



THE ROTATOR

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ROTARY CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

Joking Around... Sort of!



Richard Ledford
Editor

Is it possible to serve our country in the Armed Forces and still have a good laugh at ourselves? You bet! Perhaps our humor and our ability to laugh at ourselves is just a part of our American Culture.

And boy, did we get a laugh today.

Prez Chuck called our meeting to order and introduced Cheryl Wilson of St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services for our inspirational moment. Consistent with Older Americans Month, this author was inspired with her comments which boiled down to "older is better." Don't know about you, but that sure resonates with me! The effervescent Steve Hubbard lead in the Pledge and with *God Bless America*, accompanied on the piano by the multi-talented Suzy Spaf-ford. The Prez then took a moment to introduce a distinguished visitor, Rear Admiral Gillingham. Welcome to our Club meeting, Admiral!

Next up was Stan Lawrence, who oozed news all over the place, this week brought to us by Mark Burgess. Prez Chuck was back up, announcing a special program, Jim Ryun, at the June 5 Club meeting. Please call the office if you plan to bring guests. Chuck also announced that if you haven't already signed up for at least one committee, check your email for a link to sign-up. With so many opportunities to do so, it's easy!

Announcements followed with John Peele awarding George Alexander the Spring Tennis Tournament first place award. John Morrell was next up urging members to respond positively to Prez Chuck's recent email encouraging

participation in the Bequest Society. Although not fined, much to the shock-n-awe of the Membership, John was also recognized for his receipt of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USD School of Law. Some people are just lucky! Not so for Mark Burgess (**Nancy Laturno** stood in for Mark), Stan Lawrence and **Linda Stirling!** These exceptional Rotarians are working hard to make our community a better place, but failed to escape the attention of our short-but-fearless Prez! Mark/Nancy got tagged for promoting the Mainly Mozart June 16 golf tournament, Stan for the Make-A-Wish Legacy Portrait fundraiser, and Linda for a touching and helpful book on surviving the loss of someone special (is there nothing Linda can't do????).

Our chair of the day was PR-WhizKid **David Oates**. And since humor was on the menu today, David gave our farthest-visiting Rotarian a gift symbolic of his profession—a certificate from fellow Rotarian Ken Andersen's nursery for a bag of... well, you know, call it PR for plants!

With that out of the way, David introduced Jeff Bacon, world renowned author of the Broadside series of Military oriented comics. Having served our nation in the Navy for 26 years, his humorous depiction of life in the Navy is legendary. Think of it as a day in the life taken from a variety of viewpoints, from enlisted to Admiral. But there was also a serious side to Jeff's presentation. He's also committed to helping our Wounded Warriors gain a successful life through the Wyakin Warrior Program. This successful program has plans for expansion, and San Diego is apparently next on the list! So our program gave us a humorous life...and a reminder of our obligation to take care of those who sacrificed to keep us safe.

NEXT MEETING

May 29

The 1915 Exposition in Balboa Park Celebrates the Opening of the Panama Canal

Iris Engstrand discusses the California Gold Rush that served as the catalyst for building the Panama Railroad in 1855 - first across the continent. This project led to plans for a trans-isthmian canal first by the French and then by the US with the newly created Republic of Panama. In order to let the world know about San Diego's prominence as the first port of call, men and women of influence planned an exposition that created a lasting legacy for all to enjoy and now celebrate in 2015.



Betty Peabody
Chair of the Day

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, JUNE 26
for
President Chuck's Roast
at Liberty Station
Conference Center

QUICK BITS

The 2014-2015 Committee Sign Up form has been emailed to all members on May 14th. Be sure to look for it in your inbox and return it immediately. If you have any questions about a committee, please contact the office or the committee Chair.

A friendly reminder that our **Roster and online Membership Directory** are strictly confidential and should not be used for commercial purposes.

Larry Clapper is in need of a ride to and from the lunches. If you are interested in assisting please contact his wife Gretchen at gvik@mail.sdsu.edu

BIRTHDAYS

Mort Jorgensen, M.D.	May 26
Charlene Zettel	26
Mike Meaney	26
Judy McDonald	26
Jim Brown	26
Ray McKewon	27
Deirdre Maloney	31
Paige Boyd	31
Ray Ellis	31

As we enjoy a three day weekend let's not forget the sacrifices that were made to protect our nation. We are pleased to share a poem commemorating Memorial Day by our own **Glenn Thomas**.

That They Might Live

by Glenn Thomas

If brothers lost brothers in brutal, hot battle, exchanging a lifetime for mine,
If bodies were battered, and tortured and shattered defending our blessed design,

Then what would it be—what peril, what price shall I be excused to withhold?
And how shall I gather the courage to follow an order to fight, if I'm told?

If thousands of soldiers could tender their bodies in trade for a future for me,
If mothers' souls ached at the loss of their sons, so mine could be sheltered and free,

Then who would it be—which daughter, which son would I then be willing to give,
So ten generations of some father's daughter or some mother's son might live?

<http://www.gcthomas.com/2014/05/22/memorial-day-2014/>



CALENDAR

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

May

- 29 *Iris Engstrand, Balboa Park History*

June

- 5 *Jim Ryun - 50th anniversary of his record-breaking sub 4 minute mile*
- 12 *Lawrence Bock—STEM*
- 19 *Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman*
- 26 *President Chuck's Roast*

July

- 3 *Dark*

GROTRIAN EVENTS

May 27 - San Diego Library & e3 Civic High School Tour -
4:30-6:30 pm. Register at www.rotary33.org

June 22 - San Diego Polo Club
Register at www.rotary33.org

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

Rotary Club of San Diego ◆ 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.rotary33.org>

FACES IN THE CROWD



The Chair of the Day David Oates, President Chuck and our speaker Jeff Bacon.



Jeff Bacon's presentation put a smile on everyone's face.



President Chuck, the winner of this year's tennis tournament George Alexander, and tournament chair John Peele.



Stan Lawrence had a sly look as he was fined for promoting, along with Chris Sichel, the Make-A Wish Legacy Portrait fundraiser.



Linda Stirling promoted her new book "*Hope*" about her experience and that of other parents dealing with the loss of a child.



John Morrell gave a pitch about the importance of joining the Bequest Society.