

## Border Business



Deirdre Maloney  
Editor

The soggy skies couldn't dampen the spirits of our members this week, especially when our very own ray of sunshine **President Suzy** rang the bell and asked the crucial question: "How 'bout those Aztecs?". Their recent victory actually led many in the crowd to belt out the famous fight song...some a bit louder more than others (looking at you **David Oates**).

It was a hard act to follow, but **Marie Raftery** followed it just fine with her lovely Inspirational Moment, which focused on those who inspire *her*. She talked about how her role as Chair/President of Jewish Family Service, she gets to witness the amazing volunteers, staff and donors who honor the call to *Welcome the Stranger, Feed the Hungry and Console the Afflicted*.

Next up was **Bonnie Schwartz** with the Pledge, followed by *God Bless America*, accompanied in fine tune by **Bryan Verhoye**. **Whitney Skala** then delivered the day's latest news, sponsored by **Gil Johnson** and Procurement Concepts Inc. Thanks, Gil!

After welcoming our guests for the day, it was time for another grand round of inspiration. First, we got to hear all about our newest and quite effervescent member, **Jordan Harrison**, the Chief Education Officer of *Rhymes with Reason*, which teaches kids vocabulary, history and other lessons through hip-hop music.

We also got to hear all about our new and fabulous Presidential Grants program, and our inaugural grantees. This year the program focused on arts and education, with each of the two recipients receiving \$25,000. Those recipients are our own **James Halliday**, executive director of A Reason to Survive (ARTS), and Brandon Steepe, the founder of David's Harp Foundation. Suzy made sure to give special thanks to the selection committee for their hard work and commitment, and also gave a shout out to David Oates for coordinating an interview on KUSI (among the millions of other things he does for our club!). *Find the video link on page 2.*

It was then time to hear from Chair of the Day **Wade McKnight** (who, back in the day, received a special 1000 Point of Light honor from then President George

H.W. Bush...who knew?) Our finance-loving COD had one special treat (and another...not so special treat) for our visiting Rotarian from Cape Town, South Africa: the largest income tax book that this Rotary editor has ever seen and a nice bottle of whiskey to help aid in the studying. Wade then introduced our speaker, Chief Patrol Agent for the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) in San Diego, Rodney Scott.

Chief Scott's impressive history includes establishing CBP's joint Terrorism Taskforce program and managing the agency's response to Hurricane Katrina. Today, he oversees approximately 3,000 agents and staff, who work over 60 miles of land border and the entire California coastal region.

He began his presentation by acknowledging that ongoing headlines and 20-second soundbites have caused a lot of confusion about the border, its challenges, and what the USBP actually does. He then provided the agency's basic mission: protecting America.

Chief Scott said that, in simple terms, border security is similar to protecting our homes. Visitors should come to the door and ask for permission to enter, and we, as homeowners, determine if this will be permitted based on our assessment of the individual and any potential threats.

Having worked in the San Diego region since 1992, Chief Scott can attest to the fact that we've come a long way in regards to border security. When he first arrived he found a chaotic environment. Today, many threats have been reduced. At the same time, many still remain.

Though many of us think of threats as entirely related to illegal immigration, Chief Scott wanted us to know that USBP actually has a long list of threats, including narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorist activities. This being said, they are all connected, which is why focusing on keeping people from illegally crossing the border on either side is so important.

Chief Scott explained the importance of having a border wall. He explained that a wall doesn't just keep people from crossing and engaging in various illegal activities, but also buys invaluable personnel time.

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## Next Meeting

**Next Meeting:  
February 28**

**Chuck Samuelson,  
Founder & President  
Kitchens For Good**

Chuck Samuelson has spent a lifetime in the food service industry as a chef, restaurateur, and consultant. He started his career as a dishwasher at 13 and rose to Executive Chef and Restaurant General Manager, to owning award-winning restaurants and catering companies.

Chuck was shocked to find the tremendous amount of food being wasted in the industry, while many in the community lacked access to nutritious food. So he leveraged his network and skills to build a social enterprise that is designed to break the cycles of food waste, poverty and hunger in the community.

The talk will be about the ROI of Social Enterprise with Kitchens For Good (KFG) as the model for how essential social good work can be more sustainable. KFG is a part of the new wave of "revenue first" nonprofits who seek to change communities through a more sustainable business model. For every dollar donated to KFG, they match that dollar with earned revenue.



**Ron Eisenberg  
Chair of the Day**

## QUICK BITS



Join fellow Rotarians **Camille Newbern, Roger Haines and Walter Lam** on what has now become their annual trip to East Africa. They've put together an incredible, Rotary-based tour of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. [Click here to view the itinerary of the trip and package information.](#) Please let [Camille](#), [Roger](#) or [Walter](#) know if you're interested.

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In fact, 12 miles of fencing can replace 150 agents, who can then patrol areas that carry higher threat.

It turns out many lessons about building the wall have been learned over the past 25 years. Initially made of scrap metal, significant portions of the wall have now been replaced with stronger materials and see-through designs, strengthening security efforts and reducing "vanishing points" that allow for easier illegal crossing.

While Chief Scott says there is much more to do (as of now, the current fence ends before the San Diego border does) there is good news. USBP has an excellent relationship with Mexico. Together, the two countries are committed to working together on border issues, which will allow for safer communities and thriving businesses on both sides.

### 2018-19 Presidential Grant Recipients

[Click here](#) to view President Suzy's KUSI interview

[Click here](#) to view a video about A Reason To Survive

[Click here](#) to view a video about the David's Harp Foundation

## CALENDAR

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

### February

**28 Chuck Samuelson-Founder & President, Kitchens For Good**

### March

**7 Speaker Panel—Topic: Startups-A Business Model Or A Fad?**

**14 Camp Enterprise Kickoff**

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

**Save the Date for our March 26 event!**

We will be touring the Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla and learning about some of the new medical research and new therapies they are doing.

**Details and registration coming soon.**

Upcoming events:

April - Pro Kids Golf Academy

May - SDSU Rotaract Annual Dinner

June - Point Loma Lighthouse

## BIRTHDAYS

### February

John Peelle	26
Terry Moore	26
Greg Zinser	26
John Ahlering	26
Don Kent	27
Aimal Laiq	28
Hernan Luis y Prado	28

### March

Joe Sammartino	2
Brad Gastineau	3

## 2019-2020 ROTARY PAC GRANT APPLICATIONS

It is that time once again for the annual Club 33 Project Allocation process to begin. If you wish to submit a grant application for next fiscal year which begins July 1, [click here](#) to complete the online application.

**Applications are due no later than March 15**, but please submit applications as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact [Paul](#) at the Rotary office, or PAC Chair [Mike Caruso](#).

Please remember that funding for ongoing service projects are not automatic. Every project, whether established or new, must be reviewed for funding consideration annually.

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

Suzy Spafford, 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](mailto:paul@rotary33.org) ♦ website: <http://www.sandiegorotary.club>

# FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

The Hoover Cardinals students Four-Way Speech Contest was held at Price Charities on February 22, with 23 students presenting speeches to a packed room of Rotarians, family and friends. Students began preparing last Fall with generous assistance from Club 33 coaches. The entire group of 23 Cardinal students were completely fantastic!

First prize of \$500 went to **Alyssa Chavez** speaking about Organ Donation. Second prize of \$400 went to **Leslie Leyva** comparing the benefits of Education to Experience. **Emily Sabory**, last year's winner and Valedictorian for the Hoover class of 2019, educated us about the alarming rates of Sexual Assault on college campuses, winning a third prize of \$300. Fourth prize of \$200 went to **Cuong Nguyen**, who presented on Balancing the Mindset of Negativity.

**The next Club 33-sponsored speech contest will be Tuesday, March 5,** at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace with St. Augustine students competing also at OLP. Six students sponsored by our Club will go on to compete throughout District 5340.

**Club 33 will host the District Finals on Thursday, April 25.**

**Contact Chair Jack Berkman and Vice Chair Stephanie Saathoff about attending the upcoming contests or to volunteer as a coach for next year – it's one of the most rewarding things you will ever do as a Rotarian!!**



2019 Four-Way Speech Contest winners from left: Alyssa Chavez 1st, Emily Sabory 3rd, Leslie Leyva 2nd, Cuong Nguyen 4th.

Our Hoover contest speakers and Rotarian coaches.





# MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member to the club:



**Jordan Harrison**—“Youth Organization-Rhymes With Reason”. Jordan is the Chief Education Officer for Rhymes With Reason, an innovative, online platform that teaches vocab and history to youth through current rap music. He is also the Senior Director of Programs at Reality Changers and the founder of Harrison Speaks, a motivational and mentorship program for high schools and colleges.

Jordan was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He holds a bachelor's in business marketing from SDSU where he was also a member of the SDSU Rotaract. He is one of the founding members of the San Diego Rotaract. Jordan recently graduated from Harvard University with a Masters in Education.

Jordan decided to go into the non-profit sector, despite having 24 corporate job offers right after graduating from SDSU, because he wanted to “live an impactful life making a difference in the lives of others.” He has, and continues to, build programs on a local, regional and national level that allow students to thrive regardless of their background or income level.

**Robert Marsh, David Oates and Chris Yanov** were his sponsors.

Email: [jordanjharrison@gmail.com](mailto:jordanjharrison@gmail.com)

The following applicant 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 March 6:

- Sidd Vivek—Junior Achievement of San Diego - "Youth Organization –Jr. Achievement"

## FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor and Lisa Miller



Our visiting SDSU Rotaracts led us in the Aztec fight song in celebration of the their basketball team's win over Nevada.



(Left) Marie Raftery delivered the Inspirational Moment; (right) President Suzy with Chair of the Day Wade McKnight and guest Border Patrol agents.





# FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor and Lisa Miller



(Left) President Suzy presents the grant awards to James Halliday and Brandon Steepe; (right) Wade's Chair of the Day gift to our visiting Rotarian was a book on income tax!



Thank you to all of the members that supported the Girl Scout cookie sale in our lobby.



President Suzy thanked Chief Rodney Scott for his visit with some wine and some Girl Scout cookies, of course!



The audience showed their appreciation for our Border Patrol agents and their service with a standing ovation.

