

eCone

Meeting: Feb. 5, 2010

(Yes, a Friday!)

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille

Visiting Rotarians: District Governor Earl Kilmer and
District Trainer/Governor-Nominee-Designate Laura Day

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky *(He's baaaaaaaack!!!!)*

Inductions & Honors

District Governor Kilmer presided over the inductions of two new members: **Nancy Eaton**, presented with her Rotary pin by sponsor **Ray Wilson**, and **Christopher Griego**, pinned by sponsor **Michael Cooper**.

Sherry Swim received a special Rotary certificate of appreciation from President Mary for collection auction items for the Crab Feed (more to this story later).

Updates

Foundation Minute: Kathy Maxwell actually made it a “Foundation Second” by simply saying, “We’re looking for money.”

Membership Minute: Dean Fender put out the word that the next New Member Orientation will be Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. and the Fender residence.

Announcements

Board recap: Mary shared highlights from the previous morning's Board meeting. The leave of absence for Diane Larsen has been extended by six months; deadlines are approaching for Camp Royal and the District Exchange Program; Mini-Grants have been awarded (more on this in a moment); and Rotary is sponsoring the Chocolate Fest Run/Walk. Our honorable treasurer added a request for members to pay their invoices quickly, as the club is "light on cash now with heavy accounts payable."

Mini-Grant Awards Dinner: Four teachers will be honored Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m., at the Elks Lodge. For tickets (\$20 each), contact Tom Gagne.

Chowdah: The Corning Chowder Cookoff will be Feb. 26-27 at Rolling Hills Casino. In order to determine the representative from our club, Thursday's meeting will include a tasting of local creations.

On Norton's behalf: Mary shared a thank you card from Lisa Flores, Norton Buffalo's widow, who expressed her "extreme gratitude" for all the club did during Norton's illness and memorials.

Relay for Life: Larry Lash is coordinating sign-ups for the June event. It's not too early to volunteer!

Yes, Grasshopper ... : Kent Rasmussen made a pitch for the club's Mentor Program, which pairs veteran members with newbies to facilitate active involvement. If you are interested in participating, contact Kent.

Hat passed: Club members got Nancy on the way to Paul Harris Fellowship with \$150!

Better Late Than Never!

Gary Manwill slipped in the door at 1:40 p.m., but not quietly enough to avoid detection.

Presidential Trivia

What was the winning bid for Mary's Bell in the Crab Feed Live Auction, and who made it?

The first person who e-mails the correct answer to Mary gets ... well, it's usually a coveted Wild Card Make-up Card, but we'll have to see how generous she's feeling!!!

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Kathleen Dwyer: Texting during the meeting. **1 bell**

Danny Salas: A series of trips – wedding in San Antonio, vacation in the Mayan Riviera, then ski jaunt to Squaw Valley. **5 bells**

Brian Gray: His beloved new car, white 2010 Dodge Challenger, purchased on his beloved wife *Pam*'s birthday! **5 bells**

Sherry Swim: Her aforementioned award (Sherry's reply: "Everything Mary fines me, I'm charging her tomorrow!"). **2 bells**

John Downham: Having to get his name badge back from District Governor Kilmer, who found it on the ground by the lunch bar. **1 bell**

Mary: Her new "toy-hauler trailer" that she was keeping secret from the kids. **2 bells**

Musical Interlude

In honor of District Governor Kilmer, a band of disguised tie-dye Rastafarians performed a Rotarian remake of the song "Hot, Hot, Hot," culminating in a Conga line!

Speaker

Earl Kilmer, Rotary District 5160

Mary introduced our District Governor, who's been a Rotarian since 1985 but really committed himself to the Fairfield-Suisun Noon Club in 1998. Five years later, he was club president. Earl is a real-estate broker and volunteer firefighter. Before speaking, he returned Mary's gavel, which he noted she "lost months ago."

"You guys really are a great club, and I love your club a lot," he began. Part of a District Governor's job is to visit clubs throughout his/her district, and he hasn't always been so warmly received. The first five he went to, in fact, met him with skepticism and mutterings of *What did our board do wrong?* "I am not, nor is the District team, the enforcement arm of Rotary International," he said. "We are the support arm."

Over the next month and a half, District 5160 will add three clubs, to a total of 70. "We do exactly the same thing 70 different ways," he noted. "Rotary is a bottom-up organization — it starts with the clubs and cycles up."

Two areas are particular foci this year: membership and the foundation.

RI's goal this year is for every club to grow by just one member. (For our club, that would be an increase from 88 to 89.) That goal may seem small, but if achieved, Rotary will add more than 33,000 members! "It's a great attainable goal," he said, "and it's easy."

He continued: "Membership isn't the responsibility of the club president. Here, it doesn't seem much is!" he injected. "Membership is the responsibility of everyone in the club." He asked each member to think why you love Rotary. "I'm in Rotary because of how I feel in here," he said, tapping his chest at his heart, "when I get out in the world and my community."

Akin to the ABCs of firefighting and medicine, the District Governor shared the ABCs of a club: Activities, Bodies and Cash. (A isn't for Alcohol, he quipped.) Activities help attract Bodies to the club; Cash is needed for Activities; and Bodies yield Activities and Cash.

His charge to each of us: Invite one guest to a lunch meeting between now and June 30. "Statistics show half will join," he said, adding: "Membership is not hard, it's easy — all you have to do is ask somebody."

Regarding the Foundation, he talked about a club that traditionally resisted giving because the members felt the money just went away. The District Governor explained that the Foundation invests donations for three years to cover administrative costs, then gives back all donors' money with a 50-50 split between the district and the World Fund. Among the achievements made possible by the Foundation are the Peace & Conflict Resolution Program and polio eradication.

In summation, he reiterated the goals of membership and giving to the Foundation, and concluded with the 2009-10 RI slogan: "The future of Rotary is in your hands."
