



District 5340

8/9/2019

Chartered 1986

Opening Remarks and Announcements

Elly ran today's meeting in Jeff's absence. Elly started the flag salute and Jo Ann led the Four-Way test recitation.

Guests today

- **Jabez Labret** – speaker
- **Jess Baron**, visiting her second time and deciding if she wants to join us.
- **Sandy Pugliese**, Assistant Governor and member of the Santee/Lakeside Rotary Club
- **Maureen Duncan**, previous speaker representing the school for girls in Guatemala. She brought a gift to thank John Stremlau and Manuela for helping with her District Grant. Manuela got our club's money previously procured from the Castor Foundation for the Zika Grant that didn't fly, reassigned to her grant with Manuela's help.



Bill reported that **Clara** is home with a broken arm and damaged knee which may have a broken patella. Apparently, she was standing on a chair which scooted and she fell. Her son is currently helping her, but she probably would appreciate a call or cards of encouragement.

Jo Ann encouraged those of us who don't have our youth certificate to get one because she is going to be needing help with transporting the Interactors to and from their various activities on the weekends this year. The new faculty advisor will be unavailable for this purpose on the weekends due to other commitments. Please be open to helping her. She is the only person, so far, willing to spend the time with



La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2019-2020

Officers

President: Jeff Hall
 Imd Past Pres: Elena Alba
 Pres Elect: TBA
 Secretary: Lynn DeHaven
 Treasurer: Laurel Nishida
 RI Foundation: John Stremlau
 Membership: Bobbi Warren
 Youth: Joanne Bergquist
 Community Service: Peggy Davis

Directors

Int'l Service: Hugo Murillo
 Pub Relations Megan O'Dowd
 Peace Chair: Clara Harris

Credits and Acknowledgements

- Pledge: Elly Dotseth
- 4-way test: Joanne Bergquist
- Greeter: Peggy Davis
- Raffle: Bill Pogue
- **Minutes: Lynn DeHaven**



the this very active Interactor group. If you can spare some time to help her with transportation, it would be very much appreciated.

Ivan showed us how to access the Youth Leadership training on the District 5340 website. The training is a simple 3-step process, done mostly online. You do have to apply and pay for (previously it has been only \$5.00) a background check. Then there is a short tutorial with a short test at the end. There is also a way to check to see if you have the certification already by going to your own profile and go to the Rotary Tab and under your name it lists things you have done like the leadership training for being President, and Your Leadership. There is a red icon next to that designation. If you have it, you're done. If you are new, you need to get the certification. We would like to have everyone in the club certified.

The Gazette Writers Committee is down one member with Fern being unable to use one arm and hand. Please, if you can help out once every third week with writing the notes for the meeting and submitting them to Jimmy for publication, please let either Lynn or John know. We really would appreciate the help.



Sandy Pugliese, the Assistant Governor prepared us for the Governor's visit to our club next week. She would appreciate us having available some of our project pictures which might give some idea of how the District can be of some help to our club. We should not have other items on the agenda. The Governor, Marta Knight, will be our speaker and full program. Board members should make themselves available for a short Board Meeting after the meeting with Marta next week. It is customary to give the Governor a standing ovation at the end of her presentation.



“We who are clay blended by the master potter, come from the kiln of creatoin in many hues. Each has its own coloration. What shold it matter that one is dark and the other pale, if each is of good design and serves its own purpose well?”

by a Hopi potter, writer and educator, named Polingayi Qoyawayma



“Who Am I?” by Jimmy Hwang



Jimmy began by telling us that he came from a family of seven children living in the northern part of the very small Island of Taiwan where it was very mountainous. Not only did his father have seven children but also his uncles

each had seven children and his grandfather had seven. In fact, most of his extended family all had a number of children. A child labor early in life, he recognized that the only way to escape the cycle of poverty was to work hard to become educated. That's an astounding dedication to be made for a so young a child! He worked very, very hard to be the best student. And he was. He became the role model for his siblings. He had to walk about 2 miles to grammar school and by the time he was in middle school the distance was three miles. For high school he traveled by public transportation each day three hours one-way to go to and from school. He always finished first in his class. He needed to get scholarships to go to college. He was awarded a scholarship to go to Europe for a post-graduate education and planned a wedding to marry his college sweetheart so she could go with him, but China fiercely protested that students from Taiwan should not be awarded that scholarship so it was withdrawn. But the wedding went on as planned. So, with little time to apply elsewhere he sought admission to several prestigious colleges in the USA like Harvard, Stanford, UMich & UC Berkeley. He got accepted at all six, but no scholarships for the first year. Only University of Delaware offered him a full-ride scholarship so that is where he went. He remarked that never before in his academic career did he have time for fun, because he had to study so hard to be first. Now, in college in USA for the first time, he had time to

take some “fun” electives. He took violin, swimming, figure skating and football marching band. There was no charge for the extra-curricular activities. He was the first in his family to finish High School, College, and attain a PHD. His field of study was statistics and that has opened a lot of doors for him. First, he was hired at SDSU. He drove 8 days with his family to get here from Delaware to west coast. They bought a house here in La Mesa and he's lived in it for 35 years. At SDSU he was the first to develop and teach computer proficiency courses when computer was in its infancy. He has published a number of articles in professional publications like the New England Journal of Medicine, such as student's attitude toward AIDS, substance abuse in California and many AIDS/HIV studies. In 2001 he was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship and went to South Africa for a year. This is a United States Cultural Exchange Program whose goal is to improve intercultural relations, cultural diplomacy, and intercultural competence between the people of the U.S. and other countries. After he returned home from Africa, he went to work at UC San Francisco in their cancer center. He spent 12.5 years at SDSU and has spent 22 years at UC San Francisco, commuting back and forth to San Diego.

While doing all this he and his wife raised two sons. He spent many a year warming the benches watching their sports events. Now they are both grown and both have entered the medical fields as doctors. Since he doesn't have the options to enjoy their sports varsity programs anymore, he has turned to running marathons. He has completed 70 marathons so far and has earned the distinction of “Legendary Runner” in at least two of them. He's traveled far distances to participate in some of them. He also has maintained his membership in our Rotary Club for many a year. While commuting he managed to attend most of our weekly meetings. Now that he is contemplating retirement, he has a much more active role, being our photographer and publisher for our little weekly Gazette.

Jimmy tagged Diane to be our next person to do a “Who Am I?”

www.LaMesasunriserotary.com



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

Elly sent out an e-mail recently that listed three opportunities for volunteering locally. She's hopeful that some club members will avail themselves of these opportunities.



- Blood Drive – La Mesa Rotary will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday August 28, 2019 between 9:00 AM and 2 PM at their meeting place, the Community Center on Memorial Drive. Anyone who participates in donating blood will be treated to lunch at their meeting. Donate your blood to this account number: LMC-2 and our club will get the credit. Then if you need blood you can access that account.
- There's a need for Youth Certified volunteers for "The City of Hope" willing to talk with and listen to traumatized children. There's a lack of counselors available and sometimes just having an adult to talk to and to listen to the child is enough. The training is August 21 and 28 from 6:00 – 9:00 (both nights) at Central Congregational Church, 8360 Lemon Ave. La Mesa, CA 91941, More info call: 619 319 4423 or email dani@cityhopenow.org
- Human Trafficking fund-raiser for "Wings of the Way." Admission \$35 per person. Raffle & Silent Auction items include: helicopter ride, Catalina flight for 2, aerobatic flight, & dinner gift cards, etc. El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells and other guest speakers. Along with aircraft displays and more. RSVP by Sept. 14: miles@wingsoftheway.org or 619 332-7840 Dinner at the Hangar Sept 28, 2019 Gillespie Airfield. 4-7 PM learn how wings of the Way relocates Human trafficking survivors and supports other humanitarian missions.
- Sunlight Retreat: Our club has supported this retreat for survivors of human trafficking. We will again host a breakfast for them on Saturday August 24, 2019. Only our women can participate in the execution of this project at the site, but our men are most welcome to help with the prior preparations. More information will follow.



Speaker Presentation: SISU Academy, “Tuition-free Boarding High School for Women”, by Jabez Labret



Jabez Labret, our speaker introduced himself and told us a bit about himself. He sounded a bit like Jimmy. Born on a small island of Alaska he was basically homeless by the age of 16. His father was not a significant part of his life and his mother suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and had periods when the disease seemed to control her. He had a supportive grandmother who let him know that he needed to rely on himself to lift himself out of poverty. His last two years of high school was spent couch-surfing with compassionate people. Still he didn't graduate. He tried his hand at a number of



jobs and realized he would go nowhere without an education and so he got a GED and started to college. He was denied entrance to Gonzaga, but not one to take “no” for an answer, inveigled an audience with the Dean. After that interview he still had to take the SAT and prove he was capable, but he was given a chance. He majored in business because he knew that was the path he wanted to follow. Because of his life experiences with the education system he knew that many students were not being successful, but unlike him, were also not able to flounder through it. He's spent 5 years analyzing where the system has failed those kids like him, who didn't have parental support. He built a model of education that includes a tuition free boarding school that lifts the floundering child out of the dysfunctional family situation.



The education is heavy on experiential learning and it is a business accelerator. It includes STEM (which is a fancy shop class) and leans on entrepreneurial skills. In the beginning their model relies on donations to pay the bills. They start with a freshman class and add a new freshman class each year. They teach them how to start and run a successful business and the proceeds from the business eventually will support the school. The curricula include programming and learning to code as well as experiences outside the classroom and robotics. Writing and language skills and math are taught too. Since 54% of the failing students are girls, they're starting with 20 girls who need help now and will grow the classes as the money to support them grows. This school started last year with day classes and was quite successful. This fall it starts with the boarding school experience. He has built a Board

full of amazing educators with grit, determination and resilience which he hopes they pass onto the students. Their budget to start is \$950,000 or \$39,000 per year per student. It is called SISU Academy. You can reach them at SISUacademy.org



Member's Highlights



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