



Service Above Self

## Rotary Club of Bullhead City eBulletin

Tuesday, January 02, 2007

Club Web Site

**Editor:** Art Harrington  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

### Future Speakers

**Jan 11 2007**

Steven Brown  
"Relay for Life"

### Upcoming Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**5:30 pm**  
Jan 4 2007

### News

[Quote of the Week - Who Said It?](#)

[Thought for the Week - Who Said It?](#)

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**Last week's meeting**  
*by Art Harrington*

## A great time was had by all!

Our sincere thanks to Mike Conner and his staff at the Chamber for their work in hosting our annual Christmas Party last Thursday night. We especially appreciated Teri's capable officiating at the bar.



The dinner was excellent, and the music was enjoyable. The Melody Lane Duo certainly lived up to our high expectations for them.

Special thanks to Terry Morgridge's wife, Cindy, for creating the beautiful Christmas tree table decorations.

**Have you helped the Smiths yet?**  
*by Art Harrington*



**Our club will match your pledged donation**

## Final call for matched gifts

Tony and Maureen Smith and their four children live here in Bullhead City, and two of the girls are in our MHS Interact Club. Tony has a disability, so Maureen has been the primary breadwinner for the family.

On November 18, while volunteering her time with the local youth soccer program, Maureen suffered a stroke and a brain aneurysm. She has undergone two brain surgeries and is in a coma, with her condition still critical.

**A Maureen Smith Relief Fund has been established**, and contributions can be made to that fund c/o The Rotary Club of Bullhead City, P.O. Box 21026, Bullhead City, AZ 86439. An article by our club president, Kelly Burgess, appeared in the local papers last week, informing the community of this need.

**Our Rotary club members have risen to the challenge** to help address the substantial needs this family will have. At our club meeting last week, the club voted to match from our club treasury all pledges and contributions made by our club members. So far we have had 33 pledges of help, totalling **\$2,466** (not counting the match from our club).

**If you would like to pledge an amount**, this can be added to your quarterly statement you will receive from the club the first of January. Simply call club treasurer Sharon Harrington (763-1440) or e-mail her (sharonhfs@msn.com) with the amount you would like to pledge. The club is willing to immediately "front the money" for your pledge, so help can be given to the family now when it is so urgently needed.

#### **Last chance for AZ tax credits**

*by Art Harrington*

### **Still time to act before Dec. 31st**



**Don't miss out on your Arizona Tax Credits** through your contributions to the **AZ Rotary Vocational Fund and Mohave High School** (designated for the Interact Club).

Remember that couples can give \$400 to each of these causes before the end of the year - and get it all back in January via two Arizona tax credits. Even better, you can also save on your federal taxes by deducting these same gifts as charitable contributions on your itemized deductions. In essence, these are gifts that cost you nothing, plus paying you a tax-savings dividend!

Want to know more? Need the forms to fill out and send in with those gifts?

**Call Sharon Harrington - 763-1440 - or see her at this week's club meeting.** Sharon has the scoop, and she has the forms.

#### **A "heads-up" for employers**

*by Sharon Harrington*



### **New minimum wage law has teeth**

Arizona voters passed in November a new \$6.75 minimum wage that takes effect January 1, 2007. The new law is tough, and it has some sharp

teeth.

First of all, the law applies to almost all employers - except the State of Arizona, the federal government and small businesses with less than \$500,000 gross annual income, and who are not subject to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Since most businesses are subject to that act, in one way or another, that exempts very few small businesses.

Restaurants need to read this new law carefully. For employees who customarily and regularly receive tips or gratuities, an employer may pay a wage of up to \$3.00 less than the minimum wage, but not less than \$3.75. However, if an employee's tips,

combined with the employer's direct wages, do not equal the new Arizona minimum hourly wage, the employer must make up the difference.

There are some stiff recordkeeping and posting requirements required of employers by this new law as well. Employers must maintain payroll records showing the hours worked for each day worked, and the wages paid to all employees - for a period of four years. If an employer fails to do so, the Commission is empowered by the law to presume that the employer did *not* pay the required minimum wage rate, and to take authorized action against the employer. A first negligent violation results in a civil penalty of \$250, with subsequent or willful violations costing \$1,000 or more for each violation.

So what happens if an employer fails to pay an employee the minimum wage after January 1st? The law requires that employer to pay the employee the balance of the wages owed, plus interest. But that's not all. In addition, the employer is required to pay the employee an *additional* amount equal to *twice* the underpaid wages.

A word of warning to any employer who may consider retaliation against an employee who has filed a claim for payment of these wages: *Don't even consider going there!*

Any employer who retaliates against an employee or other person in violation of this new minimum wage law is required by the law to pay the employee "an amount to be set by the Commission or a Court sufficient to deter future violations, but not less than one hundred fifty dollars for each day that the violation continued, or until legal judgment is final."

Will the new minimum hourly wage remain at \$6.75? No, it will be raised on January 1 of each succeeding year by the calculated increase in cost of living.

**Our Rotary Foundation**  
*by Art Harrington*

**Every Rotarian Every Year**



## Our Foundation's success requires your help

**The Rotary Foundation is the enabling arm of Rotary.** But our Foundation has only the funds we donate to it to work the magic of Rotary.

The Annual Programs Fund is the primary source of unrestricted support of the programs of The Rotary Foundation. It funds programs in 168 countries on seven continents, with projects ranging from digging clean water wells for villages in Africa, to teaching basic literacy skills to children in Latin America.

During any given moment in a day, thousands of Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that all contributions given to The Annual Programs Fund are spent wisely on quality Rotary projects. If **Every Rotarian, Every Year** makes a gift to the Annual Programs Fund, we will be able to continue the great work of our Rotary Foundation.

One thing is certain: We can do far more *together* to solve the world's many problems than any of us could ever accomplish on our own. Together through Rotary and our Foundation we are making a significant difference every day in the lives of people around the world. We may never know them, or even see them. But we have helped change their lives through our gifts to The Rotary Foundation.