

eCone

Meeting: April 15, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: Bob Irvine

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Inductions & Honors

April Mendes received her Blue Badge from President-Elect **Bob Irvine**, who presided over the meeting as a trial run for 2010-11 (and, in the process, developed “gavel elbow” – see Recognitions below).

Updates

Foundation Minute: Kathy Maxwell let members know that the final day for submitting checks for the District drawing would be April 16, “but don’t let that stop you from giving.”

Membership Minute: Dean Fender reminded everyone that the April 22 meeting would be “Bring a Friend to Lunch Day,” adding: “I hope that friend is a potential member and not just your wife, unless your wife is a potential member. Help our Club grow!”

Interact Minute: Trudi Angel reported that the Interact-ers will volunteer at the Chocolate Festival, on the heels of their clean-up at Paradise High.

Announcements

Salsa de Border: Nestled in her Interact Minute, Trudi shared that the event is in the “planning stages” but already got authorization for the band.

Chocolate Queen: “My days as a candidate are numbered,” Jackie Gitman says, and she hopes the final push ends with her coronation. The Greek Feast was a big success, with

100 diners eating all the food that the cooks prepared. Jackie's final fundraiser is Bowling Night on April 22, 6-8 p.m. She also gets credit for the tickets she sells to Chocolate Fest events, so if you wish to attend the Coronation and/or the Chocolate & Wine Pairing, please see her.

District honchos: Our club has two — count 'em, two! — District officers for 2010-11. Justin Miley will head up the Foreign Exchange Program, further amplifying the need for a new committee in our club (the District needs him before July 1). In addition, after her club presidency ends, Mary Bellefeuille will become the North Valley Area Assistant Governor!

Fore! Kent Rasmussen announced the Tuscan Ridge golf tournament to benefit the Sawmill Lookout needs sponsors. When is the tournament? Good question! Kent didn't remember the date, though he was pretty sure it'll be the second Friday in June, which would be June 11 assuming my calendar is right (which it might not — see Recognitions).

Fire! Mark DiDuca is organizing a Pheasant Hunt for May 1. Hunters, sign up with him.

Relay for Life: Larry Lash needs your help. The event is June 5-6, and as of the moment, our club's entry has a dull team name: "Rotarians." Please, please come up with something with more oomph! Meanwhile, at Bob's urging, he reminded the group of the Poker Tournament May 15 to benefit the event.

Presidential Trivia

Here is Mary's challenge for this week:

We've got another two cases of "Two Truths and One Lie" — who is the Rotarian and which is the lie?

- 1) * *I've never smoked a cigarette*
* *I learned to water ski when I was 6*
* *I used to weigh 300 pounds*

- 2) * *I own a banjo and a guitar*
* *I have logged 600 hours as private pilot*
* *I weigh 254 pounds*

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

Last week's winners: Bill Mannell, who identified Rob Anderson as the first mystery Rotarian, and Kathy Maxwell, who picked out Art Layton as the second (i.e. the one who couldn't be described in a single phrase, yet that's all he offered).

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

John Backues: Stealing the gavel (despite Jim Clarkson's protest, invoking the 4-Way test, that "It's not true!"). **1 bell**

Tom Sinclair: Didn't state his classification during table introductions. **1 bell**

Chuck Eppelheimer: Took too long with his table introduction. **1 bell**

Doug Martens: Called Bob "President" instead of "President-Elect" in the introduction to his table introduction. **1 bell**

Bob DiPietro: Got his badge stolen the previous week (watch out, group: April doesn't only purloin bells!). **1 bell**

Keith McBride: Didn't stand while giving details of the Interact Club's PHS clean-up. **1 bell**

Richard Irby: After declaring, "I demand to be fined," for his daughter's acceptance into the master's degree program at Humboldt State University. **4 bells**

Jim Clarkson: Too large a logo on his Hudson's Appliance shirt. **1 bell**

Bob Irvine: Self-imposed, for saying "Thanks, Art!" instead of "Thanks, Larry!" after the Relay for Life announcement. **1 bell**

Evan Tuchinsky: The last eCone, sent out via email, had a meeting date of March 27 instead of March 25. ("Do you have a calendar," Bob asked, to which was replied: "A Mayan one ... so I hope I get fined in Mayan dollars!") **1 bell**

Scott Stambaugh: Overlap of his 10th anniversary lunch with his wife and Rotary Thursday. **1 bell**

Bulletin Board

Books for the ballet: This weekend, Barnes & Noble is holding a book fair that will benefit the Northern California Ballet, Paradise's very own performing company. For more information, check <http://northerncaliforniaballet.com/forms/barnes&noble.pdf>

Speaker

Jason Matlock, Chico Outlaws

Topic: Paradise Night in the Golden Baseball League

Jason has been a fixture at Paradise Rotary meetings the past few weeks, and for good reason: He hopes to join our club! This particular meeting, he made a presentation about the professional baseball league that brought him to us.

A native of Susanville, Jason was one of the first employees of the Golden Baseball League, which began in 2004. He started out as General Manager of the Yuma Scorpions in Arizona, then turned his focus to marketing. After last season, he got the call to move to the Chico Outlaws organization along with GM Mike Marshall. Soon after, Chico hired Garry Templeton as its field manager. Both Marshall and Templeton were three-time All-Stars during their major-league playing careers. “We’re really led by the pros,” Jason explained.

The GBL is an independent league. Unlike the affiliated minor leagues that comprise the farm system of Major League Baseball, independent leagues sign free agents and are responsible for paying 100 percent of their salaries. The GBL features 10 teams — up from eight in 2009 — in two divisions. Chico plays in the GBL North, along with three teams from Canada and one in Utah. The GBL South features Yuma, Tucson and Orange County along with expansion teams in Hawaii and Mexico.

The Outlaws are drawing international attention for signing a female knuckleball pitcher from Japan. Eri Yoshida is scheduled to start the home opener, on May 28, though she primarily will work out of the bullpen. “She’s legit — she can play,” Jason said.

Among the special events during the Outlaws season is Paradise Night, which will be Saturday, July 24 against the Orange County Flyers. Rose Chapel will be the presenting sponsor (Hear that bell? It’s for Pam Gray!) — so it’s not surprising that the first 500 fans will get foam tombstones reading “R.I.P. Flyers.” Rotary has an opportunity for fundraising, with the Outlaws donating back 20 percent of co-sponsorship monies and 50 percent of ticket proceeds generated by our club. (More on this another time, should the Board approve it.)

Since Jason is new to the North State, he could use some help making Paradise Night a truly local affair. He would appreciate any leads he can get on an anthem singer, youth baseball teams, contestants and Paradise history/stories for the program. For more information on the team, check out <http://www.goldenbaseball.com/chico/>.
