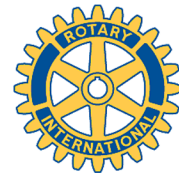


Arden Arcade

Chartered, February 23, 1955

March 15, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 31



**ROTARY CLUB OF
ARDEN ARCADE**

Arden Arcade 2015-2016

Pledge by Ben Fox
Invocation By Joel Archer

Guests were Patrick O'Neil, and Rob Olmstead. Visiting Rotarian: Tony Rentaria from Pocket Greenhaven.

Joel said the sponsorships for the All in for Arden Arcade Poker Tournament are going great—only 5 table sponsors are left. Gary mentioned that Granite Bay Golf Club along with Young's Market are sponsoring the Whiskey Bar. A Cigar Bar Sponsor is still needed. Our charge now is to SELL TICKETS! We need people in the seats to make the tournament successful. Jeri also mentioned we need silent auction items—gift certificates, get aways, etc. Be creative!

Thank you notes from Leo Palmieter, Laurel Ruff and Amigos De Guatemala were passed around.

Very tough news: Dan McCallum is under Hospice care at his home. Be sure to call Diane ahead of any thoughts of visiting or offers of help, but be sure to keep Dan in your heart and prayers.

Michael Caplan reminds you we still have Rotary shirts (men's and women's) available for sale—see Michael.

Danny made a plea for a young man, Malcom, who works for Swanston Park and SCIP and who is struggling after the murder of his brother. Danny asked if anyone wished they could contribute to help him get to LA for the funeral and to help his family. See Danny directly.

Thank you to Paula James for the great speech tournament last week.

Paul King attended PETS—President Elect Trailing Seminar in San Jose. And shared that he was with 450 President Elects from CA, OR, WA, NV and HI and over 100 volunteers, support people and speakers. There were 2 Past-RI Presidents in attendance as well. Paul sat with a man who was 92 years old and hadn't attended PETS when he was President of his club, but he always wanted to so he attended PETS and was honored at the Saturday night dinner. Paul also had the chance to meet Lee Taggart's daughter, Susan Johnson, from the Eureka Club. Paul is beginning to plan for his Presidency next year so let him know which committee you'd like to chair!

Gary announced that June 14th will be our Car Show—invite friends to show their cars and attend the meeting—plans are still in the works.



Steve Turner,
Club President

Paul King, Vice
President, President
Elect

Stuart Nelson,
Secretary

Christine Hock, Treasurer

Tom Goode, Controller

Past President, Joel Archer

Joe Green, Membership

Matt Ross, Public Relations

Jeri Petersen, Arden Arcade Foundation

Matt Ross, RI Foundation

Cathy Skeen, Club Events

Tim Martin, Community Service

Mike Caplan, International Service

Al Cady, Sergeant at Arms

Paul King, Rotary House,

Paula James, Youth Programs

Patt McCormick, Newsletter Editor

Attendance: Jed Van Wagner

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RAFFLE

\$540.00 up for grabs!

- 1. \$175.00—Michael Grace had the number but did not pull the ace!**
- 2. \$365.00—Rob Ford had the number but did not pull the ace!**



Steve introduced Greg Lukenbil by remembering him in the 80's in plaid shirts! Greg started by talking about development in Sacramento in the 70's and 80's. He credits George McKuen as one of the iconic business leaders at the time. McKuen developed 555 Capital Mall. He was a Bay Area guy who moved to Sacramento in the 60's and began by building fourplexes. Fred Anderson was another iconic businessman who had ties to the City Council and enacted building regulations that have made it very difficult to work as a developer in the Sacramento area. Greg believes Kevin Johnson provided a miracle to keep the Kings in Sacramento.

David Stern, the NBA Commissioner, has a soft place in his heart for Sacramento. He became commissioner just as the Kings moved here from Kansas City. The Downtown Arena is a great deal for the city of Sacramento. The Kings gifted the city with a 15 million dollar a year (revenue) parking lot, plus the Kings gave the city the rights to all other entertainment offerings besides the Kings.

When we were trying to get the arena deal and keep the Kings, Phil Oates stepped up and brought together many other large business owners/developers to form the ownership group. In Greg's opinion, the Malouf's had done a real disservice to the city and Greg even ended his relationship with the Kings because of the Malouf's.

Greg had bought farmland in Natomas in 1978 and it became a political minefield. Before the Oroville Dam was built in 1966, the Arden Arcade area flooded. The dam proved to be very effective even in 1986 when many areas flooded, but Arden Arcade did not. Benvenuti and Sac Savings bought the property around Greg's property and had a deal with IKEA to build in 1982, but the City Council soured the deal and IKEA went to West Sacramento. Intel was going to build their campus on this property, but the City Council soured it and Intel went to Folsom. It was WAR getting anything done in Sacramento.

In 1982, Greg went to 9 members of the City Council and said you're standing in the way of progress. Their answer was go get a team and we'll let you build. The group almost bought the Indiana Pacers, but instead went to Kansas City for the Kings. Before they even secured the Kings, they decided to build it as a warehouse. That way if the deal fell through it could be a warehouse. The idea was that they could build it like a warehouse, turn it into a stadium and then turn it into an office building. The Bee and Union started making comments about the funny looking warehouse being built and then put 2 and 2 together and realized it was the entity looking to bring the NBA to Sacramento. People started showing up at Lukenbil's offices asking to buy season tickets. Before long, over 25,000 season ticket holders had signed up without even securing the team.

The arena was opened in 1985. Opening night the traffic was so bad there were traffic jams all over the place. David Stern was traveling from downtown to the arena and was stuck in the traffic. The police gave him an escort to get to the arena before the game began. What was an Identity Issue for Sacramento was a dice roll for the NBA. Would a small market have the support? Because of the immense support the Kings got in Sacramento, the NBA went into other small markets like Minnesota, Orlando, Charlotte and Miami.

There were 14 law suits over the arena, it took 5 years of litigation but all were won or settled by 1988. After working for the partnership to bring the Kings to Sacramento for 10 years, they no longer needed Greg. However, he was the one who brought the idea of Title Sponsorship to lease the name of the building. 60 different companies applied to name what became ARCO ARENA.

In the 80's the huge success in the Silicon Valley pushed people and companies to Sacramento for cheaper rents and homes. After Sacramento stopped being friendly to business they sought other sites and

went to Folsom (Intel), West Sacramento (IKEA) and others. Now they are going to Nevada, and beyond—think Waste Connections and Campbell's Soup. Our history from the 1800's was rich with business. The Continental Railroad, the Fairgrounds—with the weather, soil and our rich agricultural environment jobs were plentiful and the Capital came to Sacramento. Now we just need some political cooperation to continue to raise the bar on our quality of life.

Greg had made a deal with Al Davis of the Raiders to bring the Raiders to Sacramento and have the football stadium built right beside Arco Arena. (In fact the foundation was already poured.) In Greg's opinion, Joe Benvenuti ruined the deal and now there is a 25 million dollar hole in the ground.

Greg's philosophy is personal, family and community, but others are really out for their own selves. Greg was asked if he had any political aspirations and he said quite frankly he couldn't handle the environment. He feels Kevin Johnson made a real impact on keeping the Kings and it will be hard to fill his shoes. He also feels like Sacramento is the 3rd wheel in California, our economic recovery is anemic, our housing recovery is anemic and the jobs rate is lousy.

Greg was asked if the city and county should be combined and he said it should have been done a long time ago. If we compare Sacramento to other Capital cities we fall way behind. Greg was also asked if he'll be involved with the new ownership of the Kings and he says they haven't reached out to him and he hasn't reached out to them. He says Chris Granger who is running the partnership is very good. Greg also said he feels NBA players make too much money! I think we can all agree on that! Thank you, Greg, for a very interesting program—please come back there is much more to be said!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 22nd *** No Meeting *** This is our 3rd Quarter Dark Day for Spring Break. See you again on the 29th.

March 29th Our Meetings presenter is scheduled to be Joshua Wood, of Regional Builders. This successful developer and political strongman will be talking about the improving economic picture in the Sacramento region, working all the angles of Downtown development, and the inside scoop about keeping the Kings in Sacramento. Don't miss this unvarnished view!

Stuart's letter to his kids...(from the speech contest day)

Dads Advice for my kids

- Be Humble
- Be Kind
- Be Honest
- Be Loyal
- Be Forgiving
- Don't lie
- Don't Cheat or Steal
- Give love
- Receive love
- Work hard anything worth having is worth working for
- The people around you change who you are so make sure you are around good people
- Be the best version of yourself you can be
- Don't be afraid to be yourself
- Always keep your fire lit but never put out someone else's
- If you spend too much time thinking about the bad you will have trouble seeing the good
- don't ever give up, if you get knocked down get back up
- take care of yourself for those you love