

The Rotarygram



Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Volume 4, Issue 27

Club 724 — District 5260

January 12, 2005

Meeting Highlights



From left, Richard French, Pres.-Elect Barbara Baerg and President Carlos Rivera.

Joe DiFatta introduced our speaker, Richard J. French, from Los Angeles World Airports who showed some very interesting pictures and told us of the history of Van Nuys Airport.

Did you know that many scenes from the classic picture "Casablanca" were shot at the Van Nuys Airport? Or that the airport was purchased from the US Government for the handsome price of \$1.00 when it was declared surplus?

Van Nuys Airport, started in 1928, was first called Metropolitan Airport. For many years, it was home to the Air National Guard...until 1990. One of four among the Los Angeles World Airports, Van Nuys has about 500,000 take-offs and landings per year. Our airport is the home of numerous

services, supports 10,000 jobs and contributes over \$1 billion to our local economy.

Thanks, Joe, for another good program!

Visitors

Rotarians:

- PDG Eliseo D.W. Guana introduced by Ruben Corona.
- Tom and Lynne Harris, Kerry Beal and Harley Malloy from the provisional Frasier Park club.
- Arlene Alpert of Encino CC.

Guests:

- Larry Winnick introduced Barry Eisenman as a guest of the club.



PDG Eli Guana Ruben Corona

"The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed."

Sebastiem-Roch Chamfort

Tsunami Disaster Relief — RI and District 5260 are participating in the relief efforts being launched to save lives in the disaster areas. You can help with **your donation** directed to the District 5260 Treasurer or to our Treasurer, Pete Satuloff.

Attendance Requirement

- One of the responsibilities of membership in a Rotary club is fulfilling the minimum attendance requirement.

Purpose of Attendance

- The purpose of the attendance requirement is to foster fellowship among club members.
- Attending club meetings is your opportunity to make new friends and keep in touch with established friends.
- Meetings also keep you in touch with the current events of your club, district, and Rotary International.
- Attending club meetings expedites your input and participation in community service projects.



Are you upholding your commitment to Rotary?

Announcements

- Paul Davis announced the Encino Chamber Mixer this Friday and the Mid-Valley Mixer next Thursday.
- Ed Anderson reported on the South Asia Tsunami relief efforts and showed an email from the District concerning Rotary participation in this massive effort. You may direct your contributions to the agency of your choice — or forward them to our Club Treasurer, Pete Satuloff who will see that they get into the hands of our District Treasurer.
- Barbara Baerg said that a “Fireside Chat” is being scheduled for Friday night, February 11, 2005 at the home of Pete and Mari Satuloff for indoctrination of newer Rotarians. Barb also reminded all that the Valentine’s Luncheon on February 9th will be your chance to host your spouse, significant other...or any you may wish to bring.
- Leo O’Biecunas is running another fund-raiser in the manner of a pool on the Super Bowl.
- Joe DiFatta is promoting the sale of coffee next week to aid the **Tsunami Relief** effort.
- Jim Sullivan reported specifics on the December 23, 2004 Rotary Blood Drive where 21 donors were the source for 51 units of usable blood products...Jim has 6 drives planned for 2005. Jim is also putting final plans together for our club to paint a building for Tierra del Sol (near Van Nuys Blvd. And Gilmore) sometime in February. Any painters out there?

The Spotlight's On...

JAMIE CORDARO



One bitterly cold January day in 1985, James "Jamie" Cordaro made a life-changing decision at the top of a 32-foot extension ladder. He was repairing a power light on a 40-foot pole at the White Beauty View Resort on Lake Wallenpaupack in Pennsylvania and couldn't feel his

hands because of the below-zero temperatures. "I thought, 'I'm 28 years old...what am I doing here?'" he recalls.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania and raised in Honesdale, Jamie had decided early on that he didn't want a career with his father's restaurant business. He took business classes at Scranton University after high school, then enrolled in Lincoln Technical Institute, a vocational school in Union, NJ where he studied air-conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

Jamie started his first company -- Cordaro's Electric & Refrigeration -- in 1981 at 24 years of age. Four years later, after the epiphany on the ladder, he sold the company and moved to California where he married his wife, Leslie, and worked as a qualified electrician overseeing supermarket remodels for four years. His current company -- All Phase Electrical Systems -- opened February 13, 1989 in an 850-square-foot building on Valjean in Van Nuys. Today, All Phase Electrical Systems occupies 2,400-square-feet of space on Densmore in Van Nuys.

While building his business in Van Nuys, Jamie has also been an active volunteer in the community. He is president of the Independent Electrical Contractors of Southern California and a board member or director in numerous community and civic organizations in the Valley. He has served as president of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce and -- more recently -- as president of the Rotary Club of Van Nuys.

Jamie's proud of his contributions to Rotary, including the creation of the weekly student recognition and book donation programs. "When I joined Rotary," he remembers, "there was very little done for vocational service. I felt it was important to get Rotary's name out there." He and Ken Benson put their heads together, he says, to plan and then implement the program that now recognizes students from three high schools and two social service agencies. The club's vocational service program also benefits students from Cohasset Elementary School in Van Nuys who receive one or two books each week from the club.

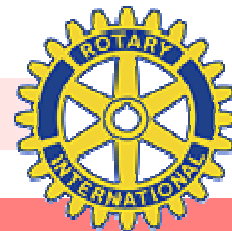
Vocational *training* is very important to Jamie, too. He is lobbying hard to convert the old Montgomery Wards building in Panorama City into a true vocational school to teach all the trades, including electrical, air conditioning, refrigeration and plumbing, among others. "We need a true vocational school in the Valley," he says, adding that the community and the state would reap financial benefits from an educated workforce earning

\$24-26/hour rather than the \$6 or \$7 dollars an hour they now earn in unskilled positions. "Training also benefits both the union and non-union work force," he believes, "because it helps suppress a lot of the underground market of unlicensed workers."

A past candidate for Los Angeles City Council, Jamie is now a candidate for the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, with elections set for February 19. He wants to make a difference, he says, and looks forward to working with the community if elected. He believes that the Neighborhood Council can have a major voice in benefiting Van Nuys.

Whether elected or not, Jamie plans to run for a political office again in the future. "I enjoy helping people and believe in giving back to the community and volunteering," he explains. "As an elected official, you have a lot more clout and can bring ideas to the table to get things done."

"We need a true vocational school in the Valley."



"Service Above Self"

Rotary Club of Van Nuys

Upcoming Programs

- Jan. 19 **Recognition Luncheon** — Van Nuys Rotary will honor contributors and participants who have helped us so greatly in our recent projects.
- Jan. 26 LA Unified School District — **John Schroeder**, Director for Elementary Schools. Program chair: Cherie Spamer.
- Feb. 2 **Burma-Shave Signs** — Dan Durkee will fill us in on how this '50s advertising innovation entertained and sold shaving cream.
- Feb. 9 **Valentine's Day Luncheon** — Bring your sweetheart(s) to celebrate. Joe DiFatta promises music and fun! Sign-up with Barb Baerg next week.
- Feb. 16 **LAPD Ed Davis Training Center** — Officer Michael Dutton, Facilities Management Unit, will give us his inside view.
- Feb. 23 **Elmer Jordan, Past RI Director**, will talk about **100 Years of Rotary**. To be held at the Airtel Plaza Hotel.

BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 25 Robin O'Biecnas
- Jan. 26 Helen Worthen
- Jan. 29 Vickie Smith
- Feb. 3 Ruben Corona
- Feb. 4 Marsha DiFatta
- Feb. 10 Dan Schlick
- Feb. 13 Leslie Cordaro
- Feb. 13 Molly Winnick

HOT DATES

- Jan. 15 District Leadership Meeting — 11 a.m. at Sam's Café, New Horizons.
- April 23 **25th Annual Van Nuys Invitational Track Meet** at Birmingham High School. Victory Blvd. at Woodley.
- May 19-23 District Conference, Doral Resort Hotel in Palm Springs.
- March 4-6 RYLA <http://www.rotary5260.org/ryla/>
- June 18-22 RI Centennial Convention, Chicago, IL Celebrating 100 years of Rotary!

We're on the web! VanNuysRotary.org

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