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~ Meet at the Eldorado next Monday ~

MONDAY'S PROGRAM

Wendy Simons

NV Dept. of Veterans Service

Reno native Wendy Simons serves in the position of Deputy Director of Health and Wellness for the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. Her lifelong career in the health care industry includes time as an owner/administrator of assisted living facilities, and spans several decades of service to seniors, state agencies, academia and volunteer organizations. She is the former Chief of the state regulatory agency of the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance under the Department of Public and Behavioral Health. She is a recipient of the Nevada Business Weekly Health Care Heroes recognition for 2017.

After a short semi-retirement, Simons joined the Nevada Department of Veterans Services as the Deputy Director of Wellness, a position created in 2015. She oversees development of the upcoming Northern Nevada Veterans Home, as well as the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City and several other health related programs. Simons holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Education. She has served as adjunct faculty for the UNR School of Medicine's Geriatric Education Center, in addition to being a member of numerous boards and commissions and is a former member of the Rotary Club of Reno and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Plan on attending and being a part of designing where we meet next Rotary Year.

April 30 - Meet in the newly renovated Eldorado Convention Room and vote on Venue choice. **Meet at Eldorado.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.renorotary.org to sign up

Rotarians At Work Day

April 28, 2018
Bicentennial Park

Rotary Means Business

May 31, 2018 | 5:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm
Great Basin Brewing Taps and Tanks

Food Bank Volunteer Day

June 9, 2018 ~ 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Food Bank of N. Nevada

upcoming meetings

May 7, 2018

Robert Kamugisha

Rotary Club of Reno Masters in Nursing Science Scholar

May 14, 2018

Ed Friedrichs

West 2nd Street Project and Downtown Development

May 21, 2018

No Meeting

District Conference Week



THE RENOTARIAN

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Reno, Nevada

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- Phil Mahoney.....President Elect
- Mary Brock.....President Nominee
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- Jim PfrommerTrustee
- Phil StoneTrustee
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Newsletter/Website

- David Spillers Newsletter Editor
- Oliver Grosz Web-master

Venue Committee Report

President Bill asked me to give a report on behalf of the committee he assembled, which includes Bill, myself, Marlene Olsen, Debe Fennell, Kurt Mische, Harvey Fennell, Carl Fuetsch and Phil Mahoney, to enlighten the membership about where the process is today.

WHY: For at least 4 years or so, different Presidents of this club, along with a committee of different members have been exploring options for an alternative place to hold our weekly meetings in case Harrah's ceased to be available to us, which was precipitated by the company filing Ch. 11 bankruptcy. This action was also inspired by feedback that came out of Visioning workshops with club leadership and committee chairs beginning in 2010, including the leadership retreat last year. It was agreed that the issue of venue would be resolved this year, one way or another.

Many members are concerned about the declining state of our venue and that our membership numbers are falling, in part due to our present meeting location. While other properties have been investing heavily in remodeling their convention space, hotel rooms and casinos, Harrah's has not done any significant improvements for many years and does not have any firm plans to do so in the near future.

ACTION: Starting in August of last year, the committee began looking in to other locations that might be a viable option for the Club. The criteria included: be downtown, could accommodate up to 150 attendees, have adequate parking, (preferably covered), have a meal service that could accommodate us, stay under \$25 and have alternative meeting locations if the facility was booked.

If the property met the criteria, a club meeting was scheduled there. The first venue explored was the newly opened Renaissance Hotel. We held a meeting there on July 31st and sent out a survey afterwards to get membership feedback. The feedback was mixed and ultimately deemed not a viable option.

- 63 of the 88 members present answered the survey
- 60% gave the experience a 4 or 5 rating - 5 being best rating

- 8% gave the meal a 4 or 5 rating
- 42% said they would pay \$25-27 for that meal

The Eldorado was the second hotel property that appeared to meet the criteria and the Eldorado and the club committee negotiated for several months, with the Eldorado making many concessions to arrive at a mutual and agreeable package, thus a meeting was held there on January 8, 2018 and a survey went out to those who attended.

- 66 of the 80 members present answered the survey
- 65% gave the experience a 4 or 5 rating
- 57% gave the meal a 4 or 5 rating
- 64.% said they would be willing to pay \$25 for a similar experience

Other locations explored were the National Auto Museum, NV Museum of Art, Whitney Peak, McKinley Arts Center and Elm Estate, all of which either did not meet our criteria or didn't have the same viability as the Eldorado, and consideration of these venues has ceased. The committee has exhausted all possible locations and are at a point that a decision should be made.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS: The comments that have come out of the surveys, both for and against leaving Harrah's include:

For Staying:

Staff is friendly; Harrah's has been accommodating to the club's needs; no charge for AV; stores files for the club; food price is low; piano on site at each meeting; more than 40 years at this facility.

For Leaving:

Food is so-so (80% of attending members choose the salad option); convention center hasn't been renovated in more than 20 years, leading to widespread concern that with Reno becoming less of a casino town, Harrah's won't be investing in the property to any significant degree in the foreseeable future; shrinking membership; lack of attendance and lack of new members is a huge concern; we're not attracting executives and leaders in the community; parking garage is in disrepair; stairwell needs cleaning; smoke from casino is strong in convention center.

LAST MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Scanner: Andrea Cantlon
 Greeter: Diana Hoffman
 Raffle Tickets: John Kadlic
 Invocation: Debe Fennell
 Pledge: Anne-Louise Bennett
 Sgt. At Arms: Kim Mazeres
 Sgt. At Arms: Kevin Melcher
 Photographer: Dan Nichols
 Piano: Genie Mathews

HONOR ROLL

Bill Boon \$100



SAVE THE DATE: PRESIDENT BILL'S DEMOTION PARTY IS JUNE 19TH

Mark your calendars for President Bill's Demotion Party to be held Tuesday, June 19th, 5:30 p.m. at The Coney Island Bar. It promises to be a fun evening honoring Bill for



his service, and perhaps, poking fun at a few things, too! A family style dinner of bread, salad, roasted chicken, top sirloin steak, homemade mushroom ravioli with burnt butter sage sauce, penne with pesto sauce, bread pudding with caramels sauce and 2 glasses of wine will be served for \$35 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. A ClubRunner invite will be sent out in May. For questions, or to provide "material" for the demotion, please contact Liza Maupin at lizamaupin@gmail.com or at 775-721-8124.

WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad.

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Our motto: Service Above Self

For more than 110 years, our guiding principles have been the foundation of our values: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

What we do

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

Promote peace

Fight disease

Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene

Save mothers and children

Support education

Grow local economies

the **4** way test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS AT A CLUB MEETING

When introducing a guest or new members during a Club meeting, the correct way is to greet the Club President, fellow Rotarians and guests, introduce yourself and state your classification, and then introduce your guest, their title and business affiliation. Please do not introduce any guest as a prospective new member or that they are looking for a position or clients.

ATTENDANCE

Please make sure you turn in make-ups to Carl Fuetsch at a club meeting or by email: info@renorotaryclub.org. Don't forget that you need to attend or make up at least 50% of club regular meetings in each half of the year (rolling six months) and attend at least 30% of this club's meetings in each half of the year. Credit can be received for Rotary committee work and other official Rotary functions.

Rotary

Club of Reno



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MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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