



Mid San Fernando Valley

Service Above Self

Meeting at Denny's restaurant
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.
16575 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

September 15, 2011

Flag Salute: Rosielee Jones
Invocation: PDG Emilio Basile
4 Way Test: Jean Mabilon

Attending Members: Reneé D'Auria, PDG Emilio Basile, Sara Vasquez, Barbara Pampalone, Roz Dubrow, Frank Santucci, Rosielee Jones, Rich Miller, Jean Mabilon, Judy Rockey, Clinton Jones and Beth Ullman

Guests: Soon-to-be-member Bub Pickup; Marco Padilla, a student at Santa Monica college also working in Rich Miller's office; Beth Anderson, from the Burbank Sunrise club, and our speakers, Lisa Long and Father Kenneth Chukwu from St. John Eudes Parish

Corrections: *In last week's bulletin the names of those who did the flag salute and invocation were reversed. Also, the Sept. 27th District 5280 breakfast time is 7:00 a.m., not p.m. Our apologies for the errors.*

Announcements

The Governor is Coming

Please join us in welcoming District Governor Tom Hardy at next week's meeting. We'll be sharing our plans for this year and learning more about the great plans he has for the district during this challenging transition year. We'll also be formally inducting Bub Pickup – please come and support him and the club!

Youth Exchange

Beth Anderson is again our District Youth Exchange Chair, who told us about the district's first officially authorized exchange student. Sixteen year old Leonard Baum is here from Germany for the entire school year. He's a remarkable young man – captain of his tennis team, an outstanding student, and very fluent in English. He attends the 300 student Daniel Pearl Magnet High School (next to Birmingham) and is doing very well there. In order for him to get the greatest benefit of his time here, and allow more families the wonderful experience of hosting, Beth is looking for another two or three host families for the January through June time frame. At least two person households are preferred, but they can both be adults, and they need not be Rotarians. It's a wonderful opportunity to really get to know someone from another culture and make a life-long friend. Beth herself has hosted numerous

Calendar

9/20 Tues., 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
9/22, 11:00 Board Meeting with Governor
12:15 District Governor Tom Hardy
9/29 Marc Tapper, Membership
10/6 Bub Pickup, Genealogy
10/10 Mon., 5:30 – 9 p.m. New Horizons Golf
Tournament, Sherman Oaks Castle
Park, 4989 Sepulveda Blvd.
10/13 Open

students for the last 20 years, starting with one from Brazil before she ever joined Rotary, and said that's what brought her in. If you or someone you know might be a good candidate, please contact Beth Anderson at 818-262-2933, or via email to BurbankBeth@aol.com.

Interact

Rosielee Jones announced that Chaminade has approved the Interact club the students want to start there, and assigned an advisor. She will be meeting with them, and hopefully district chair Camille Levee, next week to help the group get started. They might be a good alternative group for the Entrepreneurial Training Program if we are unable to get permission at San Antonio Boys Home.

Beanie Babies and Eyeglasses Donations

Thanks to Captain Judy Rockey and the Salvation Army, we delivered 200 or so Beanie Babies to Operation Gratitude, and about 700 eyeglasses to VOSH (Volunteer Optometry Service to Humanity). If you have any old glasses you'd like to give, please bring them to Beth at any meeting or event. If you have small items (scarves without fringe, note cards, letters to service personnel, caps or candy) that you would like to contribute to Operation Gratitude, you can deliver them to the Armory, located on the south side of Victory Blvd. at Louise. They will be accepting donations through December 5. Hours are Monday and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday noon – 4:00 p.m.

New Horizons Golf Tournament

Join us on October 10, 2011 for the 10th Annual New Horizons Miniature Golf Tournament at Sherman Oaks Castle Park, 4989 Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks. Please arrive about 5:30 p.m. to help set up for 6:00 start.

Member Update

Sara recently visited PDG John Alexander, and helped his attorney and other Rotarians orchestrate the different kinds of help he would need at his home. If you can, please visit him at the Tarzana Rehabilitation Center on Reseda Blvd., and bring a little something to whet his appetite – he especially likes the fresh tomatoes, lox and chocolate (which you will need to help him hide so the staff doesn't eat it) that you can buy at Gelson's, which is on Reseda and Clark street, just a block or two away.

District 5280 Breakfast

We have been invited to the District 5280's next breakfast on Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 a.m. at the Westin LAX Hotel. Make your reservations before September 20 for the early bird special price of \$34. The speaker will be Val Zavala who is the anchor of SoCal Connected and also serves as KCET's Vice President of News and Public Affairs.

Speaker: Lisa Long, Mission Circle Ministry at St. John Eudes Parish

Lisa started her talk by showing us a set of photos that included children in a classroom, a mother, and a group of villagers enjoying clean water – all success stories thanks to the work the ministry has done in the village of Egbelu in the Amaimo Local Government Area of Imo State in Nigeria, where Father Kenneth grew up. So far they have outfitted 360 grateful students with school supplies and uniforms, which also helps the local economy – the cloth is local, and village seamstresses measure each student then make the clothes to fit.



Barbara Pampalone, Father Kenneth Chukwu; Lisa Long

The one well they have helped drill and pump serves all 60,000 villagers, with the pump working at scheduled hours and the system always guarded against possible vandalism. It has been working so well that it has yet to need any repairs.

Circle Ministry also helps a number of other non-profit groups, including ZOE in the Philippines, which helps prevent and rescue kids being sold into prostitution, some as young as 8 years old. They also help Home Boys here in Los Angeles. This organization works with gang members to get them off the streets and into productive lives, teaching them job skills, operating the now-famous

bakery and craft sales, removing tattoos at no charge, and getting the boys and girls into safe housing.

Father Kenneth Chukwu of St. John Eudes Parish told us most members of his former home are farmers, though his parents were teachers. If people are lucky enough to gain some wealth they usually move to the cities, where there is clean water, electricity and a much lower likelihood of being kidnapped for ransom. He became a priest and taught in Nigeria, then came to the U.S. six years ago, where his first position was as chaplain at Northridge Hospital. He returns to his village every year, living as the villagers do so he can better understand what they face. The children still have to carry heavy loads of water, making at least two trips before school starts for the day. At least in Egbelu the water is now safe, thanks to the new well. But elsewhere, as in much of rural Africa and many other places in the world, the only water sources are full of disease and industrial pollution from the growing number of foreign manufacturing plants. By providing clean water they can help prevent both sources of illness.

The well they helped put in required drilling to 500 feet. It was then sedimented (for purification of the water it goes through a layer of sand) and pumped up into 3,000 gallon tanks for storage. From his own pocket Father Kenneth pays for the gas and oil to run the pump – there is no electricity in the village.

In addition to clean water, which the villagers make a community project, Father Kenneth emphasized the need for education. With a corrupt government, villagers need outside support for education and keeping the schools in good repair. During the rainy season hard rains can be a real problem when roofs leak – schools have to close. Money is still needed to help repair many of the buildings. As Father Kenneth noted, without a decent education, they will not be able to fully develop either their own potential or their community.

It was heartening to learn that when uniforms and school supplies were provided, school enrollment went up 100%. Children beg on the street for pens so they can attend, and many who had dropped out returned. But the strong desire among the young people to do similar good works when they grow up is perhaps the most heart-warming outcome.

Additional efforts include providing scholarships and necessities to the poorest villagers. They are also looking at the possibility of buying animals for orphans, so they have a means of supporting themselves and don't end up in slavery.

To help raise money for other charities, there will be a special fair held November 12 and 13 in Fr. Grill Hall at the church, 9901 Mason Ave. in Chatsworth. If you'd like to participate, you can put an ad in the program, or rent a booth to showcase your business or sell your products. Lisa said they are also looking for sponsors to provide the \$300 booth fee so that non-profits can exhibit at no charge. The charities to be supported are Homeboy, Good Shepherd Sisters, St. Andrew's Abbey and SJE's Hispanic Ministry. Go to <http://sjemissioncircle.org> for more information, or email Lisa at outreachkidz@aol.com or Melissa at mizbizevents@gmail.com. You can also reach Lisa by phone at 818-666-5450.

Reminders:

2011 Sierra Safari

Join the Eastern Sierra clubs "Into the Wild Blue Yonder" at the 2011 Sierra Safari. This will be the last year that many of our clubs will be in the same district, so take this opportunity to visit with Rotarians you may not see on a consistent basis. Go to www.rotary5260.com for the flyer.

Miles of Quarters – Next Week

The Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley will hold their 5th Annual Mile of Quarters event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Westfield Topanga Mall, 6600 Topanga Blvd. in Canoga Park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you've never seen the event, it's a treat. The kids fill mats with end-to-end quarters that stretch out for a mile. The event will also include magic shows, a deejay, dignitaries, and other entertainment throughout the day. Money raised at the event will support programs for needy youths at the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley. One foot of quarters equals \$3.25. That means if the entire mile is filled, \$17,160 will have been raised. Last year's event filled the entire mile, a total of 63,000 quarters! For more information contact: Jan Sobel at 818-610-1054 or on her cell at 818-577-7737.

Possible Club Merger

Beginning October 14, the Van Nuys club will hold evening get-togethers at the 94th Aero Squadron, 16320 Raymer St. in Van Nuys from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This special meeting time will take place every Wednesday in October in lieu of their regular luncheon meeting. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know the members of that club.

PolioPlus: Thank you to everyone who contributed to Polio Plus this week.

Happy Bucks: Thank you to everyone who contributed to Happy Bucks this week.

Happy Birthday!

We sang a very special Happy Birthday to Reneé, whose birthday was coming Friday (the 16th) and to Frank, whose birthday was today. Congratulations, and many more.

Opportunity Drawing: Beth won the \$5 and Jean won the chance to pick the joker out of an ever-decreasing deck of cards, but pulled the 3 of clubs. The pot is now \$410.

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President:	
Barbara Pampalone	H 818-882-2395
Immediate Past President	
Martha Stulman	H 818-708-8947
Administrator & Club Chair:	
Beth Ullman	H 818-701-6889
Secretary:	
Rosielee Jones	C 818-703-3201
Treasurer:	
Frank Santucci	C 818-652-7529
Membership VP:	
Marc Tapper	H 818-425-6667
Projects VP:	
Rich Miller	W 818-994-8234
Foundation VP:	
PDG Emilio Basile	H 818-886-4142
Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
Public Relations VP & Bulletin Editor:	
Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Community Chair:	
Judy Rockey	C 818-683-3510
Int'l Chair:	
Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
New Generations Chairs:	
Clinton & Rosielee Jones	C 818-609-7105
Vocational Chair:	
Carlos Menjivar	818-996-7337
Programs Chair:	
Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Sgt. at Arms:	H 818-882-1659
Reneé D'Auria	
Parliamentarian:	
PDG John Alexander	H 818-899-2045

*Robin Kellogg
18604 Stare St.
Northridge, CA 91324*