

eCone

Meeting: April 22, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: John Touchette

Visiting Rotarians: David Behring, Danville; Maureen Price, Chico; Courtney Danehy, Oroville

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Inductions & Honors

Ed Doyle received his Blue Badge from John Touchette (our Past President who presided this meeting in place of early-leaver Mary Bellefeuille).

Updates

Interact Minute: Trudi Angel, modeling the group's new T-shirt, gave a big thank you to Keith McBride for spearheading the Interact-ers clean-up at Paradise High. ("He ended up with a lot of poison oak; they didn't.") She also invited Rotarians to attend Interact meetings, which take place Mondays from 6 to 6:30 p.m. at Northern California Ballet. This Monday's meeting will be at Sunshine Cottage, where the kids will help with the seniors' Bingo.

Public Relations Minute: Casey Taylor has seen our ice machine at Community Park. It's all hooked up and has a nice Rotary logo on it. Meanwhile, our new Rotary sign on Skyway is up.

Youth Exchange Minute: Justin Miley unveiled an important tidbit about our 2010-11 foreign-exchange student: She will hail from Germany! (I say "she" even though we're not positive on the gender, because Justin believes our student is female.) Applications for the first host family are needed ASAP, so if you are interested, contact Justin. Also, the Youth Exchange Committee currently stands at two members, and we need more, particularly a man to serve as male counselor. Again, contact Justin. Please.

Announcements

Josefa update: Our incumbent exchange student raised \$510 for Chilean earthquake victims during her fundraiser — her senior project at Paradise High. (Way to go!) Now she's hoping to raise \$1,000 so she can attend the Youth Exchange Safari Trip around the southwestern U.S. before she returns home. She's going to hold a yard sale May 15, with Bob Irvine accepting donations of items to sell. Meanwhile, Josefa offered to cook and to clean houses ... OK, maybe just cars, to raise additional funds.

Vote for us: Pam Gray has signed up the Teen Car Clinic for the Raley's Reach Grant opportunity. The \$7,500 award would enable the Rotary clubs involved to offer additional days of the clinic, reaching more teens. Go to www.raleys.com/reach and follow the directions to register, then the directions to vote. You'll find our Teen Car Clinic under the category "Improving the lives of children."

Rotarians at Work Day: Bill Mannell reported that 18 Paradise Rotarians installed or serviced fire detectors in 75 homes last Saturday. Wow!!!!

Hail to the new chief: Chico Rotarian Maureen Price, CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley, introduced her successor, Rashell Brobst. Accompanying them was Oroville Rotarian Courtney Danehy, BGCNV's chief development officer.

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Since Mary wouldn't entrust John with her bell, Jerry Laskey assessed all fines with a fork and water glass.

Rick Landess: Received a Regional PTA Service Award for organizing 3,000 volunteers for the Love Chico event. Along with a Rotary pin, he got: **4 bells**

Art Pollock: Featured in the paper for the Dogtown Revue, which at least he got to promote again before earning: **2 bells**

Ron Jones: Trip to Vegas. Actually, north of Vegas, where he and his wife shot pistols for four days at a club he first visited as a wedding present. "It's all Scott Steele's fault," he said ... but he, not Scott, got: **2 bells**

Speaker

David Behring, Wheelchair Foundation

Pam Gray introduced David, one of her fellow District Assistant Governors. Since 2005, he's served as president of the Wheelchair Foundation, which his father, Kenneth, founded. David got a hearty laugh when he remarked that not only was this his first time in Paradise, "it's my first time speaking in an Elks Lodge — and under a mounted head."

He praised Paradise Rotary for being "fun" and how "everyone here is energized." There's a way to get even more energized: "Go on a Rotary trip abroad. I tell people, 'You're not a true Rotarian until you've had an international experience.' "

It was on one such trip that his father got inspired to start the Wheelchair Foundation. Ferrying medical supplies to Kosovo, Kenneth was moved by a man who broke down in tears when presented with a wheelchair. The man had been stuck indoors for 15 years. "All I want to do is go outside and have a smoke with my friends," he said, and now he would be able to. "My father saw how it changed lives," David said, and the Wheelchair Foundation was born.

David shared anecdotes from trips he's made with the Foundation, to places such as Peru, Guatemala and Colombia. "I could tell 100 stories," he said. "Those experiences when you do international service stay with you your whole life."

For more information on the Wheelchair Foundation: www.wheelchairfoundation.org
