

eCone

Meeting: Feb. 11, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille

Visiting Rotarians: none

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Inductions & Honors

Sherry Swim was presented with her Paul Harris Fellow Medallion by **Kathy Maxwell**, who informed the club that Sherry became a fellow “a long time ago but gave away her medallion” – how apropos!

Updates

Foundation Minute: Following the aforementioned presentation, Kathy Maxwell passed the hat for Chris Griego.

Membership Minute: After Mary encouraged all to wear their Rotary pins and garb because “they might strike up a conversation and bring somebody to lunch,” Dean Fender let us know that two prospective members attended the orientation meeting, and both of them (Phil Peletier and Nancy Eaton, inducted the previous week) made tangible impressions at the Crab Feed. He also reiterated last week’s message from District Governor Earl Kilmer: “If each of us brought in a new member, the club could be double the size.”

Interact Minute: Ashley Sandstrom, president of the Interact Club, spoke about the canned-food drive for the Family Resource Center going on through Feb. 22. Those who didn’t donate at the meeting – or who wish to donate more – can do so at the Northern California Ballet or Wells Fargo Bank.

Public Relations Minute: Casey Taylor suggested that everyone check for the “Around Town” feature in the Paradise Post, where Crab Feed revelers John Backues and Tom Gagne will appear.

Fake Bonus Points: “At least 500” to John and Tom, plus 100 to Dean Fender (Rotary signage at his store)

Announcements

Crab Feed: With photos taken by Arthur Pollock streaming on the screen onstage, Pam Gray thanked everyone who made the event such a success. (Estimated haul: over \$10,000!) Mary amplified Pam’s request to have everyone who helped out Saturday stand up, and nearly the entire room was on its feet for well-earned applause.

Wait at the bar, wait at the bar ...: Mike Viale is seeking volunteer bartenders for the symphony fundraiser on Feb. 20. The symphony hopes to surpass the amount collected from Crab Feed imbibers (\$2,400!) – maybe with our help ...

Rallying the troops: Don Drowty told the club about a homecoming in the Rose Bowl for 20,000 U.S. Marines (along with other servicemen and –women) March 21. Eighteen people from Paradise are participating in the “Shaking 1,000 Hands, Giving 1,000 Thank You’s” event. He requested a \$300 donation from Rotary to help defray the cost of renting the Rose Bowl.

Chocolate Fest: Jackie Gitman, our exalted Queen candidate, announced that all the Valentine’s Day flower arrangements sold out, and got the word out about two upcoming events – Bowling Night on March 15 and the Greek Dinner on April 11. The latter is a collaborative effort for three candidates, who will split the proceeds. Jackie passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers; contact her if you didn’t get to sign up.

Presidential Trivia

Here is Mary’s challenge for this week:

Rotary’s PolioPlus program has helped protect how many children from polio since 1985?

(Tip: Read *The Rotarian* cover to cover!)

Remember, first e-mail reply with the correct answer yields a coveted Wild Card Make-up Card!!!

Last week’s winner: Jerry Laskey, who was the first respondent to remind Mary that she bid \$280 to get her own bell back.

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Art Pollock: Photographer Pass not displayed at Crab Feed. **1 bell**

Mauny Roethler: Text-messaging during the meeting. **1 bell**

Bob Irvine: Assessed by Ken Hunt, Crab Feed seat arranger, for setting up the tables in a different configuration than Ken received ... but then coming right over and righting the wrong. **1 bell**

Jim Clarkson: Showing up for last week's meeting on Thursday, when the meeting was Friday. **1 bell**

Reminder

Lest you follow in the footsteps of Jim Clarkson and head to a dark lunchroom, please remember that the Mini-Grant Dinner on Feb. 18 takes the place of our next meeting. We'll gather at the Elks Lodge at 5:30 p.m.

Chowder Cookoff

Vying for the right to represent our club at the Corning Chowder Cookoff, four chefs prepared three soups for our sampling pleasure. The New England-style chowder by Art and Annie Pollock got the nod over the creamy creation of Bob Irvine and the Manhattan-meets-Mardi Gras red from Tim Elloway.

The full-on contest will be part of the Corning Wine & Arts Festival, Feb. 26-27 at Rolling Hills Casino. Come out in force and vote for the Pollocks — the prize is \$500!

Rafflemania

I won! I won! That's right, your humble correspondent drew the Queen of Hearts after Ashley pulled lucky number 407 from the pail. Thanks to April Mendes for foretelling that she had the winning ticket for me!

Program

Cliff Doctorman's History of Rotary

After a few technical difficulties, we got to enjoy this lighthearted DVD detailing the legends of Rotary. (Sample: The 4-Way Test came about after Moses brought down the Ten Commandments “and Rotarians could never remember 10, so they picked four.”)

After his “irreverent” romp through history, Cliff declared that “Rotarians should have fun. The work of Rotary is serious ... but Rotarians don't have to be.” Noting RI's major accomplishment of eradicating polio, he said, “We're not in the business of meeting and eating; we're in the business of fellowship and service.... I assure you, there is real happiness in helping others.” *Amen!*
