

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

THE ACORN

July 27, 2015

CLUB ASSEMBLY



Ron Adams
Director
International Service

Ron Adams was the first speaker. Ron is the club's International Service Director for 2014-15. Ron first became interested in International service when he read an article in the Rotarian on starvation and its primary cause in third world countries – dirty drinking water. Ron investigated water projects, with much assistance from Fred Rowe. Ron is now considering a new water purification technology, called Community Straw, for an international service project in Kenya.

The manufacturer, LifeStraw, sells “portable, compact high-volume water purifiers for camping, group hikes and expeditions”. Their products filter water contaminated with bacterial and protozoa and make it safe to drink. Whenever someone purchases a LifeStraw product, part of the proceeds are used to provide villages in Kenya with a community water purification system (shown below).

This is a Community Straw. Installed at a school, it can provide water for 70 children for over three years, after which the filter can be replaced for \$70 and the Community Straw is good for another three years. According to the LifeStraw website, the company “delivered 1,646 LifeStraw® Community purifiers to 301 schools, reaching over 157,975 school children in that region”.

Ron believes that having clean water at the school is insufficient because the children will drink contaminated water at their villages when they go home. He is hoping that having a LifeStraw system at schools will catalyze villages to obtain clean water systems.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS

THE ACORN FOR JULY 27, 2015



Bob Walters
Board President
Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation

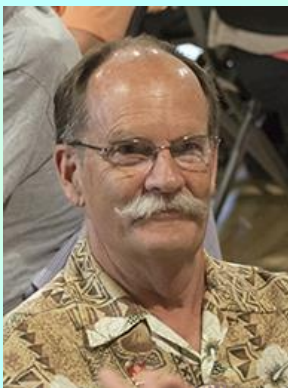
Bob Walters was our **second** speaker. Bob is President of the Board of the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation. The club foundation (not to be confused with the Rotary International Foundation) is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization. The club's most important fundraisers (the MegaDraw at the crab feed, Fair Oaks Uncorked and the craft beer garden at the Chicken Festival) are all Foundation events. The proceeds from these fundraisers go to the Foundation, not the club.

Each year, the Foundation and the club jointly evaluate a number of projects and choose some of them for funding by the Foundation, which does so by granting the money to the club. The Foundation's charter stipulates that all of the money must be spent locally on youth and seniors.

To date, the Foundation has granted over \$100,000 to the club. The largest annual expense is a group of eight \$1,000 awards to deserving high school seniors at Bella Vista and Del Campo High Schools.

Bob addressed the often-asked question, "Why does the club have a foundation?"

1. The club itself cannot be a foundation.
2. Those who give to the club's Foundation can deduct from their taxes.
3. Some donors are looking for a tax shelter for giving in certain areas. As an example of this, Bob mentioned the local microbreweries that donate beer for our "craft beer coop" at the Chicken Festival.



Fred Rowe
Chair
Rotary International Foundation

Our third speaker was Fred Rowe. Fred spoke on The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International (not to be confused with the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation). Fred handles the club's fund raising efforts for The Rotary Foundation. Fred first addressed the question, "Why should I donate money to The Rotary Foundation?" The short answer is because the money is extraordinarily well spent.

- A significant portion of Foundation donations go to projects in developing countries where issues such as contaminated drinking water and poor sanitation produce horrendous living conditions.
- Some of the Foundation's money is spent locally through grants and other channels. The club, for example, has used a grant from the Foundation to help fund a local community improvement project in each of the past five fiscal years.
- The Foundation spends 87% of its income on projects and it has an A+ rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy.
- Your donation is tax deductible.
- You get Paul Harris credits when you donate.

You may be wondering, "How do I donate to The Rotary Foundation?"

- Give Fred a check made out to "The Rotary Foundation" (most common and least desirable method)
- Go to Rotary.org and click on the GIVE button, using your credit card.
- Sign up for Rotary Direct and forget about it. Your donations are charged to your credit card monthly, quarterly or annually, and no one will ever again bug you about donating. Call Fred if you need help doing this.

THE ACORN FOR JULY 27, 2015



Lucy Martin

Lucy Martin is handling End Polio Now for the club this year. In 1985, Rotary International launched its PolioPlus program, an international effort to eradicate polio by vaccinating children. This has evolved into the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a large public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and many other organizations and government agencies.

The program is succeeding on a massive scale. In the 1980s, there were roughly 365,000 new cases of polio every year. In 2014, only 370 new cases were confirmed. New cases are identified by onset of paralysis, a life changing symptom for the infected child. There are only three countries that have never stopped transmitting the wild polio virus: Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. No new cases have been reported in Nigeria during the past year. Afghanistan has had only five new cases in 2015 and a National Immunization Day will be held this fall. Pakistan has had 28 new cases so far in 2015 and will also hold a National Immunization Day in September.

Other than Afghanistan and Pakistan, no other countries have reported new cases of polio in 2015. India, a spectacular example of the success of the program to eradicate polio has not reported a new case in three years. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is matching all Rotary donations two-to-one, up to a maximum of \$35 million per year through 2018.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



What follows is highly opinionated editorial content.

Monday's meal was the best meal since Don Hook aged steaks in his refrigerator for two weeks and then BBQ'ed them. And this might have been better.

There were two main courses, both excellent. The starch was the best cornbread I have ever eaten - by far - and the salad was excellent.

Sorry Don, on further reflection, this was better than your steak bake.

BV



THE ACORN FOR JULY 27, 2015

MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Molly Gilmore, last year's outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student is home for the summer and was a guest at the meeting. Molly is now a freshman at Humboldt State University.

In the photo to the left, Molly was really happy to see Maggie Hoy again.



Kristin Kaminski (left) attended with her husband Jack Kaminski and Jack's parents, Carol and Ed Kaminski, who were visiting from Wisconsin.



Drew Young (above) was a guest for the second time, shown here with member Beth Wilcoxon.

THE ACORN FOR JULY 27, 2015

MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



In between speakers 2 and 3, each table was assigned a club-related topic to discuss. Each table selected a leader and a note-taker. Each table was asked to address two questions about their topic:

- What do you like about the club
- What could the club be doing better

Two examples of table topics were:

- Building bridges within the community
- Building bridges within the club

The table leaders briefly described their table's comments to the attendees. The results were collected and will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC



Note the blue tape on President Schroeder's arm. Pete gave blood on Monday and encouraged all members to give blood at Blood Source. Soon.

THE ACORN FOR JULY 27, 2015



On the subject of the Chicken Festival, **Anne Browning** need more people to pour beer in our Craft Beer Coop. Please see Anne if you can help out.

Diana Cralle reminded everyone to RSVP on meeting attendance. It helps determine how much food to buy, thereby helping us avoid over-buying food or under-feeding attendees.



More Announcements

Saint Francis Episcopal Church is now holding a Senior Produce Market every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Their primary goal is bring produce of outstanding quality at reasonable prices. The market is open to all and is no income test. They welcome special orders. Saint Francis is located at 11430 Fair Oaks Blvd.

The **annual club photo** will be taken at the August 31 meeting. Please attend and arrive early. We want as many members as possible in attendance for the photo.

The **Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation** will meet on August 15. The Foundation Board typically meets two or three times per year. All members are invited. The meeting will be held at the Primrose Clubhouse at 5200 Primrose Ave. Some highlights from the agenda are:

- An investment report and discussions on other financial matters
- An update by Pete Schroeder on his plans for fundraising efforts and the relationship between the Club and the Foundation
- Election of Foundation directors and officers for a two-year term of office