

## Ron Fowler and the Padres



Tom Gable  
Editor

Club 33 had a fast start to an action-packed program on March 21: the Inspirational Moment by **Frank Pavel**; Pledge and patriotic song by The Club 33 Singers accompanied by Bryan Verhoye; and News by **Wendy Urushima-Conn**, sponsored by **Toni Giffin**. **Michael Anderson** provided a recap of the hugely successful Camp Enterprise weekend, with 70 high school juniors from 25 different schools and 40 Rotarians being entrepreneurial in creating and launching businesses. The named winner of the Spirit of Camp Enterprise: **Michael Maggiora**.

**Michael Bruner** provided a baseball-oriented Art Moment, starting with Petco Park being a work of art and named the No. 1 ballpark in the U.S. Park sculptures honor Jerry Coleman, Trevor Hoffman and Tony Gwynn. Michael offered a quick tour of baseball memorabilia at The Jackie Robinson YMCA.

The baseball and art theme became more colorful as Michael introduced us to the works of [Kadir Nelson](#) whose early artistic talents at Crawford High School led to a scholarship to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Nelson's first breakthrough successes came from his paintings depicting Negro Leagues baseball scenes, including Jackie Robinson. He has contributed to many books and his work has been featured in a range of media, from *Sports Illustrated* magazine to covers of *The New Yorker*. [You can click here to view Michael's Art Moment slides.](#)

Moving into the art of the deal, Chair of the Day **Chris Sichel** introduced Ron Fowler, Executive Chairman of the Padres. Ron, who grew many successful businesses in the beverage industries, and his wife, Alexis, have been major supporters of SDSU and USD, plus local causes such as Monarch School and Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Ron started with an overview of changes underway in the world of baseball, driven by analytics being used to drive most decisions, including contract sizes, and players taking better care of themselves early in their careers. Ten years ago, players were

using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs), could perform in their mid-30s and were getting 10-year contracts. With PEDs under control, the world has changed and in baseball: "32 is the new 36."

In a 2016 study, top performers on the mound and at the plate have been in professional baseball six or fewer years. They generate some 75 percent of the production, yet 75 percent of the salaries go to those with seven years or more in the business. Ron said huge money will be going to the younger people who have a future of performance. Agents and older players nearing the end of their contracts don't like it. "We are in a performance industry; perform and you get the money," Ron said. In 2021, the league with negotiate new agreement with the players union and he hopes the issues are better understood and accepted.

On local performance, Ron said the Padres have the youngest team in its history, having built a great pipeline of talent through its farm system. The pool of skilled athletes is so good they will be shuttling players back and forth to their minor league clubs, depending on needs during the season.

In February, the Padres shook up the baseball world when they signed infielder Manny Machado to a 10-year, \$300 million contract through the 2028 season, the largest for a free agent in Major League history. A four-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove Award winner, Machado, 26, has posted a .282 career average, with 175 home runs, 513 RBI, 296 walks and 522 runs scored in 926 career games.

Ron said the starting pitching corps is the youngest in the league and deep in talent. The relief pitching is arguably the best in baseball. With the addition of Machado at third base, the infield should be among the top in fielding and hitting. He said player's representatives and others have commented on the high spirits of the team during Spring training in Peoria, Arizona. "There is a great vibe about the Padres in the Cactus League," he said. "The older guys feel it and the younger ones are embracing it." (Note: as of March 22, the Padres were atop the Cactus League with a 15-9 record.) *Continued on page 2*

## Next Meeting

**Next Meeting:  
March 28**

**Dr. Benjamin Maxwell  
Medical Director  
Inpatient Psychiatry,  
Rady Children's Hospital**

Dr. Maxwell is a child and adolescent psychiatrist with an interest in general clinical care, education, mental health integration into primary care settings, and global mental health.

He currently serves as Medical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and is an Assistant Professor at University of California, San Diego in the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Maxwell's presentation will focus on the trends in behavioral health challenges seen in youth in San Diego. He will discuss what is being done to improve access to mental healthcare for children.



George Kaplan  
Chair of the Day

## QUICK BITS



### RESCHEDULED! CLUB 33 GOLF— FINAL ROUND

Our final round has been rescheduled to

**MAY 3** at the San Diego Country Club. [Click here](#) for more details and how to register.



### Thursday, April 4 is PICTURE DAY for the 2019-20 Member Directory.

This will be your one and only opportunity to have a new professional photo taken for the roster if you need one. Our photographer will be available before and after our meeting.

### SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Rotarians At Work (RAW) Day happens the last Saturday in April each year. Started in 2006 as a joint effort between two Rotary Districts (one in the United States and one in Mexico), Rotarians at Work Day continues to grow. Each year, Clubs around the world identify a hands-on project that all members can participate in to help their local community.

We will have our list of available projects with registration on Thursday, March 28 at our meeting. Be sure and see our RAW Committee in the lobby to sign up and pick up a t-shirt. Friends and family are welcome to join in on this day of service!

## BIRTHDAYS

### March

Glenn Goltz	25
Toni Giffin	25
Dick Davis	25
Frank Pavel	29
Gayle Hom	30
Chuck Duddles	31

## Ron Fowler Continued from page 1

The Padres hit their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and Ron said the club will be celebrating the fans and great moments. The club will be partnering with 10 charities in 2019 and give \$50,000 to each.

Questions focused on the acquisition of Machado. **Marten Barry** asked about the internal rate of return on the \$300 million investment. Fowler said the team felt Machado was the best third baseman available and so they invested, including a capital call with the partners. They expect to lose eight figures in 2019, half that in 2020 and break even in 2021. "We have to win and (acquiring Machado) is a step big time to help us win," Fowler said. The Padres like him. His heart is in wanting to build the team and win championships."

On getting into the competition to acquire Machado, Ron said the Padres thought about \$175 million as an initial price. The team learned they needed to offer \$250 million to get a meeting. They brainstormed on a creative offer to get to \$300 million because the agent said the number had to start with a "3".

Ron and Peter Seidler, general partner, said they had to meet with Manny and his wife. Machado's wife, Yainee, is sister of Yonder Alonso's wife, who played for the Padres in 2012-15. She praised San Diego and said it would be a great match. Ron and Peter agreed they could go to \$300 million and were ready to start medical testing and other due diligence when the phones started ringing and social media exploded with news of the deal. The agent had leaked it to media, without a contract. Ron said the Padres moved quickly the next few days to get medical testing done and sign a contract.

"We have the right guy," Fowler said, "and the Padres faithful are looking forward to seeing him in action along with the youth movement."

*Our heartfelt condolences go out to Dr. Frank Pavel, Sr. and Dr. Frank Pavel, Jr. on the passing of their family matriarch, Marilyn Pavel, on Friday, March 15, 2019.*

*Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

## CALENDAR

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

### March

**28 Dr. Ben Maxwell, Inpatient Psychiatry, Rady Children's Hospital**

### April

**4 Robert Gleason - Federal Reserve**

**11 Dr. Thomas Buchholz-Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center**

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

**Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla (Schaetzel Center, Great Hall)**

**March 26 at 5:30 pm  
9890 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla  
Cost: \$15 per person**

We will have an exclusive medical briefing and tour of Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla with its chief operations executive, Cindy Steckel, PhD, RN, and several of her esteemed colleagues. Together, they will present on aspects of its almost 100-year history and showcase select areas of excellence, including Scripps MD Anderson Cancer Center, Prebys Cardiovascular Institute and Barbey Family Emergency and Trauma Center. Tours of "Prebys" and "Barbey" will immediately follow.

A lovely Charcuterie board along with wine and beverages will be served. Complimentary parking vouchers will be available to guests.

[Click here to register](#)

**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



# FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor and Lisa Miller

It was a great turnout for the Membership Committee's Prospective Member Reception held before our meeting. Thanks to all who brought a guest to the reception.





# FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Paul Nestor and Lisa Miller



(Left) **Stan Lawrence** faces the consequences of a fine for wearing the wrong team colors to the Padres program; (right) A very busy President Suzy still manages to find time to participate with the Club 33 Singers before the program.



(Left) Michael Anderson disguises a San Francisco Giants hat, which he later reveals to the dismay of our Padres guests; (center) **Marinda Peugh** and **Phil Blair**; (right) congrats to **Ann Hill** on winning the raffle for Padres tickets.



(Left) Michael Brunker is excited that the Padres are bringing back their brown uniform; (right) Padres Execs Sergio Del Prado, Tom Seidler, Bill Johnston, Ron Fowler and Curt Waugh.



A special thank you to Ron Fowler for joining us!



# MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Another successful USO BBQ for the books! Thank you to all our wonderful MAC volunteers and to President Suzy for helping out.

