

The Orange Peel

2023-2024 | President Don Morris | "Have Fun and Share Rotary"

Next Meeting Friday, Feb 16, 2024

Speaker - Kara Green - ABLED

Greeters - Tommy Peno and Russ Rheams

Invocation - Sue Frost

Vocation - Tommy Peno

Prospector - Deanna Maddock

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to All Concerned?

Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



AboutKidz - Providing Practical Need to for the Children in Our Community

Speaker-chair **Brad Squires** introduced two visitors from AboutKidz - **Matt Casper**, the Executive Director, and **Eric Jones**, the new Program Manager.

Matt Casper started off by playing a video that gave a nice overview of the organization with scenes from their three programs - **First Day**, **Game Day** and **Graduation Day**.

The mission of AboutKiz is to meet the practical needs of underprivileged children in our communities in an effort to create equal opportunities for academic and athletic excellence. We focus on addressing the most basic needs of low-income and at-risk children in order to make the biggest impact on families in our community.

First Day is a big festival for students during which they receive the items and services they need for their first day of school. They received new clothes, new shoes, a haircut and a grade-specific backpack full of the items they will need. It is completely free to the students and their family. The parents are

Recap of the Meeting Jan 9, 2024

Guests

Matt Casper and Eric Jones - About Kidz

Jeff Berns - guest of Brad Squires

Ernie Womack - husband of member Katrina Wommack

District 5180 Governor Sidney Smith

**District 5180 Theme
“Go Meet Do”**

Saying Yes to our fellowship means:

- We get to **Go** places we never would have gone!
- We **Meet** people we never would have met!
- We **Do** things we never would have done!

connected with services they and the student may need and the Orangevale-Fair Oaks food Bank sends each family home with a bag of food.



Matt Casper and Eric Jones- AboutKidz

Game Day is an event to let the children participate in organized sports. It helps them build character and to experience being a part of something bigger than themselves.

It costs \$200 for a child to register for Little League and the cost of equipment is often beyond a family's budget. AboutKidz sponsors two teams with 14 children on each team and provides the coaches and equipment. The students practice at North Ridge School which is the school where most of the students attend.

There are four basketball teams for which AboutKidz provides the registration, coaching and equipment.

AboutKidz believes that graduation from high school is a critical step in breaking the chain of poverty. Some students need additional help with their schooling. AboutKidz has partnered with the San Juan Unified School District to help.

Graduation Day is a tutoring program which provides help for twenty-five students. At the beginning of the school year, AboutKidz reaches out to teachers of second through fifth grades and asks them to nominate children who could benefit from tutoring.

The tutors are made up of high school students from Bella Vista and Del Campo high schools. They help the students with their homework - 2 days/week for 2 hours/day. In exchange, the tutors receive \$1000 scholarship awards while the tutoring is completely free to the families.

Matt said that the Covid shutdown caused AboutKidz to change their method of distributing backpacks. Instead of all of the families showing up at once, they had them schedule a time to receive the backpacks. The flow was better and AboutKidz has made this scheduling process a permanent part of their program. They can serve more families in the same timeframes.

The goal was to distribute 1000 back packs and 1100 students were registered. This year 985 children received backpacks!

Eric Jones talked about his favorite student Jose. The tutoring program helped with his homework. Now he does his homework nonstop and has developed a strong desire to learn. Another student, Julian had no confidence in his multiplication and division. With tutoring he say that he can really do his arithmetic! The students get excited with their successes and now they can't wait to do their homework!



The peer-to-peer help from the older students has been rewarding for them both. Students mentored as well as tutored and they finish their homework and stay focused! Matt wishes that he had

been tutored because he was behind in school and his mother worked away from the home and didn't have time to help.

How can you get involved with AboutKidz? Volunteer, Donate, Partner.

Volunteer - AboutKidz can use volunteers tutors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The tutoring session starts with giving the students a break and a snack. Then the tutor helps with the homework.

Volunteers are needed to hand out backpacks at the First Day event. AboutKidz also needs volunteers to handout school supply shopping lists to shoppers going into Walmart. Last year this was done at ten Walmarts and \$25,000 worth of school supplies were collected in one day!

Donate - Run a school supply drive to collect donations for the First Day program. AboutKidz also collects toys at Christmas time. They partner with New Life Church to wrap and give away toys. There are families who can't afford to buy toys and this program is appreciated.

Partner - AboutKidz lost their biggest donor when he moved out of state. AboutKidz is looking to fill the deficit with one time and/or monthly donations.

The cost of backpacks has gone up and 1200 are needed for next school year. They are looking for money to buy backpacks or donations of backpacks. So far they have collected 200.

AboutKidz donates backpacks for pre-K through year 12. The tutoring program is for grades 2 through 6. The Little League is for 1st through 4th graders. Basketball is for 1st grade through 6th grade.

The website for the organization is **AboutKidz.org**

When Matt and Eric finished their presentation and answered questions, President Don presented them with a thank you gift; a wooden pen made by past president Bob Kurtz.



Announcements

Dennis Sarkesian, Community service, thanked the members for serving at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank last Friday. In addition to bagging and boxing groceries for future distribution, we had the privilege of providing food allotments to 65 appreciative families in need (177 individuals). What a good way to spend a winter Friday morning.

The next **Rotary House** yard cleanup will be on Saturday, 17-February from 9am to 11am, weather permitting. Let Dennis know if you are planning on attending. Please bring yard tools as you've done in the past.

Oak Park Rotary House
4070 2nd Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

On Sunday, February 18th, Sacramento County Regional Parks, Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) is hosting a basketball seeding tournament in preparation for establishing **Special Olympics** teams for future competition. The tournament will be held at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road in Carmichael.

They are seeking volunteers for serving as scorekeepers or timers for mini games during each of two shifts, 8:30 am to 1 pm OR 12:30 pm to 5 pm. Lunch will be provided to registered volunteers. **Bill Wagner** said his Knights of Columbus groups will be serving lunches at the event.

To volunteer, please sign up via email to TRS@saccounty.gov or calling TRS at (916) 484-2044. Please let Dennis know if you volunteer.

The American River **Trail cleanup** will be on Saturday, March 9.

Dave Shepherd said that the **Growing Past Today** event will be held on Saturday, March 2 to support 70 unhoused families and children. Students from Christian Brothers High School will be at the event. Last year our club bought and handed out Croc footwear and Diana Newman provided the cotton candy. This year we need volunteers to pick up bags of food from the Food Bank the day before the event.

Don Russell said to mark your calendar for the next Dine Around at Pitch and Fiddle on Tuesday, February 13. On February 3, Diana Newton will host a **“Cocktails, Candles and Cotton Candy”** party at her home. Her address is 6805 Douglas Blvd, #83, in Granite Bay. Don passed around a signup sheet.

Don has a dream that everyone will scan the QR code for Vitalant. Not everyone can **donate blood** but we know someone who can.

Katrina Womack is looking for volunteers to help with check-in (4:45pm to 7:00pm) and Coat Check (5:20pm to 7pm) at the **Fair Oaks Crab Feed** on Saturday, February 17. Check your calendar and let her know if you can volunteer to help.

Janice Howarth will assign numbers to the Super Bowl pool. The Joe Surra Football pool is over and you can take a look at the list to see what you owe. One hundred percent of your donation will go to The Rotary Foundation.

Prospector

Prospector Deanna Maddock fined everyone \$1 who didn't go to the L&M Deli last Saturday. Then she gave the members a Valentine's Day quiz. The question were:

- What is Galentine's Day? It is a global holiday to celebrate women's friendships. It is celebrated on February 13.
 - What is the most popular gift to give? Chocolate
 - When was the first heart shaped box of chocolates produced? 1861
 - Who produced the box? John Cadbury of Cadbury Chocolate
 - How many Valentine's Day cards are given out (excluding children's cards)? 145 million cards.
 - What year did Hallmark first print Valentine's Day cards? 1913
 - How many American households gave Valentine gifts to their pets? 27.6 million.
 - How many heart shaped boxes are sold? 36 million
 - What year were conversation hearts introduced? 1866
 - How many boxes of conversation hearts are made each year? 8 million
 - How many different says are on the hearts? 45
 - How many towns in America are named Valentine? 4
- Deanna got lots of wrong answers so a lot of dollars were collected.

Happy fines:

- **Diana Newman** was told she wouldn't have power for four days after the big storm but her power was back on in two days.
- **Janice Haworth** won \$25 on a lotto scratcher and she donated all of it to Rotary.
- **Katrina Womack** is happy because she is going on a cruise.
- **Jeff Valtman** is happy because after taking his grandsons (ages 3 and 6) to Legoland, Southwest canceled his flight home and he got to spend an extra day playing with his grandchildren.
- **Rob Auernig** is happy that his mother is Ok after having appendix surgery.

Congratulations to all the business that won "**The Best of Orangevale**" recognition (Orangevale Copy Center, Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, La Placita Restaurant, Palmer Real Estate, etc). **Russ and Lorie Rheams** were recognized as Hometown Heroes.

The Orange Ball

There were eight balls in the basket this week and the pot was \$68. Patty Wolff's raffle ticket was drawn and she had a chance to pull out an orange ball. Well guess what? Patty who says she never wins anything, pulled out the winning ball! Congratulations!

The Thought for the Day

“There are some people who like chocolate and there are some chocoholics. I live with a sociochocopath.” - said Marty Ingels who gave his wife, actress Shirley Jones, a chocolate store for Valentine’s Day.

Have Fun and Share Rotary!

Fun Places and Faces



Lunch at L&M Deli