



THE SUN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN - SUN CITY
District 5870 TUESDAYS 12 NOON
Cowan Creek Amenity Center, Cool Spring Way
November 8, 2011

www.RotaryDistrict5870.com www.rotary.org
1530 Sun City Blvd, Suite 120 Box 441, Georgetown 78633

LAST WEEK:

Invocation: Kelly Barnett
Pledge: Ben Hyde
4-Way Test: Nate Cabaniss

Guests:

Judy Harries/Bill Harries

Members Present: 52
Happy Bucks: \$67

Last Week: by **Bill Harries**

Our speaker last week was Sid Covington, chairman of the Lone Star Railroad District Board of Directors. Mr. Covington was introduced by Patty Eason, City Councilwoman for the city of Georgetown. His talk featured a power point display which outlined the scope of the railroad project and the current state of progress.

The railroad district, known as LSTAR, is a planned passenger rail system which would stretch 117 miles from South San Antonio to Georgetown. It would run through 5 counties with a plan for 16 stops. There would be 15 to twenty trains running everyday. The goal is to have 75 minute express service between Austin and San Antonio as well as commuter service between all stops.

The rail system would run in existing Union Pacific right-of-way, and much of the planning has centered on developing a joint system that would accommodate both freight and passenger service.

The next two years will see the planning stages near completion. Environmental issues, passenger stop location and parking areas, and final right-of-way are to be determined. The financial concerns are also being addressed, and the rail service will get funding from all the cities and counties involved as well as from the federal government.

(Appropriately this week's book we are giving to Jarrell HS is about trains!)

This Week: A military history of our members compiled by **David Leas**.

Dates to Remember:

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| Nov 28 – Dec 2 | Shopping for BWS |
| Dec 7 | Gift wrapping |
| Dec 10 | Gift deliveries |
| Dec 17 | Breakfast With Santa (G'town Community Center) |
| Jan 13, '12 | District Roll of Fame nomination deadline |
| Feb 11, '12 | Foundation Dinner, Lost Pines Resort |
| May 6-9, '12 | R.I. Convention, Bangkok |
| May 16 – June 16, '12 | GSE Team here from Australia |
| May - June | District Conference |

November is Rotary Foundation Month

Future Programmes:

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| Nov 15 | No regular meeting ** |
| Nov 22 | Jamie Mattison – final discussion of the Club Vision |
| Nov 29 | Bill Miller |
| Dec 6 | No meeting |
| Dec 13 | Meeting at the Oaks |
| Dec 20 | No Meeting |
| Dec 27 | No meeting |

** Next Week

On the evening of November 15th there will be a kick-off for the BREAKFAST WITH SANTA programme beginning at 6PM. We will convene at the home of **Rich and Rita Petro** at 112 Egret Cove, Sun City.

Something to be proud of!

The Rotary Foundation has moved up 14 places in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy's* annual survey of the top 400 fundraising charities in the United States. In the survey, based on fiscal year 2010, the Foundation is 61st on the list of charities that raise funds from private sources, compared with 75th the previous year. Funds raised for [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#) contributed to the ranking.

The *Chronicle*, which covers nonprofit news around the world, ranks the fundraising performance of charities based on cash donations, as well as gifts of stock, real estate, art, medicine, food, and other noncash items. An [article published on 16 October](#) provides an overview of the survey and highlights the Foundation's fundraising efforts for polio eradication, particularly among younger donors.

"This is a reflection of yet another outstanding year of fundraising for our Foundation," says John T. Osterlund, Foundation general manager. The article also notes that Rotaractors raised nearly \$192,000 and Interactors nearly \$274,000 for the challenge over the year.

Osterlund said involving young donors served as a creative fundraising approach and raised significant dollars. Based in Washington, D.C., the *Chronicle* is considered the top news source for charity leaders, foundation executives, fundraisers, and others involved in philanthropy.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION AT WORK IN TEXAS, IN OUR DISTRICT

The Bi-District meeting brought our clubs together with ones from Mexico, resulting in \$316,000 in grants to important health and humanitarian projects . The twenty-seventh international meeting between the two districts.

Thirteen projects, including operating room equipment, farming supplies, distance learning equipment, and a doll created for children undergoing chemotherapy, were approved by clubs .

A Skydiving lesson

All of these pilot and aviation jokes get me to thinking about my first skydiving instructor. During class he would always take the time to answer any of our stupid first-timer questions.

One guy asked, "If our chute doesn't open, and the reserve doesn't open, how long do we have until we hit the ground?"

Our jump master looked at him and in perfect deadpan and answered, "The rest of your life ."

DISTRICT GOVERNOR SURESH PAHWA'S MESSAGE

Arch C. Klumph, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to a Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world. From its first contribution of \$26.50 in 1918, the endowment had grown to \$5,739.07 by 1928, and it was renamed, *The Rotary Foundation*. In 1935, Paul Harris wrote that he believed that the Rotary Foundation would eventually rank as one of the world's great humanitarian enterprises. That vision is now a reality. The 1990-91 RI President, Paulo V. C. Costa, commented, "Rotary International's masterpiece is The Rotary Foundation.... The Rotary Foundation achieves the best that mankind can possibly achieve." My favorite quote for this month is by Rotary Founder Paul Harris, "Rotary is you and you are Rotary; so, try and make a difference as an individual to make this world a better place."

A Trip Fit For A King

Now is the time when the Monarchs pack their bags and come to Texas. The monarch butterflies come through Texas on their way to the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico. You have probably seen monarchs as they pass through Sun City. These butterflies are smart enough to get out of the frozen tundra before the snow starts to fly – sort of a “you fly or you die” choice. As a monarch spreads those big wings, it is amazing that they can even get off the ground. They just don’t look air-worthy. Watch one fly and you will wonder how they can even fly from Sun City to HEB to buy their groceries. However, they do fly from as far as Maine to Mexico – up to 2,000 miles in 3 or 4 weeks. They spend the winter in Mexico at 9,000 feet. The area is cool enough that they stay in a semi-dormant state, but there is no danger of a severe frost.

About the end of March, they start to fly back to the USA. They lay eggs, the young hatch and grow into butterflies and they move on north. Eventually in the fall, the monarchs all start back to Mexico. Some of the butterflies are 5 generations from when a relative last went to Mexico. How do they know where to go and how to navigate their way back to the home of their ancestors? (Remember most of them can’t even afford a good GPS.)

Scientists are still trying to learn how they navigate, but they find that butterflies are smarter than you think. They trained caterpillars to respond to sudden flashes of light. Pretty smart. Then the caterpillar spun a cocoon and turned into a butterfly. When they saw the sudden flash, they still responded the same as they did as a caterpillar. So, probably momma butterfly complains to her husband, “You may BE a butterfly, but you still THINK like a caterpillar.” So when royalty comes to visit us in Sun City, remember that they are taking a long trip fit for a king.

– - - Bob Deffeyes

News etc:

Bob Deffeyes' wife has recently celebrated a birthday; **Lou Gibson** is pleased to be back from Colorado; **Gene Perry** is celebrating his 89th birthday! **John Rouse** is thrilled to report Jarrell HS is now on the list of high performing schools in the NCEA; **Rich Petro** said the club had received a thank you note from MEDICO for the club's donation;

Bill Miller and Christine Brown from the CA handed out flyers relating to the upcoming Arts & Crafts Fair this weekend. Bill urged members to sign up for more shifts.

RI chief meets with Dolly Parton to talk literacy

General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International John Hewko visited backstage with country music legend Dolly Parton during her 28 July concert stop in the Chicago area. The meeting further strengthened ties between RI and Parton's [Dollywood Foundation](#) to promote reading and literacy.

"We reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to working with Dolly's foundation on literacy," says Hewko. "Both of our organizations have put basic education and literacy front and center and have worked together on that goal."

In 2009, RI [announced a collaborative arrangement](#) with the Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library program. Since then, hundreds of Rotary clubs in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom have initiated literacy projects.

Parton was also a speaker at the 2010 RI Convention in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Teaching the child

As a crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a 5-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an elderly man in the uniform of an Air Force General is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken General leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

As the General slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me, General," she asks quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The old man smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door on any flight I choose."