

**District 5340****01/19/2018**

## Club Announcements



President Betty began meeting with club announcements after pledge and 4-way test.

Alix Hart with "Rotarian at Work" shirt briefed about the fast growing project: Liberia Book Drive. Alix had been working tirelessly on WHERE to go with the books where to gather them. Tuesday, with help of "JDog Junk Removal & Hauling", moved what books they had off SDSU campus, and now need to fast track as the funding they

have will expire by end of Feb. and will need money to continue. The project started with Robert and his refugee family from Liberia, with Alix's "Compassion for African Villages", matching grants from various Clubs and Rotary DDF, eventually turned into grand and exciting movement. Volunteers are needed at Morena Storage every weekend to do sorting, mostly have textbooks that to be sorted much easier, work 10-5 until done. Books arrived in Liberia that cost 20,000 and 33,000 books are being distributed currently in Liberia. Still have 30k books to be sorted now. Current budget about \$15,000 is still needed. Checkout the La Mesa Sunrise facebook page for more details.



### La Mesa Sunrise Rotary Leadership 2017-2018

President	Betty Howland
Pres Elect	Elena Alba
Secretary	Elly Dotseth
Treasurer	Laurel Nishida
CommService	Len Gamble
Club Service	Fern Hall
Int'l Service	Hugo Morillo
Club Programs	Betty & Aaron
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: Clare Harris
- 4-way test: Bobbi Warren
- Photos: Floyd Morrow
- Minutes: John Stremlau



Produce for Polio including Macadamia nuts (Peel off outer layer, let dry for a few weeks, then shell)



**Guest Speaker: Mary England,** President, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce, has been with chamber about 10 years.



As in 1995 the former chambers merged with  $900+800 = 1,700$  in all, but slowly dwindled down in size. Located in El Cajon, all the other small chambers didn't merge in such as Ramona, Lemon Grove, and La Mesa.

In 2008 Mary was hired to start a new La Mesa Chamber, 6 local businesses had gotten together and started forming the entity, but had no members. Mary was asked to create and run the chamber. She

had been a Lemon Grove chamber chair, and 12 year member of Lemon Grove city council. Mary was excited to start something from scratch with work experience of 31 years for PacBell as trainer.

Two new businesses: Blue Lagoon Coffee over on Palm. Young man just opened on Monday.

Chamber does some charitable work. Mary asked RSVP to deliver holiday dinners from Marie Calendars to local seniors. A business donated to add a fruit basket. Mary asked the board, who allowed 2,600 items donated for the homebound seniors often donated from other seniors. Over \$2,130 of cash donations received. Each of the seniors this year received a hot Turkey meal, a large gift basket and 3 bags of canned goods, cereals, and some money. Carl Berger donated use of 2 vans to assist in moving all this stuff. Mary explained that

#### Coming Events and Reminders

- Feb 14, Int'l Governors Convention, Greeters needed.
- March 24, 8:30-12:50, District conference at USD,
- April 14, Yard/Garage Sale at Manuela's house
- Ongoing donations to Polio Plus
- Daily items eg shampoo, conditioner for "Fern's Bags"



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

**[www.LaMesasunriserotary.com](http://www.LaMesasunriserotary.com)**





often one can of food will last a senior two days since they eat only a small amount. Mary's house ends up being a warehouse of all the goods she gathers for this. On Jan 15<sup>th</sup> she put out a press release on the food drive for homebound seniors, and on the adopted military children.

A year ago, an 83 year old local came to Mary and handed her \$1,000 to buy toys for children of La Mesa residing Military members. Mary found we have 2 military housing units in La Mesa and there were 325 children. Mary went and bought toys on sale, with 1,183 toys, in only the second year.

Mary reads the daily newspaper each day, because her father, who only had a 4<sup>th</sup> grade education told her that was important. Mary reads the social pages, finds out potential donors, goes out and requests donations. There will be a party in early December at BJ's, to bring in all the military kids and give the toys.

La Mesa car dealer, stuff the JEEP from Carl Burger Dodge, run by Pamela Burger, widow of Carl, who is one of the only women who owns a dealership in California and as the president of the California state dealers association. Filled with books, bought at Barnes and Nobel, the store asked customers if they would like to purchase a book to donate to La Mesa military children and fill the Jeep. 710 books purchased by the public.

Mary finds that we are a social people. And if she sets up opportunities for people, they will come and participate.

### **Mary's passions are seniors and children.**

Mary finds seniors are on a fixed budget, not necessarily small, but fixed. They may be worried about running out of money. Mary told about some stories of senior's needs, such as what a broken hot water heater can cause, the costs of Ensure or Depends. Because of this, a Senior Pantry was started at LMPD. A closet is kept stocked, and La Mesa police deliver foods and other items as needed.

The Chamber also sponsors Miss La Mesa and Miss teen. Mary gets to sponsor the young girl for a year, and loves it.

Upcoming events include the 10<sup>th</sup> year of annual Salute to Local Heroes, honoring local first responders on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Town and Country Hotel, Mission Valley, and Spring Fling business expo, April 26, 5-8pm Summer expo. These are places for meeting people.

Mary had a new plan and just called Meals-on-Wheels to expand the seniors program. Hasn't even told the board yet.



Mary meets with 18 other chamber leaders. When asked about charging someone who wants to shadow her, Mary has found that they just turn over, and get worn out. Lots of turnover, she would be interested in Santee/Lakeside Rotary club and find out all about the effort.

## *Guests and Visitors*

**Jessica Barahass: Boys and Girls Club,  
Encanto, also from SE San Diego Rotary Club.**



**Alannah Sinclair: Oaks and Acorns**

