

THE ROTARYGRAM

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

This week's meeting was the first of the new year and was started off smartly by President Kidwell who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken Benson filled in on the Invocation and Barbara Baerg shared her enthusiasm with us as she led the club in singing "God Bless America". President Kidwell then started handing out permanent badges to new members who had joined the club in the first half of the Rotary year.

The first badge was handed out to Bill Selcer who has a long history with Rotary and we are all looking forward to his contributions.

Next was Major George Beecham of the Salvation Army who was asked if he has kept his badges from previous clubs. The Major said he did not but if he did he could recycle them and make enough to fund the club for the year.

The third badge went to Carlos Rivera who should have been given two badges because he has twice as much enthusiasm as any Rotarian in the club.

The long waiting Larry Feige was the fourth member to receive his badge today but the lack of it

hasn't kept him from being involved in virtually every project that the club has had in the last six months.

Gentlemen we welcome you one and all.

President Archie then asked PDG Joe DiFatta to give us a wrap-up on the Holiday Greeting program and Joe was pleased to tell us that the program raised over \$800 which completely paid for the food baskets that we gave Away to needy families from Cohasset Elementary School. Our thanks to Joe for heading this project and to all the club members who participated.

Since Joe was already standing, it seemed like a good time to ask him about the Reverse Raffle which is to be our major fundraiser for the year. Joe stated that ticket sales will be starting in the next few weeks with the goal being to sell 250 tickets at \$100 each. The winning ticket will receive \$12,000 and there are numerous other opportunities to win. All proceeds after paying out the winners will be used by the club for service projects in the community. Joe also mentioned that Pete Satuloff will be co-chairing the event with him. We hope that everyone in the club will get behind this fun fundraiser and we invite others in the district to come



Barbara Baerg led us in the singing of "God Bless America".

see what it's all about.

Mike Quiroga was then asked to tell us what his International Avenue has planned for the next six months and Mike responded with an earful.

He said that the club is working with Volunteer Optometrists Serving Humanity (VOSH) to put on an eye clinic in Baja California North, Mexico and has a trip planned to the Bob and Marty Rice School located in the hills to the east of Rosarito Beach, Mexico for the purpose of delivering school supplies and doing a few needed repairs on the school.

He also mentioned that we would be taking some computers down to the Red Cross in Rosarito Beach and may be doing a similar project in Bolivia.

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH



Our best wishes and prayers go out to Mike Quiroga's mother in Bolivia who has a serious illness.

Also to Marty Rice who is receiving platelet transfusions. If you could donate platelets to her it would be appreciated. Contact Bob.

As always we hope that our fellow Rotarian Grant Lippert will regain his health and be able to join us again.

Red kangaroos can clear up to 40 feet in a single bound, reaching speeds of 30 miles per hour.

The RI Board of Directors met November 2-7, 2002 and reviewed reports from 20 committees and recorded 143 decisions.

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary.

Rotary is now in 164 countries. Can you name them?

In the past 200 years, more than 90 % of Australia's rain forest has been lost, and the rest is under threat of development and invasive species.

The polio eradication fundraising campaign kicks into high gear this month, with the deadline to raise \$80 million just 6 months away.

Teddy bear sales in Canada are raising funds for polio.

"People are illogical, un-

reasonable, and self centered. Love them anyway" Kent Keith, Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise, Hawaii.

Where will you find a Rotary club with members representing more than 20 nationalities? Singapore.

Do most of your friends, neighbors, and business associates know that Rotary is a service organization that benefits the community?

This is an ideal time to explain the purpose and projects of Rotary.



It was nice to see Dr. Guy Mangia at this week's meeting. It would have been nicer to go skiing with him in Switzerland. President Archie spoke with Guy about his experience and what it

meant to him and then he spoke with Guy about what his trip means to the club.

You editor also took a little time over the holidays to travel to eastern Tennessee to meet family.

Larry Feige has been a busy guy as usual and President Archie recog-

nized that fact. Exactly what it was all about eluded us but I have no doubt that our fearless leader gave him the recognition that he deserved.

Mike Quiroga was the winner of our raffle and donated his winnings to the Sea Cadet program which happened to be our program for the day.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

Next week we will hear from club member and former president Don Fetherolf who is the current chairman of the Van Nuys Rotary Foundation.

The foundation serves as the funding arm for many community projects that the club is involved in and

operates in a similar fashion to the RI Foundation in that it distributes earnings to be used and not principal.

Don will be talking about how the foundation works, the kind of requests that it funds, how you can contribute to it, as well as giving us a little history of the

Foundation.

This is your Foundation and we hope that you will be there to learn more about it.

The following week we will be celebrating RI's 98th birthday and the following week will be the extremely important club assembly.



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



Lieutenant Jack Thomas and instructor Villagosa.

With us today was Lt. Jack Thomas of the Sea Cadet program and one of his instructors who had been a cadet in the program and then went on to serve in the U.S. Navy. He has now returned to work with disadvantaged youth in the program.

The parents are the backbone of the program but they are badly in need of funds to help keep things going with a new meeting place, provide for transportation to Navy training sights and to provide scholarships to those cadets who cannot afford the monthly dues.

The Sea Cadets program is for at risk youth and is supported by the US Navy. Since September 11th they have no longer been able to meet at the Navy Marine Corp Reserve building here in Van Nuys.

They will be having a banquet awards ceremony on January 31st to help raise money and if you are interested in attending or would like additional information please contact Rotarian Gary Cunial who works with the program.

Rotary District 5260



2003 CALENDAR

January Rotary Awareness Month
11th District Leadership Meeting
Sam's Café, New Horizons, North Hills, 8:30am

February World Understanding Month
8th District Leadership Meeting
Sam's Café, New Horizons, North Hills, 8:30am

March World Rotaract Week
7-9th PETS- - Presidents Elect Training Seminar, LAX Marriott
8th District Leadership Meeting
Sam's Café, New Horizons, North Hills, 8:30am
14-16th RYLA- -Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Salvation Army Camp, Malibu

April Magazine Month
12th District Leadership Meeting
Sam's Café, New Horizons, North Hills, 8:30am

May District Conference
10-11th Studio City/Sherman Oaks Art Show, Van Nuys Sherman Oaks park
15-18th District Conference
Mission Inn, Riverside

June Leadership Training
1-4 Rotary International Convention
Brisbane, Qld, Australia

FUTURE CONVENTIONS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Osaka, Japan
May 23-26, 2004

Chicago, Illinois
June 19-22, 2005
(100th anniversary of Rotary International)

Copenhagen, Denmark & Malmo, Sweden
June 11-14, 2006





Dear fellow Rotarians,

We have reached the midpoint of this Rotary year, and it has been a challenging six months, marked by economic uncertainty and instability around the world. Despite their own hardships, Rotarians are doing their part to bring peace and harmony to troubled areas. Through humanitarian service projects, they are offering hope to those who have almost given up on life and are helping to SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE, which have taken root and changed so many lives for the better.

As we enter the second half of the year, I would like to ask Rotarians to look within themselves and ask, "Can I do even more?" I would like to ask members to challenge themselves to achieve an even higher level of service. Such a commitment reflects the very essence of a Rotarian.

Each club needs to evaluate its progress at this point. When I had the honor to begin serving in this position in July 2002, I appealed to all Rotarians to focus on three major areas: increasing membership based on specific club goals and the classification system, supporting at least one project or program of The Rotary Foundation of RI, and initiating or continuing at least one activity within each of the four Avenues of Service (Club, Vocational, Community, and International). I did not introduce any new programs because I felt that concentrating on these basics would result in a strong, well-balanced club.

During my travels, I have witnessed the dedication and tireless work of Rotarians around the globe. They are an inspiration to their clubs and their communities. I am gratified that Rotarians have wholeheartedly embraced this year's polio eradication fundraising campaign, Fulfilling Our Promise: Eradicate Polio, to raise US\$80 million to help eradicate polio by 2005. I encourage every Rotarian to contribute to this historic effort. We must keep our promise to the world's children.

The 2002-03 Rotary year will culminate with the RI Convention in Brisbane, Australia, 1-4 June (see pages 17-44). This event provides Rotarians with an opportunity to learn more about Rotary's programs, make contacts for initiating service projects, and enjoy fellowship at the international level. Clubs are also preparing for the greatest celebration of all – Rotary's centennial in 2005. I encourage every club to organize a centennial community project to serve as a lasting reminder of Rotary's contributions to the world.

As we begin the new year, I would like to wish you and your families happiness, health, and peace. My greatest hope for 2003 is that every Rotarian experience the true joy of Rotary service. This can take many forms, whether it's reading a book to a child, building a shelter for the homeless, or teaching people a vocation that will provide financial and emotional security. As we begin the second half of this Rotary year, let us continue to SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE, both at home and abroad.



**A letter from
RI President
Bhichai Rattakul**

**Bhichai Rattakul
President, Rotary International**