

THE ROTATOR

Vol. 103, No. 19 November 17, 2016

SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

A Time for Giving



Craig Nelson
Editor

It's a special day when the Rotarians are banging down the doors to get in early to the luncheon! The room was lined with bargains galore and the professional bidders were eyeing their prizes lest they be outbid at the last moment (we're looking at you, **Stan Hartman**). The wine alley alone had some 43 lots of wine up for auction, or as **Steve Coopersmith** calls it, "a good day's work." **Tom Gable** was seen meandering the tables with his silver sommelier cup, shaking his head and mumbling, "I was told there would be samples to judge."

I'm not sure what Auction Chair **Diana Mar-Jip Chuh** promised everyone, but it was standing room only at the lunch tables, leaving **Mel Katz**, **Chris Christopher** and **Rich DeBolt** to head up the kids' table in the back of the hall.

Eventually, President **John Morrell** called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors (including his father Jim from Whitefish, Montana) to the best Rotary Club on the planet! The Inspirational Moment was delivered by **Tom Wilson** who told us to give thanks this Thanksgiving to all the people who have made an impact on our lives, including those in our extended Rotary family. **Joe Zakowski** led the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem, accompanied by **Greg Zinser**. **Stan Lawrence** delivered the news with aplomb, courtesy of **Bruce Knowlton** of Moss Adams LLP.

President John introduced Diana to the stage, who thanked all of the donors, volunteers and especially the bidders, and then dispensed with the usual formalities in favor of getting the auction started. She introduced auctioneer Zack Krone for his 3rd shot at this crazy Club 33 auction thing. Zack--clearly knowing his audience--launched into a Dr. Seuss-meets-Cal Worthington rap that brought the focus of the room to the live auction.

The bidding was fierce, fast and furious. John Morrell's beach house was so popular that he put it up for bid twice. When

the 4-day stay at the luxurious Golden Door Spa eclipsed the \$6,000 mark, a Grotarian wondered aloud if the door was really made of gold, and you got to take it home?

Paul Nestor may be off **Nancy Scott's** Christmas card list. In the midst of bidding on the Linda and Larry Stirling dinner, Paul asked Nancy if she would pose for a photo with her bidding paddle held up... dirty pool! Fortunately for Paul, she was outbid.

After the live auction, Foundation Chair **Peter Duncan** explained how 100% of the proceeds of the auction would be used for grants with zero overhead! Foundation Chair Peter had time to talk about just three of the projects and committees that our Foundation supports. He introduced **Francisco Santos**, Principal of the Cesar Chavez Elementary School, who spoke and shared some great slides of the reading program which Rotary supports at the school. Next was Yesinia Rodriguez, the Family Readiness Officer at MCRD, San Diego, with slides from our Build-A-Bike event and our USO BBQs. Finally, Peter brought in the closer. Miguel Cervantes of Colima, MX was a beneficiary of the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (MOST). For twenty years, Miguel had a tumor the size of a baseball on the side of his face. He was told it was too large and too risky for surgery and that it could not be treated. He heard about **Dr. Tom Vecchione** and made the journey to see him and the MOST team. Dr. Tom has probably seen everything, so he didn't blink and said "Miguel, come back tomorrow and we'll take care of it." Miguel was scared to death after being told for years that it was too dangerous, and now this stranger was going to remove a tumor like it was as simple as pulling a tooth. Clearly, it wasn't that simple, and there were several procedures that had to be done. But Miguel was here to tell us how it changed not just his life, but that of his entire family. For 9 years, he had not wanted to leave home with his daughter out of fear that the other kids would make fun of her because of the way her father looked.

Continued on page 2

Next Meeting

We are dark next week on
November 24.



Our next meeting will be
on:
December 1
Guest Speaker:
Bill McDade

A Rotary Story

Bill McDade, San Diego Rotary Club President 1997-1998 and District Governor 2000-2001, will reflect on his 45 years as a Rotarian and his 15-20 years as a Rotary volunteer orthopedic surgeon in Malawi, Africa.



Richard Coutts
Chair of the Day

QUICK BITS

2016 Club Officer and Board Election

The ballot was emailed to all eligible members on Monday, November 14. Be sure to check your inbox (or junk folder!) for the ballot and candidate information. You will have until midnight on December 8 to submit your vote electronically. The results will be announced at the Holiday Party on December 15.



Join the **Carouse & Commerce Committee** at their next event! **Thursday, December 1 at 5:00 pm at Mike**

Hess Brewing. Prospective members are welcome! We hope to see you!

BIRTHDAYS

November

Larry Kuntz	21
Rich DeBolt	23
Jerry Van Ert	23
Divya Kakaiya	23
Doug Paul	25
Rob Wright	27
Peter Callstrom	28
Megan Pogue	30
Joanne Pastula	30

A Time for Giving *Continued from page 1*

Today, the family is proud and thankful. Another miracle delivered by Dr. Vecchione and the MOST team.

Auctioneer Zack now had us just where he wanted and he changed the rules to “just raise your paddles and give money.” I lost count somewhere north of \$50,000 as dozens of Rotarians raised their paddles to give to the Foundation. I’m pretty sure I heard **Woody Ledford** say it’s all deductible unless you purchased a yacht outing (but you might want to double check with him).

Just when you thought it was all over, Zack somehow got **Chuck Pretto** to pay \$5,000 for tickets to Disneyland. It’s been a long time since I’ve been to Disneyland but I guess I know why they call it the happiest place on earth!

Ben Wood presided over the opportunity drawing for a bunch of cool items. I never win these things, but I dutifully placed my tickets in all of the opportunity bowls and crossed my fingers. The first ticket was pulled and I just missed it by exactly 630,475! I’m going save a lot of money by not playing the lottery this year.

Kudos and thanks to all the volunteers who spent countless hours on putting this auction together and pulling it off in grand style. There’s no doubt we just set a new record for the Rotary Auction! See page 5 for the results of the auction!!!!

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 **November 30**.

- David Lopez - Teach for America San Diego - “Education-Leadership Support”
- Christopher Grassa - Torrey Pines Bank - “Banking-Regional”

CALENDAR

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

November

24 Dark—Happy Thanksgiving

December

1 Bill McDade—A Rotary Story

8 Jordan Evans—NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory

15 Annual Holiday Program—Liberty Station

GROTARIAN EVENTS

Wednesday, November 30
American Red Cross San Diego
Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Cost: \$20

Join Grotarians and Rotarians in visiting our local Red Cross and see for yourself the state-of-the-art Disaster Operations Center, learn hands-only CPR, hear from Red Cross responders and get tips on becoming better prepared for the next disaster or emergency! At the end of the event, we will enjoy wine, beer and appetizers.

[Click here](#) to register.

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

John Morrell, 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



Join our 2016 **Holiday Chorus**

It's once again time to think about the holiday season and what better way for you to get involved in the spirit of the season than by joining the Holiday Chorus for our annual Rotary Holiday Program. The program this year is on December 15 at Liberty Station and we need your help to make it an experience to remember. You don't have to be a music star or have any special training. If you love holiday music and even enjoy just singing in your car or shower, then we would like you to join us in the Rotary Chorus. Rehearsals begin Monday, November 21 at the Girl Scouts Florence Burnham Hall at Girl Scouts Headquarters on the southwest corner of Upas and Richmond Streets at 5:30pm. We will have 4 Monday night rehearsals and a dress rehearsal in preparation for December 15. For more information, please contact Brandon Horrocks at bhorrocks@gmail.com. We look forward to singing with you this year!

2016 Giving Thanks & Giving Back Auction

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor



President John and his father, Jim.



2016 Giving Thanks & Giving Back Auction



2016 Giving Thanks & Giving Back Auction

Thanks to the participation of our members and hard work of the Auction Committee organizing the event, the auction was an outstanding, record breaking, success. Our foundation and the multiple projects and committees that it supports are the beneficiaries of the fundraising. A reminder to please follow through with any commitment that you may have made to donate by making your payment to the Rotary Club of San Diego Foundation as soon as possible.

