



Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

July 15, 2009

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne III

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Pictures by Dr John W. Elman

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Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org

Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org

Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org

Rotary District 5280 "Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians" Website: <http://yp5280.org/>

[RI President \(2009-2010\) John Kenny](#)

Rotary District 5280 Governor (2009-2010): Suzanne Sundberg

Arnold York "Inside the [Sacramento] Beltway"



In Malibu we know **Arnold York** as the Editor-In-Chief and co-publisher (along with Malibu Rotary Club Past President Karen York) of the *Malibu Times*. What many of us don't know is for the past 5 years he, along with his son Anthony, has published a newspaper based in Sacramento called the *Capital Weekly*. He said it serves the 25,000 people in the state who are involved in politics. It has gotten him to know people in the Sacramento beltway and what is going on at our state's capital.

The main topic of his conversation at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting of July 15th. had to do with the California state budget and the reason that at least at the time of his talk, there wasn't one—a workable budget that is.

Arnold explains that there was a perfect storm brewing to produce the mess we're in: the deep recession, the unemployment which is still rising, California's reliance on income tax since which is down because of unemployment and lower salaries, the fact that Proposition 13 makes California's property in the lower third of the nation even when property values are the highest, proposition 98 which mandates the certain money that must go to education, and Term Limits which knocked off traditional Sacramento political leaders who were used to compromising and having a known way to get things done and replacing them far right and far left members of each party who will not compromise their party's position, and also years of budgets being tweaked to make them look balanced when they actually they weren't.

Arnold said that in Reagan and Pete Wilson governments there was both cutting of expenditures and an increase in taxes in an attempt to balance budgets, and the legislature worked together in negotiating deals to create balanced budgets. Today's Republicans have taken a "No Tax" pledge. And today's Democrats are so controlled by unions that

they will not except reductions in teachers, prison guards, and other unionized state employees benefits.

The three main expenditures for the state are education (which gets more than half of the budget), health, and prisons. Nobody in government want to cut any of these things. Arnold said cuts in healthcare benefits are undoubtedly are going to cause deaths. Prison guards have very lucrative union contracts. There are 25,000 prison guards in the California state prisons and most make over \$100,000 per year.

We need to cut the budget by 1/3. Because of redistricting most congressional districts are controlled by either one party or the other and the Republicans and Democrats of the current state legislature are so polarized in their positions they do not even talk to each. There is no negotiating like there used to be in previous years. Even when they do move on things at this point it will take a long time to change course and fix the budget problems. Arnold said that in running a newspaper, especially a relatively small one, he can move rather quickly to address problems. He said he, like most businesses are feeling the pinch right now. Because real estate sales are down there is less real estate advertising coming into the paper—and realty is their number one advertising source for newspapers. But he can make adjustments because he is a small company, and he used as analogy, the difference between a sail boat and ocean liner has in changing it direction. He said that making changes in his newspaper because of economic conditions was like changing the course of a small sail boat, which can turn and be maneuvered with changes in the wind, which rapidly changes its course. He likened big government to an ocean liner. Even when the captain orders a change in course it takes a long time before turning the steering wheel will make a difference—in the case of government it might take months or years before the steps taken now will show up in changing the direction it is headed.

Arnold asked us what we should, could, and would do about the California state budget crisis. Some of the things being considered are:

1. Increase state income tax—both in spreading out who pays it and how much. Now 20% of the people pay nearly 100% of the total of state income tax.
2. Tax Oil services.
3. Legalize Marijuana so that it can be taxed.
4. Refuse to pay state services (education and health) to the 2.7 million illegal immigrants in California
5. Have voters have an election to overturn Proposition 13 so that higher property taxes can be assessed.

Arnold also had another interesting proposal. He said that in general the felony crimes in California are committed by young people, mostly having to do with drugs. It costs \$50,000 per prisoner to keep criminals behind bars. There are currently 180,000 prisoners in California. He said that the older prisoners are less likely to commit crimes than the younger ones. Therefore, he reasoned, if we paroled all the criminals over a certain age that have not committed violent crimes and who have been model prisoners several years since that have been incarnated we could reduce the budget deficit. He said these people would still not be skilled and in order to not cause them to go back to a life of crime he said it would probably cost the state \$10,000 per

year in welfare for each of these freed prisoners—still less than the \$50,000 per year needed to keep them behind bars. He suggested an age of 50, but it could be age 60 or 65.

Guests and Other News from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

Glenn Mitchell, Rotary District 5280 Assistance Governor from Carson, was a guest at our meeting. By the time he was seated Malibu Rotary Club President Holmes Osborne and Bill Wishard had already spoken about upcoming Rotary District events, including District Leadership Seminar at Crown Plaza LAX Hotel 5985 W. Century Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90045, this Saturday, July 18th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the Rotary Foundation Celebration Dinner & Casino Night at the Carson Community October 3rd, for which the Malibu Rotary Club already was reserving a table for 10 at a cost of \$75.00 per person. Holmes reiterated how important it is for everyone to bring guests to our meetings. At this particular meeting no one had.

Chris Bauman was handing out raffle tickets for the Rotary Foundation Celebration Dinner. Grand prize is timeshare in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico including 60,000 frequent flyer miles on Alaska Airlines. Second Prize is \$1000 cash and third prize is \$500 gift certificate to Gearys Beverly Hills.

- **Don't Forget the Syvertsen Deal!**

“What's the Syvertsen deal?” you ask. It a special deal given to Members of the Malibu Rotary Club to help them pay for the minimum Rotary Foundation \$100 raffle tickets. I asked by Bob to explain it:

For each club member who has paid the entire amount due to the club, as reflected by the 7/1/09 statements, by September 30 the club will send \$100 and the raffle ticket stubs to district 5280. As there are some drawings prior to the event, we will forward the stubs and \$100 when each bill is fully paid at three different dates:

July 29.

August 26. and

September 30, 2009.

You of course can get more raffle tickets from Chris Bauman, but \$100 contribution is minimum.

Malibu Rotary Club Meeting Place and the Options at Pepperdine University

Earlier in the summer Chris Bauman outlined some of the conclusions we had about our meeting place at Pepperdine:

In short, they will continue to set up the tables as usual through the summer. If, during the summer, a situation arises where they are unable to set up the room for us due to the room being occupied the day/evening prior, I will receive a phone call alerting us of the situation. We can then elect to either take the room 'as-is' or pay the additional set up fee of \$68.

We also spoke of the possibility of them checking a key out to me to have access to the tables in the instance we accept the room 'as-is' and there are no tables available. We would then set up our own tables; which is not to assume that we would not possibly face the situation of having 100 chairs set up in the room from the prior event.

After the summer, In August, we can revisit the longer term solution and decide the best route.

Hope this helps,
Chris Bauman



Editors Note: Most of you know how strongly I feel about the Project TRIUMPH program conceived by Ilan Magdali of the Newbury Park Rotary Club. The program brought 10 teenage Arab and 10 teenage Jewish students from Israel to a leadership camp in Simi Valley where they all learned to work together, develop leaders skills before returning to Israel to use what they learned back home. Most of us feel helpless in trying to find a solution to the constant war in the Mid East, but at least this program is trying to do something, In the last issue of The Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter I had written about e-mail communications I had had with Frances Fuji of the Project TRIUMPH organizing committee. She had written

stronger, more well-rounded and promising program than ever before.”



In a subsequent e-mail she had written about what some of the student alumni of the Project TRIUMPH program (many of whom we had met when they were here) were

“In light of the current economic climate and more challenging environment for securing grant monies, instead of hosting students this year, we are taking the opportunity to strengthen infrastructure in Israel and to establish collaborative relationships with aligned organizations.

Upon our request, Shaul, from the Rotary Club of Haifa, provided us with a budget and proposal to hire a part-time facilitator to be responsible for year-round support of both new Project TRIUMPH students and alumni. We are sending money to contribute to the facilitator’s salary, and she has already begun meeting with the kids there.

We are excited about prospects for 2010 and beyond (the plan is to resume bringing kids over in 2010, assuming that we can raise enough funds in 2009) and believe we will emerge from this fallow year with an even

currently doing after participating in the Project TRIUMPH program:

“Our greater vision is to inspire leaders of tomorrow by imparting wisdom and broadening the perspective of high school students. Our first year students, who were here in 2006, are now in the army or beginning to build careers. We have stayed in contact with some of them through Facebook. Very soon, their generation will be making pivotal choices that will impact not only their region, but the world.

We're proud of all the young people we've worked with, and we thank you for your belief in them.

Report from Shahram Hazany on La Estanzuela, Honduras Water Project

The Malibu Rotary Club had committed to join the Century City Rotary Club as well as the Brentwood Rotary Club in trying to get a Rotary Foundation grant for a water project in the Village of La Estanzuela, Honduras that was being built by the SC Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. We recently received the following e-mail from Century City Rotary Club Past President Shahram Hazany, who had presented the proposal to the Malibu Rotary Club.

Dear Rotary Clubs of Brentwood and Malibu,

It has been a while since I have given an official update on the status of this project that we are working on with the USC Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. I have given updates to Nathan Lee of Brentwood and Bill Wishard of Malibu along the way. Here is a chronological review of what has been occurring:

- 1) Over a year ago, at the end of David Moyer's governorship, we worked with the district to come up with the following:
 - a. Century City, Malibu, Brentwood and Marcala (in Honduras) would submit a matching grant application to bring clean water to La Estanzuela
 - b. Palos Verdes Sunset (David Moyer's club) and Marcala would eventually submit an application to bring clean water to the adjacent village up the hill from La Estanzuela
- 2) At this time (over a year ago) we sent the application approved by the district to Marcala
- 3) Before EWB USC moved forward, they needed approval of their design from EWB USA. They submitted a design and EWB USA asked them to revise it so that more water could be pumped from the river into the storage tank
- 4) EWB USC came up with a new design and it was approved by EWB USA
- 5) We asked Marcala to sign the grant application so we could move forward with the project
- 6) Marcala said that before they would sign the agreement that EWB would need an independent study to show that the project would be feasible and sustainable
- 7) The independent study was done and the independent study showed that it was feasible and sustainable
- 8) On numerous occasions we asked Marcala to sign the application but they were slow to respond
- 9) We recently had a conversation with Marcala and we were informed that their board chose NOT to approve the project. They said that the pump system that EWB designed would get clogged with dirt and the villagers would not be able to fix it. They said that there was a similar problem with a similar system in another village. The engineers have assured me that their design was different and would not cause this problem. The independent study had come up with this same conclusion. Marcala decided that they do not want to take the risk.

10) We attempted to see if the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa in the capital city of Honduras would want to sign on as our partner. Due to the distance, they would not be able to monitor the project and declined to work with us.

So this is where we are now:

- 1) This will no longer be a Rotary Matching Grant Project but EWB USC is committed to completing this project and making it work. They will most likely work with a local NGO.
- 2) Since Century City has raised \$4,000 in the name of bringing clean water to La Estansuela, we have decided that we will submit this as a donation to EWB USC for this project with the understanding that EWB USC will have to give us continuous updates that the funds will be used effectively for this project
- 3) Pending their board approval, Palos Verdes Sunset will most likely contribute the \$10,000 that they had set aside with similar requirements

Here is what I need to know from Brentwood and Malibu: This is completely up to you but please let me know if your clubs would be willing to submit the funds towards this project, knowing that it is no longer a Rotary Project but an Engineers Without Borders Project.

Yours in Service,
Shahram Hazany
Past President, Rotary Club of Century

Calendar

Jul 22 2009

Geoffrey Ortiz

"Recovering from the unavoidable "Crash""

What can you afford to lose? How to keep from losing it.

Geoffrey Ortiz is the Business Development Director of Widgets Inc. - a computer parts company, and a member of the Rotary Club of Malibu for over 15 years.

Jul 29 2009

Caryn West

"The Trouble with the Alphabet"

Aug 5 2009

Lee Kats

"Solar Frogs"

Aug 19 2009

Michael Schultz

"The Costs of a DUI"

Sep 16 2009

Jonathan Light

"Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball"

Sep 30 2009

Rotary District Gov Suzanne Sundberg

"Rotary District 5280 Year 2009-2010 Annual Report"

October 3 2009

Paul Harris Dinner at Sheraton Universal Hotel

