

eCone

Meeting: May 20, 2010

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Inductions & Honors

Mary welcomed two former Rotarians back into the fold — one into his third club, one back into our club. **Alex Haddon**, a member in Southern California as well as Oregon, and **Dick Howard**, who first joined the Paradise Club around 30 years ago, got re-inducted in the presence of their new sponsors: **Dean Fender** and **Larry Miller**, respectively. Dick presented Larry with a Sponsor pin, and Larry put on his glasses to put the Rotary pin on Dick. (Dean already has more sponsor pins than he can wear, so that pair's pinning went just one way.) Congratulations!

In addition, **Chris Griego** received his Blue Badge after mentioning he'd submitted his completed form to Mary. Gotcha covered, Chris.

Updates

International Minute: Speaking of returns, Gary Manwill (remember him?) shared an update on the Mochi project. There is a new grant for the water project, and nine other clubs have contributed \$33,000 to it. Whenever anyone contributes \$1,000 in International funds, the match is \$2,500, so anyone who wants to see a lot of bang for their bucks should check with Gary ... or, even better, write a check.

Youth Exchange Minute: Justin Miley asked anyone interested in serving as a host family to raise their hand. After a few silent seconds, a couple hands went up, which made him a happy man. Please contact him if you are one of those two, or someone with slower reactions but still committed. (Since host families needn't necessarily have Rotarians, consider recommending hospitable friends.) Meanwhile, Justin is printing up brochures for the program — if you would consider posting them for distribution at your business, he will be an even happier man.

Announcements

See us dance: Trudi Angel brought three guests who happen to be guests in another way — Guest Artists of the Northern California Ballet. Because she gave no specific plug while introducing them, Trudi did not incur a fine (though Gary did – see below). However, I'd be remiss as a correspondent if I didn't explain their presence, so: Guest Artists and local dancers, including a handful of your fellow Rotarians, will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Paradise Performing Arts Center on Friday and Saturday.

P.R. plug: The P.R. Committee meeting was rescheduled for next week, following the May 27 club meeting. (Among the reasons was our club photographer, Dave Bermann, was busy shooting portraits for his Picture Day Fundraiser.)

Noticias de Josefa, primera parte: The yard sale last weekend raised \$680 of the \$1,000 our favorite Chilean needs for the Southwestern Safari trip. Josefa expressed her gratitude, in particular to April Mendes, who provided "a lot of help."

Noticias de Josefa, segunda parte: The Grays are hosting a graduation party for Josefa next Friday, May 28, starting at 5:30 p.m. They don't know the exact menu for the dinner they'll serve around 7, though Brian did get a request from the honoree: "Meat!" Please come, and bring some cash for the money tree to help raise the remaining Safari funds.

Sober Graduation: Speaking of the Paradise High graduation, John Rank passed an envelope for donations to support the safe social the ceremony next Thursday.

Another type of "clean": Want to help tidy up PHS before graduation? Join Keith McBride for what he nicknamed "Yard Work Day" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The Community Clean-up will focus on the bike path bordering the campus; meet at the stadium.

Drivers wanted: We only have three drivers for the Teen Car Control Clinic on June 24, and we need five. Contact Mary.

Pumpkin (or is it Pun'kin?): If you are entering the club's pumpkin-growing contest and haven't received your seeds, see Don Peck. (Heads-up: You'll also likely walk away with a zucchini plant or three ...)

Green(back) in the bowl: Maureen Wisener reports that the club raised \$140 by passing the hat (actually, salad bowl) for Meals on Wheels Dining Out. Thanks to all who contributed!

Presidential Trivia

Since no one sent in correct answers to Mary's challenge for last week, here's a repeat:
What are the names of the 4 team captains for the 2009-2010 year?

(Everyone should know at least one of 'em — the captain of your very own team. Talk to the right three friends, and bingo!)

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

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

John Backues: Ripped the microphone out of Kathleen Dwyer's hand (1 bell), then announced he'd be the "father of the groom" for his son's wedding Friday (2 bells), then joked it's because "someone said yes to me!" (1 bell). All told: **4 bells**

Gary Manwill: Lack of Shakespearean knowledge demonstrated by saying the dancers at his table were performing "A Midnight Summer's Dream." **2 bells**

Alex Haddon: Right after his induction, got fined for the trip to Maui that resulted in his tan and his son's engagement. **2 bells**

John Downham: Back after a leave, paid the price for his son's all-league basketball honor, MVP award and recruitment by several colleges. **1 bell**

Tim Elloway: Bought out the front row for the Paradise Adventist Academy's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" starring his son. Mary asked, "How did he do?" Tim replied, "Wonderful." "Really wonderful?" "Excellent," he concluded, earning: **1 bell**

(Preview for next week: Mike Viale's phone went off during the program ...)

Speaker

Andy Holcombe, Office of Client Rights Advocacy

Topic: Serving the disabled

Most commonly known as a City Councilman and former Mayor of Chico, Andy Holcombe is an attorney who closed his housing-rights practice in order to work for

OCRA, which helps secure services for the developmentally disabled. He said, “I realize this is not new to Rotarians: back in the nonprofit world serving people in need.”

OCRA is a state-funded nonprofit organization under the umbrella of Disability Rights California. His clients come from the Far Northern Regional Center, which offers case management for individuals manifesting developmental disabilities before age 18 —and only before age 18. “There’s something very arbitrary about the regulations,” Holcombe said, acknowledging the irony of that statement coming from an elected lawmaker.

His office, with just two employees covering a five-county area, helps kids and teens get the aides and special classes they require, and helps adults get the independent living services to which they’re entitled. Sometimes, this puts him at odds with the Regional Center and other agencies, but OCRA cannot initiate litigation, so his work comprises “mediation, joint problem-solving and problem-avoidance. It’s a harmonious job.”

When disabled adults lose independent living services, it is not just an individual problem. Often, as a result of losing ILS, a person with disabilities winds up in a group home or institution. While the state may save \$1,500 a month, the federal government winds up paying thousands more for a higher level of care than that person needs. Moreover, he said, “it makes good business sense for people to learn jobs, get employable skills and [become able to] be volunteers in the community.” That’s what he seeks in advocating for his clients.

Holcombe finds common ground between his organization and ours. Take the 4-Way Test: Both OCRA and Rotary seek the truth, fairness and goodwill to everyone, and building community. “We’re philosophically attuned,” he observed.

What people may not know is all that’s being done — “there’s a big network in California for people with disabilities.” There are many ways to help, such as volunteering as an aide. Particularly important, he said, is the awareness that “the nonprofit world is a significant part of our community — something we should keep in mind while policy-setting.”
