

eCone

Meeting: March 18, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille

Visiting Rotarians: Jim Carriere, San Rafael; Allen Sherwood, Chico; Jolleen Whitsett and Carlee Shannon, Orland

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Updates

Foundation Minute: In place of absent Kathy Maxwell and “busy” Pam Gray, Brian Gray shared that the Foundation Committee has collated contributions made over the past year – “we know who’s naughty or nice” – and that matching funds are available for people nearing their Paul Harris Fellowship. Brian encouraged members who are behind on their giving to give automatically each month, for which he distributed a handy-dandy form that Kathy will collect at the next meeting at a handy-dandy table she’s setting up at the back of the room.

Membership Minute: Dean Fender pretty much repeated his message from the previous week, so to save typing, I’ve cut-and-pasted last week’s blurb:

Dean Fender announced that the next new-member orientation will be the second Tuesday in April at his home. “It’s each Rotarian’s responsibility to bring in a new member,” he says, and not just for Bring a Buddy to Lunch Day on April 22.

Interact Minute: Vickie Perez thanked all the Rotarians who sponsored Interact-ers at their Bowling Night social and announced that the Interact Club decided to donate \$500 to support the Paradise High band — proving for both clubs the axiom that it truly is better to give than receive!

Chocolate Queen Minute: Dave Bermann, chief adviser to her-majesty-to-be Jackie Gitman, said the aforementioned Bowling Night put the *fun* in fundraiser. Joe Almeida won the prize for the highest-scoring adult, and our very own exchange student Josefa won the young-people’s prize! Meanwhile, tickets remain on sale for Greek Fest.

Announcements

Abundance of goodies: Lindsay Weins, a student at Paradise High, told the club about her senior project. She made baskets for middle-schoolers to fill with M&M candies that she would send for care packages for troops overseas. Thing is, she collected a lot — 220 pounds! It will cost her \$160 for shipping, on top of the expense for a pizza party to recognize the kids who helped. You can donate through Wally Hutton’s office, or call Lindsay at 592-8448.

Let freedom ring: July 4, the Town of Paradise will host an Independence Day concert, and once again it will not use taxpayer money. That means our Rotary Club will be needed for the fourth year. This year’s lineup features three bluegrass bands. Block off noon to 5 p.m. on your calendar to attend and assist!

Another reminder: April 17, 9 a.m. to noon, Rotarians will help elders on the Ridge with their smoke detectors. This is also known as “All Rotarians at Work Day” ... hint, hint!

CHIP, CHIP, hooray: Our club has a table at the Cardiac Health Improvement Project, taking place over the next month at the Adventist church fellowship hall. The Rotary table has 10 participants, including Gil & Pat Gilbertson and Evan & Amy Tuchinsky. All told, there are 11 tables — the most ever for the Paradise program! Hopefully Gil and Evan will look slimmer and healthier, but be kind to them if (heaven forbid) they happen to cheat at Rotary lunch meetings ...

Happy campers: Trudi Angel revealed the names of our Camp Royal invitees. Ashton Rank and Stephanie Zinn emerged from the interviews as the top two candidates, and as a result they’ll get formal invitations from the District. Congrats, ladies!

Program chair: After the overwhelming response to the comedian at the previous meeting, Mary declared she is looking for a new program chair — “know of one?” ;-)

Presidential Trivia

Here is Mary’s challenge for this week, which is a two-part version of her “Two Truths, One Lie” game:

a)

- *I am a life long Californian*

- *I was a member of an NCAA Runner-up Volleyball team*

- I Love CAL

Who am I and which is my lie?

b)

- My first job after college was as a Rodeo Clown

- I currently have 350 consecutive wins of the computer card game :Free Cel

- I successfully used a "divining rod" to locate my underground septic tank in Boston.

Who am I and which is my lie?

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

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Kiley Patterson: Ran her first half-marathon—way to go! (Her next one is October in Big Sur.) **2 bells**

John Touchette: Josefa, in his care, played hooky to go snowboarding? “You allowed our foreign exchange student to cut school?” Mary asked. “Absolutely!” John replied, after Josefa tried to cover for him and learned a lesson about the 4-Way Test. **2 bells**

Speaker

Jim Carriere, ShelterBox USA

Topic: Shelter boxes

Jim, a past president of the San Rafael Harbor Club who actually lives within our District, is a representative of ShelterBox, which is “the largest Rotary club project but not a Rotary International project — yet.” He shared the history of the organization, whose origins trace two decades back to a Rotarian in Cornwall, England, where ShelterBox maintains its international headquarters and distribution warehouse. ShelterBox USA is one of its international affiliates.

ShelterBox answers the question — and needs — of what your family would do in the face of a disaster. Humans can survive three days without water and three weeks without

food, but both timelines shrink dramatically for people without shelter. So, ShelterBox dispatches lifesaving kits to victims of major emergencies. The first deployment took place in 2001, with 134 shelters put up in India. The largest deployment was a couple years ago for the Boxing Day Tsunami — 13,500 shelters. The earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have the organization well on its way to 50,000 shelters for 2010.

Each ShelterBox does in fact have a box – a large Rubbermaid-like chest that holds the ingredients for survival. Kits get customized to each specific environment, but a typical box includes a 10-person tent designed to last at least six months (but they've held up for years), water-purification equipment, a multi-fuel stove, cooking utensils, tools, ponchos and childrens' activity packs. With every 50 shelters in a community, the ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) also deploys a SchoolBox.

SRT members are volunteers who deploy at a moment's notice. ShelterBox doesn't just make deliveries; the organization insists that every shelter get put up by SRT members, ensuring that the boxes get to their intended destinations (and can be tracked). The warehouse also is staffed by volunteers, allowing ShelterBox to devote nearly 91 percent of donated funds to purchasing the kits and spend only 3.5 percent on administration. Each kit costs \$1,000.

Jim set up a shelter in the back of the Grand Ballroom, so club members could see a kit up close and personal. You can read more about a deployment on the ShelterBox Web site (<http://www.shelterbox.org/news.php?id=280>) and find out more about ShelterBox USA on its site (<http://www.shelterboxusa.org/>).

What can you do to help? Jim has four suggestions:

- Make a commitment (clubwide or individually) for:
One
Box
Every
Year
- Consider becoming a ShelterBox representative. (He's talking to you, Paul Bellefeuille!)
- Consider becoming a member of SRT.
- Make ShelterBox an annual project for the club.

“You can't pick your disaster,” Jim said. “You're not sponsoring a specific area, but you know you're going to help give something to someone who's lost everything.”
