

Fireside Discussion Notes 09/13/2022

Host: Zach Entwistle

Co Host: Maria Harlow

Attendees Diane Kelleher, Harrison Laird, Justus Maina, Zeger Teunissen, Josh Hunter

1. What is your favorite way to serve the club?
 - a. Community Service Projects
 - b. Free Little Libraries
 - c. Youth Exchange
 - d. Habitat Build

2. What is your favorite part of the weekly meeting?
 - a. Singing together
 - b. The food
 - c. True Confessions
 - d. Speakers

3. Are you able to serve on one hands-on project per year?
 - a. Yes and likes the social aspect
 - b. Yes if light duty
 - c. All the rest are yes
 - d. The picnic was great

4. We also asked Zeger what he would like to do during his year.
 - a. Snowboarding
 - b. Golf
 - c. Mt. Rainier
 - d. Rock Climbing
 - e. Sailing
 - f. Hiking & Backpacking
 - g. Space Needle
 - h. Concert
 - i. Scuba

TACOMA ROTARY #8
FALL FIRESIDE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Our Fireside was held at the home of Jim Harris. Present at our Fireside were: Jim Harris (Host), Jim Whitacre (Co-Host), Gilbert Quante, Whitney Grisaffi, Jack Warnick, Barbara Wyatt, Linn Larson, Don Hansen, John Schneider, Michelle Roberts, Brenda Gasper, and Marty Lough.

Following a spirited social interaction and a marvelous dinner prepared by Marty Lough, the group began discussion of the three questions posed by President Maria Harlow:

- 1) What has been your favorite ways to serve the club and community over the years: Vision 2000 (major project committee in 1998), volunteering at EFN, Saint Vincent de Paul, Habitat for Humanity and other community projects. Committees-Scholarship, Foreign Exchange, Rotary Picnic, Camp Goodtime, attending firesides, Boy Scouts. The majority of the input centered more on community volunteering than Rotary in house items.
- 2) What is your favorite part of our weekly meetings or could be your favorite part: This question garnered many comments and a lot of passion. The group felt that our meetings have become too short. There is not enough time to interact with other members. We would like to have birthdays every week not just once a month, more committee reports, do we really need the land acknowledgement every meeting?, Spot light scholarship recipients, have updates on past exchange students (both inbound and out bound), do more to high light the good works of both our club and Rotary International, more sharing on club activities, true confessions at every meeting. Meetings are not fun, speakers-reach out put further for more interesting topics, speakers to address problems in Tacoma.
- 3) Would you be willing and able to serve at one service project per year or more: The group all felt that this was more a case of "willing to commit more than willing to serve". Jim Harris made the point that for 100 years our club meetings had been 90 minutes and attendance required and we always had a high number of members attending our meetings and that now we meet for less than 60 minutes with no attendance requirement and we can barely attract 30-35 members to a meeting. Everyone felt that the meeting location and food both contributed to our low attendance at weekly meetings (however everyone loved the staff at La Quinta).

Respectfully submitted Jim Whitacre Co-Host

Fireside notes – From Lori Harnick

Attendance - Jeremy Simler, Greg Rolsma, Miriam Barnett, Cynthia Darland Jeff Albers, Mark Anderson, Lori Harnick, Carolyn Weyrick, Kathryn Nelson

Willing to serve - the answer is yes. From everyone.

Meeting ideas-

Favorite part of the weekly meetings -

- speakers
- Time together
- True confessions
- Getting to know new people

Suggested improvements for weekly meetings

- More time for table interaction
- 1.15 hour meetings with time for chatting/fellowship for 15 minutes
- Go back to yacht club with increased lunch price offer
- Totem yacht club? With 1/month catering from surrounding restaurants
- Change meeting time?
- Eliminate zoom/virtual meetings
- echoed by many
- Incentivize 15 minute early arrival for fellowship/social time
- Change venue
- If there is feedback around elimination of video/zoom - measure and weigh responses, then adapt accordingly

Favorite way of serving club/community over the years

- international projects
- - India
- - meeting rotarians around the world and learning that we are family
- Local projects
- - elementary schools
- - community service grants
- Youth exchange
- How welcoming the club is - it is special. Comes back to fellowship and service as a foundation
- There is always a place to serve
- Building the habitat home for a veteran (a visible representation of our club- fund raising, service ((money and time))
- - Down side was that it focused on one person.
- - Are there specific volunteer opportunities needed that we could step into to deepen the relationship
- We all have opportunities to find our passion through rotary
- Opportunities for ALL non profits regardless of size
- Literacy/children/habitat/hunger