

Paul Matthies

Vocational/Youth Service

John Patterson

International Service

Greg Pensa

2007-2008 Rotary Theme

By Antoinette Tuscano
Rotary International News



The 2007-08 theme *Rotary Shares* will act as a daily reminder of what ordinary people can accomplish through the extraordinary work of Rotary, said RI President-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson at the 2007 International Assembly's opening session today.

"What makes Rotary great is our expressing the love in our hearts through the work of our hands and our minds," said Wilkinson. "As Rotarians, we don't just sit back and talk about loving other human beings. As Rotarians, we demonstrate that love, and we share that love, through helping each other."

Almost everything Rotary does involves sharing, Wilkinson told more than 500 district governors-elect gathered at the meeting in San Diego. "We share our time, we share our talents, and we share our money with others who need our help."

Furthermore, he said, "In Rotary, sharing doesn't mean giving away what you have to spare, what you don't need for yourself. Sharing means giving *of* yourself, selflessly, for the good of others."

And Rotarians don't need to do this alone. They know that when the need for service in their community can't be met by one club alone, they can call on Rotarians from around the world to help, said Wilkinson.

More than a theme, *Rotary Shares* is a call to action. As the incoming governors begin preparing for the year ahead with the training, leadership, and inspiration they receive at the International Assembly, Wilkinson asked them to focus on sharing their leadership, skills, and dedication to making clubs and districts stronger.

Sharing Rotary does more than strengthens Rotary; it ensures that Rotary continues a second century of service. *Rotary Shares* means inviting people to join their local Rotary clubs.

"Rotary will only be able to continue sharing if it continues to grow," said Wilkinson. To help Rotary grow, Wilkinson requested that all of the incoming governors ask their club presidents to bring in one new club member during their year in office.

"Without new members, nothing else matters," he said. Without our youth and new members, "it will only take a few decades for Rotary to disappear, and we've already seen that happen in other service clubs."

In addition to the crucial job of welcoming new club members, the president-elect said Rotarians should not forget their past. He asked them to reach out to former club members, including club members' widows and widowers.

Wilkinson reminded the audience that the opportunities they'll have to help may not come their way again.

"This year is your chance to be a district governor, to help your clubs, to guide them, to share your strengths and your love."

In the year ahead, a great deal will be asked of Rotarians, said Wilkinson.

"I ask you all, this year, to share Rotary freely and fully. Work hard, and work with love. And remember that everything you do in service to others is part of the magic of Rotary, the magic that allows ordinary people, like you and me, do absolutely amazing things."

District Foundation Gala in Ventura March 30, 2007

Date: March 30, 2007 @ 6:00pm
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 E Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA, 93001
Event Fee: \$100
Captain: Brenda Cressey

At this year's RI District 5240 Foundation Gala, Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul will serve as the Keynote Speaker. This year we will honor Past RI Director, our good friend, Sam Greene and, as it turns out, PRIP Bhichai as they will both celebrate 50 years of service to Rotary.

PRIP Bhichai is the incoming Trustee Chair of The Rotary Foundation and served as our RI President in 2002-03, his theme was "Sow the Seeds of Love" and is a well sought out speaker on Ethics in the Rotary world. This year would also be a very special time to consider becoming a Major Donor, Bequestor or to make a significant gift to the Permanent Fund as PRIP Bhichai will assist in the foundations recognition presentations that evening.

The Gala is sure to be a memorable event. It will begin with an evening reception & dinner followed by a tribute to Past RI Director Sam and foundation awards presentations and the Keynote Address. A signup sheet should be circulating at our upcoming meetings.

The following article, written by Vicki Arndt, the President elect of Thousand Oaks Rotary, is the winner of the 2007 District Essay Contest, entries for which were due by January 15. Her achievement in this annual contest will be recognized by Governor Rich Abbott at his Step-Down/Demotion by the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship. All other entrants will be recognized at a later date.

The Importance of Humor in Rotary

By Vicki Arndt (PE, Thousand Oaks)

If I am honest with myself, I find just about everything amusing. This character trait has gotten me into trouble before. When I was in school, I found teachers' accents funny; when I was in Girl Scouts, I found the craft projects funny; and today when I am on a volunteer committee, more often than not, something will strike me as funny. Of course, I'm never shy about sharing my amusement with others. It wasn't until I became a Rotarian, however, that I found a group of people who were amused as often and sometimes more than I. Not only are they amused, but like me they express themselves with sarcasm and wit. In my mind, the Fellowship of Rotary would not be possible without laughter. It is humor that gives us a respite from the demands of our lives and fills us up until 7 days pass and we gather together again. If you think about it, having a weekly meeting could become tedious or obligatory, but for Thousand Oaks Rotary, it is the only time of the week when we can all let our hair down, throw political correctness out the window, and simply enjoy one another with humor.

Rotary is a place where inclusiveness has become the standard. We make no apologies for our political persuasions, sports loyalties or religious beliefs – in fact, we openly share them, and they become fuel for fine sessions, happy dollars and quips during the meetings. During the last presidential election, one of our members brought a life size cardboard cutout of President Bush and our club's Democrats had lunch with our Commander in Chief. One of our members is a die-hard USC fan, and during football season he offers happy dollars each week to tout the latest victory of his team. However, we also have many UCLA grads/fans in our club. So before the big USC/UCLA game this past fall, there was much boasting by the USC fan. When the big upset occurred, the UCLA fans took him to task – all in good humor. They placed a 4 ft tall, lighted UCLA Bruin at the head table and continued their fun into happy dollars and the fine session. The humor continues into holiday season when our Jewish members point out that the color of the napkins should have been something other than red and green for Hanukah.

I have been a member of my club for seven years and have never seen humor used in a way that hurt or offended anyone. In fact, one of the hallmarks of our club is our irreverence for all – no one is safe. District Governors, distinguished speakers, mayors, and everyone else are all fair game as recipients or targets of our collective rapier wit. Last year, PDG Arnie Dowdy came to our club to make his wonderful presentation on baseball. It was also the day of our bi-annual blood drive. Soon after he had begun his presentation, one of our newer members, Paul, fainted as a result of giving blood, and emergency calls were immediately made to attend to his needs. The meeting stopped and Arnie never finished his speech. Though Arnie came back a few months later to conclude his speech, the fainting incident will live on forever as part of our club's humorous folklore. Each time there is a blood drive, Paul receives numerous razzes by fellow members — "I'm putting in a happy dollar for Paul that he is still upright" and the like. In fact, during our holiday party last year, Santa brought him smelling salts for Christmas.

I have had some silly moments in Rotary myself. Once I donned a red pantsuit fringed with feathers and a cape along with a purple Marge Simpson wig for the fine session. I took on the persona of a visiting housewife from Alabama who liked to drink gin, and I used questions from Hints from Heloise to baffle my fellow Rotarians. I knew that the men would not know the answers to questions about how to get candle wax out of a tablecloth. So, of course, I only called on the men. Another time when I was finemaster, then-DG Arnie Dowdy was visiting with his wife, Maria. After all our guests had been introduced, including Arnie and Maria, I asked a newer member to tell us the names of the current DG and his wife. I knew that the member would not know the answer since most of us don't pay attention to anything. I was right; I don't know how Arnie and Maria felt, but of course I was amused.

Future Programs & Events

February 14	Valentine's Day Party
February 21	Club Assembly
February 28	Brad Vidro, Solvang City Manager
March 7	United Way presentation
March 14	Wes St. Clair, Santa Barbara By Air
March 21	Allan Hancock College - "Auto Vocations"
March 28	Brooks Firestone, 3 rd District Supervisor

February Anniversaries

February 9	Alex & Dale Rossi (63 years)
February 17	John & Beverly Chu (44 years)

February Birthdays

February 3	Greg Pensa
February 5	Paul Matthies
February 20	Kris Kersten
February 22	John Patterson
February 28	John Grelek

Other Upcoming Events

February 24
Rotarians at Work Day

March 2-4
President-Elect Training
Seminar in Los Angeles

March 3
Basic PRLS
in Bakersfield

March 17
Master PRLS 1
in Bakersfield

March 31
Master PRLS
Graduate Forum
in Ojai

April 7
Master PRLS 3
in Bakersfield

April 14
District Assembly
in Bakersfield

(cont. from Page 3)

I've long thought that it might be useful to highlight our humorous side in Rotary literature. We could take a lead from a retreat center in the Cascades of Washington State. In this community, called Holden Village, one of the ways in which they define themselves is by the term "Holden Hilarity." This defining phrase fits since many of the activities and events are designed for silliness and fun, something that most adults get too little of. Maybe we as Rotarians need to adopt a tag line to represent the humor that is the cornerstone of many clubs: how about "Rotary Razzings" or "Rapier Wit of Rotary" or "Rotary Ridiculousness" or "Riotous Rotarians" or "Ribbing Rotarians" or "Rollicking Rotarians" or "Raucous Rotarians?" We don't have to decide this minute; we can ponder it for awhile.

In this world where we have many responsibilities and reasons to be somber, the humor with which we greet, enjoy and care for one another is something that this Rotarian is very glad to have found. The health benefits of humor cannot be denied; the fellowship building of humor is something that Rotary does very well. It is a relief for me to share such fun and never get into trouble...well, except for the time that - I'll tell that story next time.

(taken from the February 1, 2007 District Newsletter)