



THE SUN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN - SUN CITY
District 5870 TUESDAYS 12 NOON
Cowan Creek Amenity Center, Cool Spring Way
October 23, 2012

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

Life is like a taxi ride; the meter keeps on ticking
whether you're getting anywhere, or standing still.

Anonymous

LAST WEEK - 15th Anniversary Dinner at the Georgetown Recreational Center:

Presiding: President Jamie Mattison
Invocation: Chuck MacKay
Pledge: Tom Minor
4-Way Test: Barb Pekar

Paul Harris Awards were made by District Governor-Elect **Rich Kaye** to:

Bob Elam
Nathan Cabaniss (whose award was accepted by Tom Minor in Nathan's absence)
Bill Grusy (whose award was accepted by John Chenoweth in Bill's absence)

President **Jamie Mattison** then gave a brief outline of the club's last 15 years and all the activities and fund raisers in which the club has participated since its charter on October 24, 1997. The very detailed history timeline (which took many hours to complete – thank you, Jamie) was at everyone's place at the decorated tables (many thanks to **Barb Pekar** and **Adaire Wolf**) as well as the programme produced by **Barb Pekar**.

Richard and Jeanette Nemec were recognized for the catering they provide each and every week for us.

This year the **Club Builder Award** was presented to a very worthy recipient – **Lou Gibson**. Over 20 of our 65 members have been recruited by Lou, including 12 last year, and he also established the club's Endowment Fund which now has \$43,000. Lou has built up our club through charitable donations, member recruitment and training.

The **Service Above Self** award for this year was presented by Jamie to **Doug Lowe**. As Jamie pointed out, Doug has never said “no” to any request; not only has he been a key participant in establishing the Club Strategic Plan but he also stepped up to take over the duties of the Club Treasurer.

PREVIOUSLY:

Presiding Officer: Jamie Mattison
Invocation: Kelly Barnett
Pledge: Bob Elam
4-Way Test: John Rutan

Rotary Prayer

May those assembled here today enjoy the many offerings of Rotary. May we abide by the rules we have established, those of trust, fellowship and ethics, and may we place service above self, in our daily endeavours. And may we always test ourselves and our efforts to be sure they are the truth, good for all concerned, of benefit to mankind, and provide peace and understanding. Amen.

Visitors: Donna Taylor/Bob Weimer
John Schwebke/David Stuetelberg
Vickie Jackimiec/Lou Gibson

Members attending: 39 **Happy Bucks:** \$48.00

Previously by **Bob Derse**

Don Bender introduced our speaker, Laura Antoine. She is a past president and very active leader in the downtown club. Her topic for today was the Mentor Program in the Georgetown School District. She is the Director of the GISD Mentor Program & Development.

Her very interesting and fast moving presentation included many worthwhile facts, experiences and invitations for the group to learn about the program and consider becoming an active participant. All three Georgetown Rotary Clubs are involved in the program. The mentoring is for students in grades K thru 12 and involves the mentor spending one on one time 30 minutes each week with the assigned student. Each mentor must fill out required forms and receive one hour of training before being given their student. Accommodations are made for mentors that must take time off for sickness, travel etc. by calling Laura so the student is not wondering what happened to their "friend".

The goal of the mentor is to give the student the benefit of the wisdom, knowledge, strong foundations and life experience they have built over their lifetime. The hope is that input will adjust the attitudes, outlooks and goals of the student. The experience of many mentors and students have shown that those desired outcomes can be very meaningful and successful in the life of both student and mentor. The students remember their experience for a long time and that relationship also affects their friends and family in a very positive manner.

The School introduces the program to the parents each year to invite participation by their students. The program presently has over 700 volunteers and also has a large waiting list of students wishing to become a part of the program. Laura then made the plea for volunteers. She explained that a volunteer can start at any time in the school year as the one hour training class is given by her on the first Thursday of any month and all it takes to get started is a phone call to her. (512-943-5175) Many rotary members as well as members of other service clubs such as Kiwanis and Sertoma are, or have been volunteers. Local Churches are also helping to find volunteers.

She mentioned the program has been running since 1994. She then showed us a very moving short video of the program in action with the expressions on the faces of the students faces being a powerful pull on everyone to be supportive of the program. Some of our members than talked of their positive experiences in being in the program. Laura underlined the results of having another adult in the life of each student.

The program was well accepted by all and the sincerity, dedication and knowledge of Laura went a long way to making this program a very worthwhile and meaningful presentation for our group.

Today: **Bob Elam** will speak to us about the Arts & Crafts Fair

Future Programmes:

- Oct 27 Schwertner Ranch & Event Center, Salado 5:30 – 9:30 pm
Denim & Diamonds, Rotary Foundation Gala & Fundraiser. Gourmet Texas Fare, Entertainment, Prizes, Auction. Win a .5 carat diamond!
- Oct 30 Octoberfest
- Nov 6 Veteran's Day programme
- Nov 10-11 Arts & Crafts Fair
- Nov 13 Joe Rice – Boy Scouts (meeting in Sun City Ballroom)
- Nov 20 Laurie Brewer, Georgetown Asst. Manager
- Nov 27 John Chenoweth – Breakfast With Santa
- Dec 15 **Breakfast With Santa**

Young men think old men are fools; but old men know young men are fools.

Notice about future meetings:

Tuesday, November 13

Tuesday, December 4

Meetings on the above dates will be held in the **Sun City ballroom**

Misc. etc. **John Chenoweth** is back from visiting his 92 year old dad in Kansas; **Adaire Wolf** thanked the members of the Speakers Committee for the great job they do; **Alex Munson** is very happy with his good medical news; **Dan Barr** is pleased his small grandchildren are back home; **Charley Ray** is glad to be home again; **Tom Minor** wondered where **Stephen Brown** is – seems Stephen is having a big session in the dentist's chair; **Bob Elam** reminded us all that there are still opportunities to sign up to work at the Arts & Crafts Fair; **Jamie Mattison** reminded us that the Happy Bucks go to the Rotary Foundation; **Ernestine Brown** and **JB Jones** are having birthdays this week; and **Jamie and Steve Mattison** have been married 32 years now.

Adaire Wolf told us **Carolyn Holloway** is organizing a table for members who are going to the Denim & Diamonds gala on October 27th and a sign-up sheet is going around for those who wish to attend and have not yet added their names to the list.

Rotary is organizing a Leadership Institute on the next three Saturdays and **Jamie Mattison** urged members who are interested to attend to speak to her.

Jamie Mattison told us our club is using an international grant to work on the water purification project in Honduras - with great help from **Norm Peters**. Also, Jamie attended the bi-District Conference a few weeks ago and said she is working with a few other clubs to join together for another project – more news to come later.

Our club is going to use our DAP grant (District Assistance Programme) plus some of our own funds to work with the Georgetown downtown Rotary Club in order to fund a van for BiG (Brookwood in Georgetown). *Ciudad Victoria Rotary* club in Mexico is also going to help with the funding since we have helped them in the past.

Membership Moment with **Harold Bergh**

Every Rotary club in the world, no matter how big or how small, has one thing in common - Friendship. It is from this base of friendship that we serve the community.

Rotary International is a place where we can serve our own people and the world. It is a fellowship where every nation, every race, every colour - all of humanity is like a family.

Facts about Vocational Training Teams

VTTs build on the Foundation's long-standing commitment to vocational training, first formalized with the establishment of the Group Study Exchange program in 1965. VTTs take the GSE concept of enabling young professionals to observe their profession in another country a step further by offering participants the opportunity to use their skills to help others. Hands-on activities vary from one team to the next but may include training medical professionals on cardiac surgery and care, sharing best practices on early childhood education, or explaining new irrigation techniques to farmers. A successful VTT increases the capacity of the host community to solve problems and improve the quality of life.

Flags

It's hard to pin down the exact origins of the tradition of flying a flag at half-staff in times of mourning. The oldest commonly accepted reference to a half-staff flag dates back to 1612, when the captain of the British ship *Heart's Ease* died on a journey to Canada. When the ship returned to London, it was flying its flag at half-mast to honour the departed captain.

According to one line of scholarly thinking, by lowering their flag, the sailors were making room for the invisible flag of Death. This jibes with the British tradition of flying a "half-staff" flag exactly one flag's width lower than its normal position to underscore that Death's flag is flapping above it.

News From the Boardroom:

- 1) President **Jamie Mattison** reported that Gladys Reyna has secured an alternate position in the Group Study Exchange (GSE) to be held in the Philippines in March, 2013. Gladys will attend training in Georgetown and Temple with the GSE team. Gladys will be sponsored by our club and our club will pay her travel expenses by purchasing a gift card for her.
- 2) **Bob Deffeyes** reported his experience at the Peace Park that celebrates the peace between our country and Canada . This project is sponsored by Rotary International. Bob is interested in the development of a Peace Park project in Big Bend National Park that will be between the USA and Mexico. Our club will support Bob's efforts.
- 3) The Board approved the request from **Bob Weimer** for a \$200 payment for the Up the Chisholm Trail benefiting the Williamson Count Museum.
- 4) Donna Taylor, John Schwebke and Vicki Jackimiec have submitted applications to become members of our club. **Lou Gibson** made a motion seconded by **Tom Minor** that these three individuals be accepted into the membership of our club.
- 5) **Doug Lowe**, Treasurer, raised the issue of several of our members being delinquent in payment of their club dues.
- 6) **Adaire Wolf** reported on the progress of planning for our 15 year Anniversary Dinner on October 18th. So far, 51 tickets have been purchased.
- 7) **Bill Thompson** has requested a Leave of Absence for the period October 3rd through November 13th. The vote of the Board in favor was unanimous.

GSE, Group Study Exchange (thanks to **Bob Deffeyes**)

World Peace and Understanding has always ranked high on the list of priorities for Rotary International. The Group Study Exchange, often called GSE, is one of the very successful parts of World Peace and Understanding. GSE program allows a group of half a dozen young American business people to spend about a month in a foreign country with a US Rotary guide. The visitors will visit farms, factories, schools, professional offices, government offices and gain a perspective on the country that tourists never see. The visitors live with Rotary families and see the culture of that country "up close and personal".

As an example, a jeweler from the US visited Brazil and saw raw gemstones mined, cut, faceted, made into jewelry and sold. He returned to his jewelry store in the US with a deeper understanding of how his product came about, new marketing ideas, and an understanding of the culture of Brazil. While he was there, he was a "salesman" of our culture and our sometimes-misunderstood way of life. When he returned to the US, he was a "salesman" for understanding the culture of Brazil and spoke to Rotarians about Brazil. Schoolteachers from the US visited schools in Brazil.

GSE has provided over 30,000 American business people with this experience and has sent about 6,000 teams overseas since the program began in 1965. That first exchange was between a Rotary district in California and a district in Japan. The program has grown since then and about \$50 million has been allocated by Rotary International to fund GSE. In addition, Rotarians, their clubs, and districts have spent unknown millions of dollars, to make GSE a dynamic success. A cornerstone of the program is that the GSE team members are business people under the age of 40 who have no ties to Rotary. No Rotarians wives, kids, cousins, etc., can serve on the team.

The team leader is a Rotarian; for example, **Chris Mealy** from our club was the GSE team leader on an exchange with Japan. This year, our club is sponsoring Gladys Reyna as an alternate for a team to the Philippines next March.

The first step in a GSE exchange takes place at the International Assembly, (still called by some "The Anaheim meeting" although it no longer meets in Anaheim.) All the District Governors-elect from all over the world meet in February or March for a training meeting. At that meeting, DG's-elect meet each other and sort of informally pair up for GSE partners for the coming year. This year our district will exchange with the Philippines. In Georgetown area, we will house the team, take them to visit the appropriate businesses, and maybe take them sightseeing in our area. You will hear more about this opportunity as the plans for the visit take place.

What can you do to promote World Peace and Understanding? Your help with the GSE visit is one key way for you to help.

Oxymora:

old news	even odds	pretty ugly
civil war	inside out	small fortune
growing small	same difference	half naked
open secret	sight unseen	baby grand
light heavyweight	original copy	elevated subway
plastic silverware	mobile home	conspicuously absent

