

The San Diego Housing Commission



Tom Gable
Editor

Themes of change, inspiration and community service permeated the March 26 meeting.

Liza Strom provided the Inspirational Moment, followed by the Pledge and *You're a Grand Old Flag* led by **Steve Hubbard** and accompanied by **Suzu Spafford**.

Bert Wahlen covered the news, which was sponsored by **Nancy Laterno-Bojanic** of Mainly Mozart.

David Oates gave highlights of the 40th Camp Enterprise and the major changes made in a few days to spirits and attitudes of 84 students. Hesitant and skeptical at the beginning, the high school students were put into teams to create companies and compete. The team building with kids they had never met before created new energy. Mentors gave them broader skills to use in building and marketing their companies and competing for awards. The students left with increased levels of confidence, better comfort zones and new lights in their eyes as to what is possible. It was no longer predestined as to what they could do – their lives could be changed forever.

John Pelle updated us on the Tennis Committee and the upcoming tournament on May 6. **Jan McDonough** was fined for recent news coverage of her award as a leading estate planning attorney. **George Driver** and **Chuck Pretto** were honored with their billionth Paul Harris Fellow pins.

President Michelle jabbed the members with references to old men losing their hair and smoothly transitioned to recognizing a new youth movement, most notably professional women having babies. She presented **Lauren Lek, Jamie Moraga, Cari**

McCormick and **Laura Buckley** with a baby onesie that read, "I (heart) San Diego Rotary."

Kate Carinder was hailed as Rotarian of the Quarter for her work with the Military Affairs Committee and hosting foreign exchange students, a life-changing experience she recommended for all Rotarians.

Frank Urtasun, Regional VP of External Relations for SDG&E, was Chair of the Day. He awarded a couple from Queensland, Australia, visitors from the greatest distance, with an energy saving kit (which may need serious adaptors and plugs for the Aussie electrical system).

Frank introduced our speaker, **Rick Gentry**, President and CEO of the San Diego Housing Commission, which has 260 employees and a \$340 million budget. Rick showed a short video that hit the highlights, including that since 1981, the commission has issued more than \$1 billion in bonds and loans and created 15,400 rental housing units in the city.

Rick said the challenge with speaking about the commission is that it is frequently misunderstood, if thought about at all. The commission is a local municipal corporation and not part of the federal government, although 80 percent of its funds are from the Fed.

Rick has had a career of over 43 years in affordable housing and said the San Diego Housing Commission has been a leader in many ways. It was the first agency in the U.S. to get approval to use federal rental voucher funding for the chronically homeless, enabling them to live throughout the community.

Continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING

April 2

Len Hering

Executive Director

Center for Sustainable Energy

Rear Admiral Leendert "Len" Hering Sr. (U.S. Navy, retired) is a prominent military and civilian sustainability leader with a broad background in energy and environmental issues. His passion in sustainability is educating people on the dangers the future holds without taking responsible actions to secure the nation's energy independence and to preserve water, air quality and other resources.

His presentation will address the following questions: Are we truly sustainable, and what does the future hold if we aren't looking to make sure the future is secure today? How is our world changing and what can we do today to make sure the future of our grandchildren is as prosperous as ours? What can each of us do to make sure we are doing what we can, knowing what's in store?



Chair of the Day
Greg Pyke

QUICK BITS

FINAL REMINDER: 2015-2016 ROSTER/DIRECTORY UP-DATES

We are currently in the process of putting together the new club directory. If you have not already done so, please submit any changes to your contact information to the Rotary office immediately. The deadline to submit your changes is on **April 3rd**. For the roster update form, [click here](#).

SPRING TENNIS TOURNAMENT—May 6 at 5:00 at the Barnes Tennis Center

in Point Loma. All skill levels welcome. Entry fee is \$25. Any questions, contact [John Peelle](#). Register on our website.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING CLASS - Save the date! The next class will be on Thursday, April 9 at 1:30 immediately after our program.

BIRTHDAYS

Gayle Hom	March	30
Christina Gustin		31
Chuck Duddles		31
B.J. Williams	April	1
Bill McColl		2
Joe Watkins		3

San Diego Housing Commission

Continued

Public housing is a failed business model, he said, so the move to vouchers was a major positive transformation. More than 15,000 families live in the community. The program supports private sector landlords, too.

The commission also had a landmark federal agreement in 2007, which transferred properties valued at \$124 million. The commission was able to leverage the equity from those properties and borrow to invest in other housing. It recently opened the renovated Hotel Sandford in downtown, with 129 units for low-income seniors.

The commission is opening a year round interim housing program for homeless adults at St. Vincent De Paul in the East Village. For 29 years, the city would put up tents during the winter, and then shut them down between April and July. The 365-day facility will create more opportunities for dealing with the homeless of all types. The commission has ancillary programs, such as helping 5,000 first-time homebuyers through grants and loans and second mortgages. The program has a failure rate of just one half of one percent, he said.

In answer to questions, Rick said the homeless population is not decreasing as the economy improves. There are large visible concentrations in downtown, the East Village and the San Diego River bottom in Mission Valley. He said a majority of the homeless are chronic. Some are economically displaced and others chose to be, such as those in Ocean Beach who are aggressive panhandlers, plus some drug dealers.

Rick said the city needs to provide more resources to handle that problem, plus find ways to create more housing. The commission has a waiting list of 54,000 families. He thanked Rotarians for giving him the opportunity to present.



If you would like to participate in the San Diego Breath of Hope Lung Cancer Walk to help support Craig Blower, click on the link to register. <https://act.ucsd.edu/breathofhopewalk/>

CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LIBERTY STATION CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

April

- 2 *Len Hering-Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Energy*
- 9 *Captain Mark Cedrun, USN (Ret.)*
- 16 *Elliot Hirshman, President, SDSU*
- 23 *Betty Peabody, Balboa Park & Rotary*

GROTARIAN EVENTS

GREAT NEWS COOKING SCHOOL

Tuesday, April 21

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Cost \$49 per person

This is a demonstration class that includes a tasting of all prepared recipes and two glasses of wine per person

Please visit us on our [website](#) to get further info and to register for this event.

Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106

Michelle Candland, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

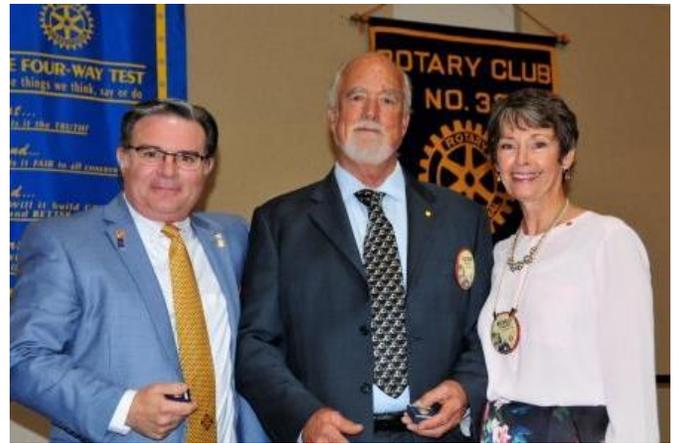
San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943

Phone: 619/299-3309 Fax: 619/299-3340 ♦ e-mail: paul@rotary33.org ♦ website: <http://www.sandiegorotary.club>

FACES IN THE CROWD



Rick Gentry was thanked by President Michelle and Chair of the Day Frank Urtasun.



Chuck Pretto and George Driver both received additional Paul Harris Fellow recognitions from President Michelle.



Jan McDonough was fined for being named “ Top Attorney in Trusts & Estate Planning” by San Diego Magazine.



Lauren Lek, Laura Buckley, Cari McCormick and Jamie Moraga received gifts for their newborns.



A well-deserving Kate Carinder was awarded “Rotarian of the Quarter” by President Michelle.



Camp Enterprise Chair David Oates briefed the club on another wildly successful camp.

2015 ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY



SIGN UP NOW ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015



Online registration is underway at www.sandiegorotary.club

- ◆ Balboa Park Nursery
- ◆ Peace Garden—Jackie Robinson YMCA
 - ◆ Storefront Youth Shelter
 - ◆ St. Paul’s Senior Services
- ◆ Chollas Creek Trail Enhancement and Clean-up with Hoover Interacts
- ◆ Military Affairs Committee at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
 - ◆ San Diego Humane Society
 - ◆ San Diego Public Library
 - ◆ San Diego Zoo Animal Enrichment
 - ◆ San Elijo Lagoon Restoration
- ◆ I Love A Clean San Diego—Southcrest Community Park & Recreation



DON'T FORGET TO TAKE PICTURES!

MEMBERSHIP

The following applicants were recommended to the Board of Directors by the Membership Committee and will be approved for membership unless objections are received at the Rotary office by April 8.

Mary Brown – “News Media - Online”

Frank Caperino – “Consultant - Franchise”

Ricardo da Rosa – “Commercial Fishing”

Janet Fagan – “Telecommunications – Service Provider”

Courtney Liddy – “Investment – Wealth Management A.A.”

Kathlyn Mead – “Foundation – Community”

Mark Neville – “Associations – S.D. Bowl Games”

GROTARIAN EVENT—USS MIDWAY

Thank you to everyone who attended the Grotarian event on the USS Midway on March 23rd. It was an inspiring event with 75 people in attendance! Mac McLaughlin and his crew were especially welcoming and the food from Peartrees Catering was truly amazing. This event couldn't have happened without the help of **Dennis Burks, John Hawkins** and **Diana MarJip-Chuh**. Kudos to all who were involved!



MAC COMMITTEE—FEED THE TROOPS

On Tuesday, March 25, members of the Club 33 Military Affairs Committee fed about 400 Marines and other military personnel at the Lindbergh Field USO facility. Egg sandwiches for breakfast and a barbecue lunch was provided.

Kathy Koenig worked with her vendors to obtain barbecue food and her Culinary Concepts kitchen cooked breakfast sandwiches and baked muffins. Two shifts of MAC members worked long and hard to be sure the military guests were fed and thanked for their military service. These Rotarians brightened the day for military personnel: **Rick Huenefeld, Jerry Van Ert, Penny Robbins, Lynn Congemi, Kate Carinder, William Wise, Troy Wilson, Jim Wynkoop, Deirdre Maloney, Dick Eger, Guy Maddox, Jim Fitzpatrick** and **Rick Jackson**.

A huge BRAVO to these wonderful Rotarians!



DISTRICT NEWS

RYLA FACILITATORS STILL NEEDED

April 17th - 19th is RYLA, the district's 11th grade leadership program. In order for RYLA to function, they need 32 Rotarians in addition to the RYLA committee members. Currently, they have 32 Rotarians and no alternates. They need to be prepared in the event that facilitators back out.

THEY NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The district is asking club members to volunteer to be a facilitator. Females are especially appreciated since 70% of the students are females and they need to have women Rotarians in their dorms.

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to the [RYLA website](#) to sign up.

Contact Walt Waggener (walt.waggener.b8gk@statefarm.com or 760-931-5393) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help.