

Building Opportunities for Human Trafficking Survivors



Jen Weissman
Editor

“Na na na na, na na na na, hey hey, goodbye!” This is the last meeting for **President Bob Russell**.

The Inspirational Moment was given by **Emily Rex**, where we also learned she has two dogs named “Grey” and “Goose.” The News was delivered by **Stan Lawrence**, sponsored by

Ben Wood of B. Wood Insurance. The Pledge and *America The Beautiful* were led by **Joe Zakowski** and accompanied by **Greg Zinser**.

Today, President Bob remembered our 51st Past President, Donald E. Clark and our club’s Golden Anniversary back in 1961.

It is with a heavy heart to report Past President **Bert Wahlen**, newscaster and economic forecaster passed away last Sunday due to cancer.

Lightbridge Hospice Community Foundation honored **Peg Eddy** for her dedication to their foundation since its inception in 2005. Pres nominee **Chris Sichel** was recognized as the Most Admired CEO for charitable organization for the 2nd year in a row. **Patti Roscoe** received the LEAD San Diego Neil Morgan Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement, which recognizes Patti as someone who has served as a catalyst for positive change. Sincere congratulations to all three of our distinguished members! However, fame comes with price, pointed out President Russell, and fined each of them \$350.

Observed in the crowd: **Mike Caruso** gave **Nancy Scott** his piggy bank filled with coins from home to help pay off her \$710,000 fine. Ha!

Jan McDonough received her first Paul Harris Fellow, a special recognition from President Bob and her fellow 4-Way Test Speech Committee members as a thank you for her service.

Presented by our own **Paul Hartley III**, the Capt. Paul J. Hartley, Jr. Membership Development Award is given annually to a member for the most people brought in to the club for membership. The recipient of this award this year was presented to **Trevor Blair**. “I could have predicted that one! Well deserved!”—overheard in the audience.

President Bob reminisced about July 2017, when he became the 108th Club 33 President to be sworn in. President **John Morrell** scooted out early in that meeting. Today, President Bob fined John \$350 for leaving early.

President Bob recounted the past year’s accomplishments, highlighting giving \$300K for hurricane relief, \$400K to N. Uganda and over 60K meals boxed and sent to the Dominican Republic (with the help of several other organizations). We fulfilled Rotary International President Ian Riseley’s challenge for every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members, in which our club planted over 500 trees planted in the Safari Park. Rotary International succeeded in this goal, with the planting of a total of 1.2 million trees worldwide! *(You can read the rest of Bob’s year-end message on pages 4 and 5.)* A standing ovation of thanks to President Bob! Thank you!

President Bob then introduce our Chair of the Day, **Sylvia DuBeau**, who in turn introduced Jaime Quient and Cierra Robinson, our speakers of the day.

Jamie Quient is the President and Managing Attorney of Free to Thrive, a nonprofit organization that empowers survivors of human trafficking to be free from exploitation and thrive by providing them with legal services and connections to additional support. Prior to launching Free to Thrive in 2017, Jamie practiced civil litigation for five years at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP.

Cierra M. Robinson, CEO of Inspired Innovation and sex-trafficking survivor then told her story of being able to turn her trauma into triumph with the gift of higher education. She majored in Psychology at San Diego City College, is a published author and a social justice advocate for victims of human trafficking. She told us the story of how the court system labeled her a monster and a danger to the community. The DA asked for the maximum sentence, 12 years, even though there wasn’t a prior prison record. Nobody seemed to care about the trauma she endured, the beatings, starving for food, risking her life.

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Next Meeting

June 28, 2018

Annual President’s Roast

This annual event will surely please as we highlight a year’s worth of our illustrious president’s malapropos, miscues, and mysterious mannerisms. It will be a laugh out loud experience, all in good fun in honor of Bob Russell, who has done so much for our club. So please come and enjoy this special send-off by our Past Presidents and our Roast Committee.



Peter Duncan
Chair-Roast Committee

The club will be dark on Thursday, July 5th



QUICK BITS



Club 33 Tennis - Round 2 has been postponed to August. We will announce the new date soon.

2018-19 Committee Sign-Up

Sign up for a committee for the new Rotary year by June 1st.

[Click here to sign up.](#) Simply click on the buttons next to the committee(s) you would like to join and then click the "Done" button at the bottom of the page to submit your selections.



The **Peace Committee** is still accepting nominations for this year's Peace Award in September. If you know of an organization, or individual, in San Diego County who is working to prevent human trafficking or to protect or support survivors, please complete and turn in the [nomination form](#) by **June 30.**

BIRTHDAYS

	June
Bill McKenzie, Jr.	26
Bruce Knowlton	27
Phil Gildred, Jr.	27
Mike J. Murphy	27
John Zygowicz	27
Emile Misiraca	28
Joe Craver	29
John Driscoll	29
Vin Ciruzzi	30
Mike A. Murphy	30
	July
Carlos Persichetti	1
Jean Young	1

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Instead of treating her or others like her with empathy, she was labeled as a criminal and given few options to change. After her release from incarceration and with a felony record, she found it hard to reestablish herself in society.

Jaimie went on to say that women like Cierra are leaders in community and want to turn their trauma into something good. Unfortunately, there were no legal services for people like Cierra, which is why she started her company. Jamie spoke of the barriers resulting from criminalization of human trafficking victims, namely employment opportunities, obtaining student loans, housing and public benefits. The impact is humiliation, embarrassment, re-victimization, financial vulnerability and immigration issues.

The good news is we have come a long way. There has been a shift in perspective for sex traffic workers from criminals to victims. We have more education, awareness, programs and help for the survivors. San Diego has even designated a special court specifically for child sex trafficking victims.

Free to Thrive is a mobile legal clinic, where victims feel safe and comfortable, which is what they need in order to help them achieve their goals. Free to Thrive acts as their advocate, to work with their public defender to help them understand their experience, like seeking restitution and bringing charges to their abuser. She also helps them through name changes which gives them mental freedom and a fresh start.

We all have a role to play through advocacy, awareness education and survivor support and can all help by being an advocate for change, like changing laws to help the survivors.

Sex trafficking is an \$810M business annually, and the 2nd largest criminal industry right after drugs. Jamie said there's anywhere between 3,000 to 8,000 victims a year in San Diego alone. Advice to parents is to stay on top of your child's technology, as the internet and apps like Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram are the primary way of stalking new recruits. Monitor their text messages from time to time, and if they have more than one phone that should be a giant red flag, so utilize your parental controls.

This is a story of supply + demand, so if more people stopped demanding for commercial sex and exploited labor, the less demand there would be for sex traffickers.

CALENDAR

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

June

28 President Bob's Roast

July

5 DARK

12 Change of Command

19 Carl DeMaio

GROTARIAN EVENTS

AleSmith Brewery

July 10 5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Cost \$25

9990 AleSmith Court

(formerly Empire Street)

San Diego, CA 92126

Join the Grotarians for an evening of fun and good cheer! We will tour AleSmith Brewing Company's 106,000 square foot brewing facility, which is the second largest facility in San Diego County. This will be a guided tour of their world-class unforgettable brewery. The tour is approximately 45 minutes and covers the entire brewing process from wort creation, fermentation, filtration, carbonation, bottling, packaging, and more. The tour also includes an AleSmith commemorative pint glass and a fill of your favorite AleSmith beer from their year-round lineup. After the tour, while we enjoy our beer and have light appetizers.

[Click here](#) to register.

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

Bob Russell, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director
San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943



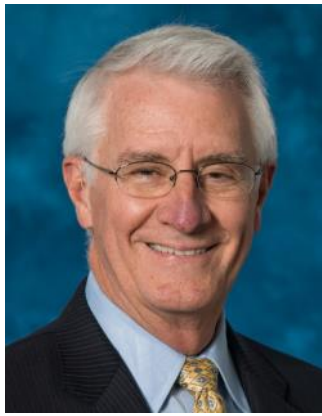
Bert Wahlen
1938-2018

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that
Past President **Bert Wahlen** passed away on June 17.
Bert was a member of our club since 1970 and was President in
1982-83. He was also our club's newscaster for 38 years.
Memorial and service information is pending.

*"His timely and usually humorous presentation of the News has never
been equaled, and his almost yearly Chair of our annual Economic
Forecast program was an event not to be missed. He was truly the
"golden voice" of Club 33. I feel sorry that our newer members did not
have an opportunity to know this kind and talented gentleman...and ex-
perience his priceless podium presence."*

Past President Bill McDade

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It was July 13, 2017 and I was sworn in as the 108th president of the San Diego Rotary Club. That was 343 days, 47 meetings, 41 past president minutes and 33 ties ago.

Past President **John Morrell** scooted on my first meeting departing with his luggage less than 10 seconds after I assumed the podium. I promised to fine him for being the first scooter of my year but never did. I'm going to correct that oversight now. That will be \$350, John!

What a year we had:

--\$40,000+ sent to Rotary Districts on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey ravaged those areas.

--Over \$300,000 raised to outfit a new hospital in northern Uganda with medical equipment thanks to the hard work of **Roger Haines** and **Walter Lam** and the entire International Grants Committee. Special thanks to the **Hom family**, **Will Newbern**, **Camille Newbern** and **Steve Coopersmith** for significant contributions to make that effort successful.

--60,000 meals boxed up for families in the Dominican Republic with the help of Padres volunteers, members of the Tijuana Rotary Club, members of the Hoover and Lincoln Interact Clubs and members of the SDSU and Downtown Rotaract Clubs.



--Trees. RI President Ian Riseley announced a worldwide campaign to plant 1.2 million trees, one for every Rotarian. We did our part and planted 500 trees at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and thanks to so many of you for your contributions to make this happen. Special thanks to **Annon Ben Yehuda** and to the **Hom and Newbern families** again for their over the top contributions to this effort. And I am happy to tell you that President Riseley met and exceeded his goal of 1.2 million trees worldwide.

--We hosted a visit by that very RI President Ian Riseley in January and I learned that a koala is not a bear.

-- A record auction in November. Thank you to auction chair **Diana MarJip-Chuh**.

--We had the most successful Senior Services Committee warm clothes drive ever. Thank you to the committee chaired by **Cheryl Wilson**.



--An incredible Camp Enterprise thanks to a very large number of Rotarians who are members of the committee chaired by **Jackie Meyer** and with lots of support from **Michael Anderson**, **John Neuhart** and **Massey Pitts**.

-- Amazing Four Way Test speeches from some amazing high school students. Thanks go to the Four Way Test Speech Committee, chaired by **Jan McDonough** and **Jack Berkman**, and to **Divya Kakaiya** and to **Lauren Lek** who worked tirelessly with kids from High Tech High and OLP in the contest.

-- Two trips by the MOST team of doctors, nurses and volunteers performing hundreds of life changing surgeries in Mexico.



--An incredibly successful inaugural City Heights Youth Soccer tournament a few weeks ago. Thanks to all who made that possible with special thanks to **Nick Bernal** and **Daniel Amaro** and to the City Heights Rotaractors.

--A terrific Rotarians at Work Day where over 100 Club 33 Rotarians participated in 8 projects county-wide. Special thanks to **Emily Rex** and **Chris Christopher** for heading up that effort.

--Thanks to the outstanding work by **Daniel Amaro** as chair of the Membership Committee, and **Dick Eger**, chair of the Review Committee, we continue to grow. We lost a total of 22 members through resignations or deaths this year, but we introduced 33 new members. Special thanks to all the sponsors of those 33 new members.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

And we had some outstanding programs this year, thanks primarily to program chair **David Oates**:

--We'll never forget the programs from our very own **Walter Lam, Tom Vecchione, Doug Arbon, Bill McDade, Camille Newbern and Amnon Ben Yehuda**.

--And what about that November salute to the women in our Club on the 30th anniversary of women having joined Club 33. We learned from our speaker, Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, one of the first women in Rotary and the first woman to be elected president of a club, that the word "Kiwanis" means "wanting to be a Rotarian". And **Mayor Faulconer** declared the day to be "Women of Club 33 Day" in San Diego.

--Together with many Past District Governors and District officers we saluted Past President and Past District Governor **George Carter Jessop**, and Mayor Faulconer declared it to be George Carter Jessop Day in San Diego.

--Vicente Fox. How many Rotary Clubs can boast that one of their speakers was a past president of Mexico?

--Mr & Mrs. San Diego, our own **Mel and Linda Katz**.



--a Holocaust survivor, Peace Awards, International Youth Symphony, military presentations, a terrific Holiday Program, stem cells, ComicCon, 2-1-1, Soviet spies, San Diego Air & Space Museum and the list goes on and on.

Also this year, School Superintendent **Cindy Marten** and I learned the hard way that Lincoln High School had a very good football team.

And what a great year for Grotarian events with events too numerous to mention here. Many thanks to **Cari McCormick** and to the entire Grotarian Committee.

Finally, what a year we had financially. For the first time ever total contributions to the Club's Foundation, including distributions from the San Diego Foundation, exceeded \$½ million.

In addition, we gave over \$150,000 to the Rotary International Foundation with 33 new Paul Harris Fellows and 13 Club 33 members receiving multiple Paul Harris Fellows. **Jim and Carmen Hughes** and **Michelle and Art Candland** continue to head the contributors' lists. And of course **Nancy Scott's** \$710,000 commitment to the future of San Diego Rotary. What a year!!!Thank you to you all.

On a sad note, we lost 5 wonderful Rotarians this year--**Lyle Butler, Bill Beamer, Dr. John Hattox, George Harris** and **Bert Wahlen**. While we are saddened by these losses, as Rotarians we can take comfort in the fact that we have the opportunity to continue the legacies of these fine men through our service as members of the San Diego Rotary club.

Obviously, the successful year we've had is the result of a lot of hard work by many of you, but in the interest of space, I'll save those thank yous for next week.

For now, to all of you, please accept my heartfelt thanks for everything you do as Rotarians and for supporting me throughout this year.



President Bob Russell

FACES IN OUR CROWD



(Left) John Neuhart with guests Leo Hefner and Woody Woodcock; (right) Amnon Ben-Yehuda greets Pat Crowell and Norbert Sanders.



(Left) Guest speaker Jamie Quient speaks on the challenges that trafficking survivors face; (right) survivor Cierra Robinson shared her own personal experience with human trafficking.



(Left) Trevor Blair was recognized for bringing in the most new members this year; (right) Jan McDonough was recognized for her timeless dedication to the Four Way Test Speech Contest.



(Left) Chair of the Day Sylvia DuBeau recognized Geoffrey Okello from Uganda as the visiting Rotarian from the farthest distance; (right) Emily Rex presented an Inspirational Moment about being more happy and optimistic.

