



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin*

"The friendliest club in Rotary"

100% Paul Harris Club



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Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll
November 9, 2011

Meeting of November 2, 2011

Program – Craft Talks

Reporter: Diane Koranda

Introductions

Luncheon fare featured a nice fresh salad bar with turkey and all the trimmings topped of by brownies for dessert reminding us that Thanksgiving is right around the corner (and the Club will be dark that week).



President Lynda introduced **Andy Soter** who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag followed by an invocation from the 23rd psalm – "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Clyde Reynolds and RoseAnn Hill then led us in a spirited rendition of "Grand Old Flag."

Visiting Rotarians were recognized and welcomed by Andy which included **Beth Lyons and Eric Nasarenko representing Rotary South and Bill Schaeffer (past member)** visiting from Ashville North Carolina.

Guests were then introduced by their respective Rotarian hosts.

Prez Lynda noted that it was really good to have **Larry Dawes** attending again for the second week in a row. Larry is still recovering from surgery and is looking quite healthy. – Keep at it, Larry!

Announcements

Terry Schaeffer, Club Service director, recognized that next week is Veterans' Day and the Derby Club chef will prepare a lunch from the U.S. Navy cookbook – this should be very interesting and we are all waiting to see how sailors are fed in the mess.

Kristin Taylor expounded on 'Coats for Kids' which will have 51 collections sites in the area. If anyone on the committee has not picked up their packets and collection boxes, they are waiting for you at Four Seasons Cleaners on Main Street.

Beth Lyons, from Rotary South, announced the annual Rotary Trivia Challenge scheduled for November 16th at the Wedgewood Banquet Center and encouraged our Club to participate. Courtney Lindberg volunteered to get a team together. The event is a fundraiser for Adult Literacy – last year \$10,000 was raised.

Larry Emrich reminded all Presidents' Groups that they are responsible for submitting program ideas. Larry also noted that all fines in October went to Polio Plus.

Past President "Hutch" welcomed **Ellyn & James Dembowski to The Rotary Foundation's Bequest Society** (\$10,000 donation through estate).



President-elect Indy Batra thanked all who attended the recent District Conference and announced that next year's Rotary International Conference will be held in Thailand May 6-9, 2012. It's time to plan ahead! Indy also noted that the PEACE Conference will be held in Palm Springs November 13.

continued

Web addresses: Club www.venturarotary.org – Photos: www.rotarycov.smugmug.com
District 5240 www.rotarydistrict5240.org – R.I. www.rotary.org

Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

November 9, 2011

*Rowing on Lake Casitas
(Wendy Gillett)*

November 16, 2011

*The Rotary Foundation (TRF) –
What it means
(PP Hutch, Prez Lynda and her sister)*

November 23 - DARK

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Nov 9 – Mike Anderson

Nov 16 – Brenda Allison

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Nov 9 – Christina Rust

Nov 16 – Margo Byrne

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Nov 9 – Irene Henry

Nov 16 – Katherine Wertheim

2011-12 Officers and Directors

Officers

President Lynda Girtsman
President Elect Indy Batra
Secretary Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary * Larry Emrich
Treasurer Christine Tonello
Assistant Treasurer * Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President Hutch Hutchinson
•Non-Voting Position

Avenues of Service

Club Service

Director Terry Schaeffer
Assistant Director Dan Holmes

Community Service

Director Curtis Cormane
Assistant Director Nanci Cone

International Service

Director Mario de la Piedra
Assistant Director Ed McCombs

New Generations

Director Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Ken Cooper

Vocational Service

Director Bill Finley
Assistant Todd Binkley

Rotary Moment

Ellyn Dembowski related meeting the sister of a client who told her story of how Rotary changed her life when she was given the opportunity to be a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Ellyn noted that it's interesting how the story of Rotary successes are everywhere.

Paul Harris Fellow



Prez Lynda honored **Norm Blacher** with a Paul Harris Fellowship relating how Norm was hesitant to endorse the idea of Presidents' groups and that his group has turned out to be one of the most

successful and active in the Club.

Fining:

Nanci Cone was the Fine Master. Since her husband is a retired jockey and the Breeders' Cup Race is this weekend, Nancy focused her questions around historical moments of the Breeders' Cup. Out of a multitude of racing facts only Steve Doll and Ron Bamieh had correct answers – which makes one wonder what else they are doing at the Derby Club???

Lynda concluded the fining session by leveling a fine on Larry Emrich for having his name in the newspaper regarding his participation on behalf of Rotary at the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.

Linda also mentioned that Sonny Shah had donated the display space to Rotary for the Expo

Program:

Florence Fayn, our Rotary Exchange student from Saint Baldoph, France, shared the highlights of her



current stay in California and some of her experiences in her selection as an exchange student. Florence is just 16 years old and is interested in either journalism or medicine as a future career possibility. She is attending Ventura High School and noted that

she is currently the only exchange student at the school. Florence arrived in California in August and has had the opportunity to visit Lake Elsinore for the Exchange Student orientation, has travelled to Huntington Beach where she stayed with a Rotary host family, has explored Hollywood/Beverly Hills; San Diego; Santa Monica and Venice Beach.

Florence is a charming young woman with a good command of the English language. She describes all of her experiences so far as "awesome!"

continued on p. 3

Program continued

Unexpected program features (due to absent "craft talker" Ajai Keshap) were:

Neal Andrews: Neal was recently a guest in the



White House where he was invited to participate in Policy discussions with high ranking White House staff and Secretaries of Labor, Transportation, etc. Talks were focused around

Economic Development with special emphasis on the Job Bill. Neal indicated that they had an interesting and successful meeting but his question to the group was how to pay for the Job Bill provisions. Following the summit, a two hour reception was held in the east wing where Neal met the President Obama personally.

Mario de la Piedra, International Chair: Mario talked about his upcoming trip to Nicaragua. He is



being accompanied by Rotarians Curtis Cormane and Dale Jaedtke and will be gone November 3-13. They are travelling on behalf of Rotary and focusing their services on a Dental Project with members of

Rotaract. They will be visiting schools and taking a portable "dental office" in a suitcase which will be used for checking and cleaning teeth.

The project need was pre-determined when Mario previously travelled in Nicaragua to learn of their priority needs from Rotary. Best wishes to all of you for a successful and rewarding project on behalf of our club!

President Lynda thanked all the speakers and announced several upcoming special dates (See Upcoming Events at right). She also mentioned that next week's program will highlight Rowing on Lake Casitas and adjourned the meeting.

Please see the special Veterans' Day tribute, written by Terry Schaeffer, on page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 13 (Sunday) - 1:00 PM

Peace Conference – Palm Springs Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

Other Speakers: Vanessa Contopulos, Rotary Peace Fellow 2008-09 and Michael Fryer, Peace Builder and Educator

Breakout Session Focus Groups & Displays

For informational flyer and registration go to the Rotary Zones 25/26 website:

www.rotaryzones2526.org

November 17 (Thursday) – 11:45 AM

Board Meeting – 71 Palm

November 23 (Wednesday)

DARK – No meeting

December 2 (Friday) – 6:00 PM

Club Holiday Social at Ann Deal's home

December 14 (Wednesday) – 9:00AM

Children's Holiday Shopping Spree and Party

December 28 (Wednesday)

Joint Club Meeting with Ventura East

Award-winning composer, humanitarian, educator and world musician, **John Zeretke**, will be presenting a unique program for our Rotary group about his travels around the world.

UPCOMING COATS FOR KIDS MEETING

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

November 9

December 7

November 30

January 11

For more information, please contact Kristin Taylor

The 1st Minnesota

(by Terry Schaeffer)



The year was 1863, the date July, 2nd, the battle Gettysburg. This was the second day of the battle. This was a battle that ebbed and flowed favoring first the Army of Northern Virginia and then the Army of the Potomac. Back and forth it went time and time again at places like Culp's Hill, Devil's Den, Little Round Top, The Peach Orchard, the Angle, and the Wheat Field. The Wheat Field changed hands 6 times throughout the day. It was steamy hot summer day in eastern Pennsylvania. The time was the early evening with plenty of light available. The Union generals were moving men on a battle chessboard to stem the tide and to backup danger points. The 1st Minnesota was in the reserve near the middle of the Federal line within the area of the II Corps under the command of General Winfield Hancock, also known as "Hancock the Superb" later severely wounded. Trouble was brewing in on Cemetery Ridge when a gap was created sending men to stem the tide at the Wheat Field. Hancock saw it and ordered General Gibbon to send men from his division. Brigadier General Cadmus Wilcox's Alabama brigade was heading for the gap. Hell would have to be paid if they were to disrupt this part of the Union line. There was no way that Gibbon's reinforcements

would make it in time.

I now quote Gettysburg, the Confederate High Tide by Champ Clark: "General Hancock subsequently recalled his plight, "In some way 5 minutes must be gained or we were lost". He was granted his 5 minutes, and a few more, by a small regiment that stood in line of battle on Cemetery Ridge behind an artillery battery. Galloping toward them he called out: What regiment is this?" Colonel William Colville shouted back that it was the 1st Minnesota, which had been detached earlier that day from Gibbon's division. "Colonel, do you see those colors?" asked Hancock, pointing to the confederate battle flag in the front rank of Wilcox's brigade, Colville nodded. "Then take them," Hancock ordered. As Lieutenant William Lochren of the 1st Minnesota recalled, "Every man realized in an instant what that order meant – death or wounded to us all, the sacrifice of the regiment to gain a few minutes' time and save the position."

And so they charged, one undersized regiment against an entire brigade (at that time a brigade was made up of 4-6 regiments), down the ridge with muskets at right shoulder shift, their bayonets flashing. Just before they reached the Confederate lines, Colville shouted, "Charge bayonets," and their muskets were lowered, presenting a solid front of steel. Wrote Lochren: "The men were never made who will stand against leveled bayonets coming with such momentum and evident desperation. The ferocity of our onset seemed to paralyze them for a time." The Confederate line crumbled.

Before the Confederates could recover from the shock of the mad countercharge, other regiment from Gibbon's division had filled the void on Cemetery Ridge and were pouring withering fire into Wilcox's men. Of the 262 Minnesotans who fearlessly hurled themselves into Wilcox's brigade. Only 47 men remained fit for combat. This toll, 82% of those engaged, was the highest of any Union regiment of the war."

The 1st Minnesota!