

# THE ROTATOR

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ROTARY CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

## An Explosive Presentation



**David Oates**  
Editor

If any of you are groaning by the headline, thank President **Chuck Pretto** who coined it at the tail end of the program. But before he did that, here's a rundown of what occurred last Thursday.

El Jefe opened the meeting by introducing **Laura Buckley** who provided a fantastic inspirational moment, thanks to her four-year-old son who declared that people who exhibit kindness make him happy. A wise soul for sure, though I do give a nod to his two-year-old sister who proudly proclaimed that salami does the same for her (smart girl!!). Chuck then led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of *America the Beautiful*, thanks to the famed Club 33 Singers who were accompanied by Bryan Verhoye on the keyboard. Next, **Mark Burgess** delivered all the news that was fit to be read in mixed company courtesy of **Jen Weissman** of Project X Brand Lab. Chuck then returned to atop his step stool behind the podium to make a final plea for signups for next week's Brown Bag Luncheon. If you haven't registered for any of the available slots, do so. Otherwise, you'll be sure to miss out on some great information and even better fellowship!

Next, President-Elect Michelle Candland implored the closet pianists in the audience to consider helping out during some of the upcoming programs in order to give next year's Music Chair **Suzy Spafford** and Larry Showley a bit of support. We will soon be down to only those two pianists, besides the once-a-month appearances of Bryan Verhoye. It would be great if you could let Suzy or Larry know of your interest in becoming one of our accompanists for patriotic songs. Soon-to-be President Nominee **John Morrell** then asked for support in

crafting the program schedule for the 2014-2015 year by seeking ideas for entertaining, informative and provocative topics. Feel free to email him, or come to the meeting being held at John's Higgs, Fletcher & Mack offices downtown on Wednesday, April 23, from 2 to 3PM.

Chuck came back to center stage to fine **Craig Blower** for littering the tables with promotions of his upcoming participation in the San Diego Breath of Hope Lung Cancer Walk on Sunday, May 4, from 9AM to noon. He shamelessly asked for backing of his "Team Craig-Get Fuzzy" squad, and we're all so glad he's here in person to do that. Craig's positive response to date after his year-long treatment is only outdone by his inspiring attitude! While Chuck still took Craig's \$250 for the fine, he matched it, and will walk with his team, as will I, along with many other Club 33-ers. If you want to join us or donate to Craig's cause, visit

<http://sdbreathofhope.ucsd.edu> today!

Chuck then introduced **April Langwell** to the stage as our Chair of the Day. After presenting the customary gifts to the visiting Rotarian that traveled from the farthest distance, she introduced our guest speaker, James Verdi. He holds 18 years of experience with the FBI, 13 of which are as a Special Agent Bomb Technician (SABT), a skill for which he spent six weeks in beautiful Alabama (note the sarcasm) and is part of an elite segment of the federal law enforcement agency that employs only 200 personnel globally. Those who count themselves among the chosen come from all races, creeds, genders and colors. Common themes among SABTs are their sense of humor and aversion to attention.

*Continued on page 2*

### NEXT MEETING

**April 10 is the  
Brown Bag Lunch  
at various locations**

One of the long standing traditions of Rotary, the Brown Bag Luncheon provides our members with a chance to visit a vast number of member businesses and join fellow Rotarians at their place of work.

Be sure to register online as registration closes April 7th. The locations with space still remaining are:

**Episcopal Community Services**

**Girl Scouts San Diego**

**Jackson Design & Remodeling**

**Portrait Art**

**San Diego Employers Association**

**San Diego History Center**

**St. Paul's PACE**

**Timken Museum of Art**

**Vecchione Plastic Surgery**

All lunches will be catered.

You can find the location and addresses online.

Please remember that attendance is mandatory, just like our regular Rotary lunches.

## QUICK BITS

### 2014-2015 Programs

As we approach the 2014-2015 year, we want to continue our club's great tradition of providing interesting, informative and stimulating speakers for our meetings. You can help by letting us know of speakers who you think would provide relevant, topical or even provocative (albeit appropriate) presentations, and also please let us know if you have connections with those folks that could help us arrange to have them to address our club. Please contact John Morrell with your ideas and information.

## BIRTHDAYS

Cari McCormick	April	8
John Greulich		8
Liza Strom		9
Lauren Lek		10
April Langwell		10
Jim Fitzpatrick		11
Jeanne Schmelzer		11
Rachel Inmom		12
Chandani Flynn		12
Bob Cairncross		12

## An Explosive Presentation

*Continued from page 1*

They are not in this profession for the glory or thrill-seeking attributes, but instead, to do something of significant value.

SABTs are deployed around the world and here at home. They were on the scene here locally when a home in Escondido was declared unsafe just a little over a year ago thanks to the manufacture of countless volatile, improvised explosive devices, and had to be burned to the ground. Mr. Verdi has also been on numerous deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, and to large events such as the Olympics and Super Bowl. It's not as glamorous as it sounds; he's usually holed up in a hanger somewhere away from the activities waiting to be called if needed.

Ending the program was a litany of great questions from those in attendance, but the one that struck most of us was from our own **Sandy Purdon** who asked Mr. Verdi where he was two years ago during the July 4, 2012 fireworks display on the San Diego Bay. The roar from the crowd was deafening, and all in good humor!

That's all I have for now. Make it a great week, and I'll see you all in service!



In memory of two Club members who  
joined in 1961

Dave Jackson

&

Sam Rinaker



## CALENDAR

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

### APRIL

- 10** *Brown Bag Lunch*  
*Various locations*
- 17** *Sean Haffey, Sports Photography, U-T San Diego*
- 24** *Shakespeare's Birthday*  
*- Barry Edelstein*

### May

- 1** *Ingrid Croce*
- 8** *John Corcoran*
- 15** *Dr. Richard Della Penna*

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

**April 22 – A Private Grotarian Cooking Class** at Great News Cooking School, hosted by Ron Eisenberg. Register now at [www.rotary33.org](http://www.rotary33.org).

**April 23 - Mixer with SDSU Rotoracts** at Higgs, Fletcher and Mack. 5:15 - 6:45 pm. Register at [www.rotary33.org](http://www.rotary33.org)

### Future Events:

**May 27 - San Diego Library Tour**

**June 22 - San Diego Polo Club**

**July 15 - America's Cup "Yacht America" Sailing**

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

Charles J. Pretto, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

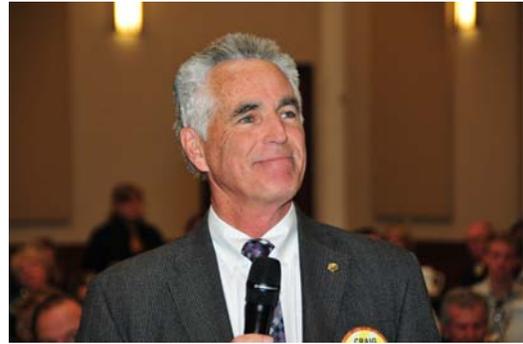
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## FACES IN THE CROWD AT OUR MEETING



FBI bomb expert James Verdi, Chair of the Day April Langwell and President Chuck.



Craig Blower asked for walkers to join him on May 4 for the “Breath of Hope Walk.” It is a very worthy cause.



John Morrell, the Program Chair for next year, asked for suggestions of speakers and topics.



Inspirational Moment speaker Laura Buckley tried on some of Jim Verdi’s bomb equipment.



The Club 33 Singers always help make the day a little brighter.



**Dierdre Maloney** and **Joe Watkins** are welcomed to the meeting.

# HOOVER INTERACTS



A group of Hoover High Interact Sophomores visited with our own Judge **Kevin Enright**.

## 2014 ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY



**SIGN UP NOW**  
**ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014**



Online registration is underway at [www.rotary33.org](http://www.rotary33.org)

- ◆ Balboa Park Nursery
- ◆ Peace Garden—Jackie Robinson YMCA
  - ◆ Storefront Youth Shelter
  - ◆ St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services
- ◆ Chollas Creek Trail Enhancement and Clean-up with Hoover Interacts
- ◆ Military Affairs Committee at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
  - ◆ San Diego Humane Society
    - ◆ Girl Scouts
  - ◆ San Diego Zoo Animal Enrichment
  - ◆ San Elijo Lagoon Restoration