

Rotary Club of Grass Valley



The Spoke



Chartered March 16, 1925

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Rotary Theme 2014-2015
Light up Rotary

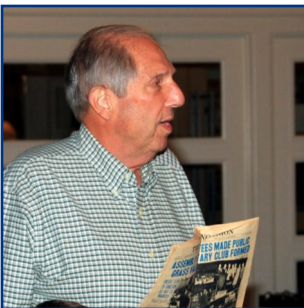
Governor, District 5190
Joe Zarachoff

July 21, 2014

www.gvrotary.org

Volume 89, Issue 3

Photo Highlights from July 14th Meeting



Chuck shared a newspaper insert from our club's 50th anniversary from 1975



Marcia announced that our RYE student from Belgium, Marcial, will be arriving at the Sacramento on the evening of 8/10, just in time to miss the destruction derby



Morgan was a tad disturbed that so many photos of John Peplowski showed up in the newsletter from the demotion



Speaker Nick Wilcox is a director from Nevada Irrigation District



Maybe next time, Kris

Speakers:

July 21 April Reese - Food Preservation
Nevada County's only Certified Food Preserver

Dates to Remember:

Jul 23 BOD meeting @ Pres Steve's office 5:15
Jul 29 Casino Night Planning Meeting @ Tof's
6/26 - 8/14 [GVDA - Thursday Night Market](#)
8/10/14 [Destruction Derby at Nevada County Fair](#)
Feb 7, 2015 [Casino Night 2015](#)
May 9, 2015 [2nd Annual Gold Country Cycling Challenge](#)

Click here to view: [District 5190 July 2014 Newsletter](#)



Meeting Highlights July 14, 2014

Notes by
Kim Zwick

Pledge – **John Peplowski**, Thought for the day – **Bob Long**, Photographer – **Fred Claessens**

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests of Rotarians: **Suzie Gemignani's** daughter, Taylor, a junior at NU, whom President Steve worked to recruit to InterAct.

Stuff:

- President Steve also displayed the year's new Rotary pin, banner, and tie (complete with rhinestones) that are being shared by 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide. He also shared the inspiration for the design from a Confucius (551–479 BC) quote: "It's better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness."
- **Bob Long** pointed out that there was "Steve Confusion" with the name badges, and Steve Sarantopoulos was fined \$10 for "being the wrong Steve".
- On 8/2 **Anita and Don Daniels, John Peplowski and President Steve** will all be at Incline Village for District Outreach training – including Facebook and growing membership. Other members are welcome to join them.
- All five area middle schools are sending 5 students to REG, and Union Hill may start an Interact club there.

Announcements:

- **Chuck Elizondo** reminded everyone that next year will be our club's 90th year, and shared a newspaper insert from the 50th year, in 1975. Don Daniels' dad played in the band as part of the celebration, and was in one of the pictures.
- **Marcia Salter** let everyone know that our exchange student, Marcial, from Belgium, will arrive 8/10 at 7:50PM. Members are welcome to join in greeting her at the airport.
- **Morgan Stoltz** announced that there were too many pictures of Mr. Peplowski at the Demotion Dinner
- **Larry faller** announced that his 53rd anniversary will be celebrated 7/15.

The speaker was **Nick Wilcox**, one of 5 directors at NID. He covers Penn Valley, Rough & Ready, and external areas of Grass Valley. He's a Rotary fan as his daughter was very involved in Rotaract.

He shared the following basic info about NID:

- NID was founded in 1921 and first delivered water in 1926
- The distribution system is very complex – using the system from hydraulic mining days
- The water rights system/process is also very complex – with some components predating 1913
- The core source is the 70,000 acre High Sierra watershed, with extensive rights in the Bear River Center
- NID uses only surface water, no aquifer water is used in Nevada County
- We have a very heavy reliance on snow-melt run-off and we are winter snow-pack dependent
- There are about 19,000 residential users – receiving about 15,000 acre feet of treated water. There are about 6,000 non-residential users (farmers) using about 135,000 acre feed of raw water
- An acre foot of water is one acre covered by one foot of water – about 336,000 gallons
- Our watershed provides 100,000 to 400,000 acre feet of water, with an average year being 239,000 acre feet
- With quite an elevation change – 8,000 feet to 150 feet – lots of the water is used to create hydro-electric power. NID is a major producer – powering

about 60,000 homes annually, making Nevada County just about self-sufficient.

He shared information about the following challenges:

- The infrastructure is aging – with most of it from gold-mining days, and other sections from the 1920s
- There have been mini-disasters when the Bear Canal, near Colfax, fell off its cliff – costing PG&E \$4 million to repair, and a portion of the South Yuba canal wooden flume falling over.

And, he shared information regarding changing climate conditions:

- We own 10 reservoirs holding about 280,000 acre feet of water, of which about 240,000 is actually usable water
- Storage and usage are well-matched for now, but if snow-pack reduces it won't work nearly as well.
- There's significant variability in run-off – the "average" year is rare. It's more likely that we have high years and low years. A small change in the number of storms can have significant, and result in a wet or dry year.
- April through July is usually the time for run-off. If it happens earlier, we need more storage space. We're seeing that change as more run-off is happening in winter months, when we don't use as much water, so we can't capture/save as much.
- We need to increase storage by 100,000 to 150,000 acre feet to be really safe.
- NID saw this coming in the 1920s and purchased a prime reservoir location about 80 years ago, which gives it "a senior priority", and puts NID in "an extremely fortunate position, which probably no other district in California has".
- This site, the "Parker Site" could hold about 140,000 acre feet of water. It would displace 6 homes – assuming the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was successful. This process will be (must be) done to provide the path for identifying and mitigating issues.
- NID sells water to LWW and LOP – and the new project would not affect them
- On 7/24 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, at the Don Baggett Theatre on the NU campus, there will be a water summit, public meeting to discuss this project and other water-related issues. See the 7/15 issue of The Union for more info. All are encouraged to attend

Then, he shared information regarding the drought:

- The voluntary 15–20% reduction is being successful. Over the last month there was a 19% reduction in treated-water use.
- However, since agriculture is the biggest user, it's unclear how much the reduction in treated water use will help
- 7 of the last 8 years have been well below average. The projected El Nino year could help, or hurt, depending on how the pattern moves across the state
- He suggests we "assume the worst and be prepared"
- Due to the regulations, the State cannot take over our water or require it to be redirected elsewhere.
- A recent State Water Resources Control Board ruling requires that NID not store run-off water until April of 2015, which could cause "an artificial drought" since we won't be able to fill our storage areas if there's an early snow-melt.

After Nick wrapped-up, and offered to stay after the meeting adjourned to answer questions, **Kris Stepanian** had the lucky ticket, but drew a white marble.

Rotary Club of Grass Valley

P.O. Box 1213 – Grass Valley, CA 95945
Meeting location: **Monday** at 12:15 PM
The Holbrooke Hotel – 212 W. Main St.

Make Up Meetings

Members who miss a regular meeting may make-up by attending any other Rotary club's meeting within 14 days before or after the missed meeting.

E-makeup: www.rotaryclubone.org

Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Nevada County South,
Alta Sierra Country Club
12:00 Auburn, Auburn Elks Lodge
12:15 Penn Valley, Players Pizza
12:15 Marysville, Peach Tree Golf
& Country Club

Wednesday

7:00 a.m. 49er Breakfast Club,
Escaton Lodge

7:00 a.m. Auburn Daybreak,

Sierra Smokehouse Grill
12:15 Yuba City, The Refuge

Thursday

7:00 a.m. South Yuba County Sunrise
Peachtree Restaurant (Marysville)
12:15 Auburn Gold Country,
The Ridge Golf Course
12:15 Nevada City, National Hotel