



District 5340

08/31/2018

Established 1993

Opening Remarks and Announcements

A heartfelt email from Dr. Bill Pogue:



Here is a cut down version. Is this short enough? If not, let me know and I will cut it further. I really would like to have something in the Gazette about the Christmas Train, since our club has been so participatory in it. And this is the basic story, minus some details. Here, also, are some pictures of some of our club members, including you, who went.

-- Bill Pogue

Margaret Coval, started the Christmas Train of San Diego/Tecate 21 years ago with her husband, As a memorial to a young relative who died in a car accident. Margaret met with the folks who have kept it going recently. Due to aging and illnesses, it was decided to terminate it, unless some others wish to step forwards. So, Margaret asks that La Mesa Sunrise Rotary be roundly thanked for its support, financial, spiritual physical and otherwise, over the last 18 years. Many of our current Rotarians have taken the trip down to Tecate with the Christmas Train and participated in the event, handing out Mardi Gras necklaces, etc.

Those of us who went will always recall the smiles and wonder on the faces of the four to six thousand kids, how well behaved they were, and how very appreciative were their elders, parents, guardians, etc.

The original trips were to be for the benefit of the poor: at that time, unemployment in upper Baja, including Tecate, was 40%. Each kid was given a sizeable bag containing school supplies, some fruit, a piece of clothing, a new, boxed toy, notebooks, and whatever else had been donated. It was the only gift for many of the kids on los dias de los Tres

La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2018-2019

Officers

President: Elena Lujan-Alba
 Imd Past Pres: Betty Howland
 Pres Elect: Jeff Hall
 Secretary: Elly Dotseth
 Treasurer: John Stremlau/
 Laurel Nishida

Directors

Int'l Service: Hugo Marillo
 Branding: Dave Lemox
 RI Foundation David Ballesteros
 Membership: Bobbie Warren
 Pub Relations Aaron Landau
 Youth Interact: JoAnn Bergquist
 Greeter: Muff Warren
 Peace Chair Clara Harris

Credits and Acknowledgements

- Pledge: Lilly Alba
- 4-way test:
John Stremlau
- Photos: Floyd Morrow
- Drawing: SDSU Rotaract
- **Minutes: John Stremlau**



Reyes Magos (day of the Three Wise Men = Kings, Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar), the second Sunday after Christmas; that is when Hispanics open their presents: the day that the Three Kings gave gold, frankincense and myrrh to the newborn Jesus.

Once the Governor of Upper Baja attended, and told us that the Christmas Train was the single best activity for the children of Upper Baja all year. Also, the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa. awarded the coveted George Washington medal to the Christmas Train, as the best activity between our two nations for goodwill.

So, goodbye and thanks, and we will miss you much, Christmas Train. (unless someone comes forth and is willing to take over the reins.).



----Bill Pogue

Club Social on the 5th Friday of August

El Torito Restaurant



www.LaMesasunriserotary.com



La Mesa Sunrise Rotary * Meetings each Friday 7:15 am * Marie Callender's 6950 Alvarado Rd., SD, CA 92120s



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