

Now Batting...John Morrell



David Oates
Editor

Surrounded by family and colleagues, **John Morrell** was sworn in by renowned public servant, Jerry Sanders, as our club's 107th President. More on that in a bit.

Past President Peter "What's his name again?"

Duncan called the meeting to order by introducing Higgs, Fletcher & Mack Partner **Laura Buckley**, who lavished praises on her boss and mentor. Head's up: John is a very convincing delegator, she says, so expect some phone calls!

After a well-placed "Field of Dreams" movie clip, **Steve Hubbard** belted out a little known stanza of the 1908 "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" song before directing the crowd to join him in crooning the more popular chorus. He then led attendees in singing Happy Birthday to both John and Jerry who, appropriately enough, turned 29 (again) on the very same day of our meeting.

Peter then performed the customary duties as the newest addition to the Royal Order of the "Has Beens" by touting some of John's personal and professional accomplishments. Most notably, our newest President, the incredibly successful and long-standing Managing Partner of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, married up 27 years ago after being set up on a date with his bride, Liz, by his future mother-in-law. A Clairemont High School alum, he and a myriad of siblings and children are noted (and reportedly rare) Chico State grads. After Jerry performed the ceremonial swearing-in duties, Peter came back one final time to adorn John with his Rotary Presidents' Pin and, in setting a new precedence, wife Liz with her Rotary Spouse pin that was appropriately bigger than her husband's. With the training wheels removed, John swore in this year's Board of Directors and dispensed with the usual, long inauguration speech. Instead, he spoke for five minutes on key initiatives for the year: promoting fellowship, leadership, collaboration and service.

John explained that many of us remain in the club for different reasons than

when we joined, largely thanks to the friends we make and the impact that we have in the community. To that end, he will be spearheading more informal gathering events through the Carouse and Commerce Committee and will leverage our club's website and social media to communicate even more with members. John also declared that the money being raised this year will support both local and international efforts. Lastly, he asked us all to volunteer on September 17 to support the joint club and Padres' "Stop Hunger Now" event by packaging 30,000 meals to feed the hungry. More details forthcoming.

That pitch made for an excellent segue into the rest of the program that featured Padres CEO Mike Dee and Tom Seidler of the club's ownership group, who, thanks to moderator and broadcaster Jesse Agler, gave us a status report on the most recent All-Star festivities and an update on the team. Here's a summation:

Best. All-Star. Experience. Ever! MLB execs, fans and television viewers all raved about the world class production of what was a week of activities anchored in what USA Today named the "Best Ballpark in Baseball." Several community and family related events - including a 5K run, yoga, kids' softball, celebrity match and Home Run Derby - preceded the actual game to the delight of tens of thousands. The All-Star event wasn't just one night, but, in fact, several days' worth of fun-filled programs, many of which were open to the public.

Philanthropic Projects Abound. Thanks to the Padres and the MLB Foundation, \$5 million in various capital improvements were donated to non-profits all over San Diego County and south of the border. One closest to our Rotary club home was the opening of new ballfields at the Jackie Robinson YMCA that will be one of several showcase pieces for the new campus when construction is completed next year. Baseball has been very, very good to this town!

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Next Meeting

July 21, 2016

San Diego History Center

Guest Speakers:

Bill Lawrence, Executive Director,
Matt Schiff, Marketing Director and
Sarah Matteson, Education Coordinator

You think you know San Diego...but do you?

On July 21st, the San Diego History Center presents the fun, unusual and, at times, provocative how and why the San Diego region is what it is today. It's more than sun, sand and suds, but of the successes (and missteps) of those who have made their mark on our region. From discovery of our area before Jamestown was discovered, to how we could have been called "San Miguel," to the first passenger air service in the United States, the quirky start to the San Diego Zoo and the changing face of the U.S. Mexico Border—the collections of the San Diego History Center will illustrate how these firsts came to be. The audience will get the opportunity to see up close and personal some of the objects that are part of the History Center's collections.



Tom Fetter
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

New Program Costs

In our recent member survey, you gave very high marks to the staff and experience at Liberty Station. The satisfaction level with the lunch increased, and there was a significant increase in the satisfaction with the service and amenities. We have negotiated a multi-year agreement to remain here into the foreseeable future. **Effective July 1, for those of you that eat, there will be a 3.2% increase which equates to a \$1 per lunch increase.**

Also, as we have mentioned, the weekly cost for us is more than just the food cost for lunch. It includes the room rental, A/V, meeting rooms, etc. (Parking is free!) We surveyed the non-eaters who sit at the beverage only tables or in the seats in back. By a more than 10:1 margin, these members agreed that it is fair that they share the cost of the attendance. **Therefore, effective July 1, there will be a \$5 charge per meeting for non-eaters.**

BIRTHDAYS

July

Nancy Scott	18
Vern Aguirre	18
Bill Beamer	19
Rick McElvain	20
Bert Wahlen	22
Denis Vanier	23
Suzy Spafford	23
Craig Evanco	23
Troy Wilson	23
Courtney Liddy	24

Now Batting *continued*

Collaboration Made This Possible. Dee was quick to spread ‘Thank You’s around to a wide range of organizations that helped make the All-Star festivities possible. He specifically cited Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s office as well as the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Port of San Diego and an army of volunteers (www.padres.com/volunteer).

\$60 Million Reasons to Be Optimistic.

That’s how much money the Padres invested in acquiring overseas talent to reverse the deficit in its farm system. Ownership has placed a great emphasis in drafting young prospects as well as tightening processes and procedures that will develop them into major league-caliber players. While the current roster has been made up of “good instrument players,” Dee noted that the “band didn’t sound all that good together.” He promised that the plan being executed today will bear fruit. Operating in a small market is often an excuse, but not a detriment, according to Seidler, who went on to express the organization’s commitment to a consistent winning way. Patience is the watchword for now.

John concluded his first meeting with his own take on the speaker’s gift—a hand-selected print of a photo of Lane Field, courtesy of his beloved San Diego History Center. It will make a terrific addition to The Padres’ Hall of Fame Museum at Petco Park. I look forward to seeing it up close as well as you all soon - in service!



The Morrell family: (from the left) older son Nicholas, John, Liz and younger son Ryan.

CALENDAR

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

July

21 Bill Lawrence, San Diego History Center

28 SDYS’s International Youth Symphony

August

4 Andrew Hewitt, GameChangers 500

11 Dr. Octavio Aburto, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

GROTARIAN EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 13
Annual Grotarian Poolside Chat
Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Cost: FREE**

Red Badgers! Please come and learn more about Club 33 and our committees as we enjoy President John Morrell’s delicious Pozole by the pool.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Save the date!

**Tuesday, October 18
Grotarian event at WFW Industries & Workshops for Warriors**

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President John adjourns his first official meeting.

Dear Club 33 Members,

Here is a summary of my message and goals for the 2016-2017 Rotary year:

- Our Rotary theme this year is “Fellowship through leadership, collaboration and service.”
- What makes this club exceptional is its members. This club is comprised of the premier business and civic leaders in our community.
- Why we joined may be much different than why we stay in the club: We stay because of the many good things this club does; we have interesting programs; we stay because of the service we perform; we stay because of the fellowship we share with other members in doing these things.
- This year will be in tribute to our fellowship. It will also be in tribute to other very cherished San Diego institutions.

- We started a new committee: the Carouse and Commerce Committee. This committee, chaired by rising stars in our club, will allow you to experience fellowship through after hours events outside our normal meeting, date and time.
- We will have a number of off-campus lunch meetings and programs. For instance, on August 25, our regular meeting will be held at MCRD. We will hear about how that very important institution transforms raw recruits into U.S. Marines.
- We are retooling our website and will be utilizing new communication methods through social media.
- Monies we raise this year in our own foundation will be used to fund important local needs as well as our good works that we do internationally through our M.O.S.T. program.
- We will be having a club-wide service project joint-ventured with our own San Diego Padres. It will be held at Petco Park on Saturday, September 17. We will package over 30,000 meals to feed the hungry. We want you to bring family - your kids and/or grandkids—to this event.
- Most importantly, we intend this year to be rewarding and fun!

I am looking forward to working with all of you in service this year.

*Sincerely Yours,
President John Morrell*



Save the date!
Saturday, September 17
Stop Hunger Now event with Club 33 and the San Diego Padres
at Petco Park
Details coming soon!



CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



FACES IN OUR CROWD



CLUB 33 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The final round of the San Diego Rotary Golf Championship for 2015-2016 has concluded and we have a new champion – **Bonnie Schwartz!** Past President Bonnie blitzkrieged the field with a stellar 63 in the last round highlighted by the rarest score in golf—the much sought after but rarely attained albatross, or double eagle—three under par for one hole. Unbelievable, but true! (Disclaimer: the Rotary golf tournament is a “net” tournament, meaning Bonnie scored a natural birdie on the tough Par 5 second hole and picked up the extra two strokes on that hole with her handicap.) The great start to her round propelled Bonnie through the next 16 holes, including a net eagle on the also difficult 12th, a long par 4 into the wind. Bonnie, no stranger to the championship podium as this is her second Club 33 Golf crown, proclaimed after the emotionally draining match, “Mama! Mama! I love you, Mama!”

Former Club 33 Golf Champ, former San Diego Country Club President and former Club 33 President **Don Tarte**, who claimed to be a former golfer, breezed to a net-67 to fight the good fight with Bonnie, but succumbed by two strokes to Bonnie’s brilliance, securing sole second place. **Guy Maddox** and **Ellis Smith**, both hungry for the title, were dusted by three shots and tied for third. PGA pro **Tom Wilson**, never figuring out how to play from the challenging silver tees, skied to an 83, was never a factor in the final round and blamed his performance on the pin placements.

Perhaps the most exciting news of the final round (for **Marten Barry**, at least!) was **Rich Donnelly**, after spending some time at the 19th hole, volunteering to take the reins of the Golf Committee next year when Marten has promised to retire at the end of President John Morrell’s term. Good luck, Rich!

