

The Orange Peel

2023-2024 | President Don Morris | "Create Hope in the World"

Next Meeting Friday, Sept 15, 2023

Speaker -

District 5180 - District
Governor 2023-2024 -
Sidney Smith

Greeters -

Jim Buntin and Don
Russell

Invocation -

Audrey Smith-Wiberg

Vocation -

Jim Buntin

Prospector -

David Shepherd

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?

Casa Roble High School Recognitions

President Don Morris turned the podium over to Past-President David Shepherd who in turn invited the four visiting Casa Roble High School instructors to the front of the room.

- **Christina Tannehill** - FFA instructor
- **Nate Smith** - Autoshop Instructor
- **Kevin Houdek** - JROTC instructor
- **Robert Leever** - Woodshop Instructor

These instructors have touched us in various ways and this club would like to recognize each of them the highest Rotary award, a Paul Harris Fellow. **Bill Wagner** spoke about the award.



Bill Wagner, Robert Leever, Christina Tannehill, & Nate Smith

Recap of the Meeting Sept 8, 2023

Guests

Philip Clemmer - Vice

Principal, Casa Roble HS

Christina Tannehill - FFA

instructor, Casa Roble HS

Kevin Houdek - JROTC

instructor, Casa Roble HS

Robert Leever -

Woodshop Instructor,

Casa Roble HS

Nate Smith - Autoshop

Instructor, Casa Roble HS

Rotarians associate the naming of a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person who has demonstrated a shared purpose with the educational and humanitarian objectives of The Rotary Foundation. The recognition is named after Rotary's founder, the late Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, who started Rotary with three business associates in 1905.

David spoke to and about each teacher, before presenting them with their Paul Harris pin and certificate.

Starting with **Christina Tannehill**, David said that Ms. Tannehill works miracles every day. Through an astounding labor of love, she has kept one of the very last FFA (Future Farmers of America) programs, not simply in her school district but in all of Sacramento County alive and well into the 21 Century. Every day, Ms. Tannehill enlightens her students about the importance of agriculture and animal husbandry to our community and country... but then she also fires up the students' passions for it.

Her students take on the herculean task of raising livestock - such as cows and pigs - from infancy to adulthood. She then introduces them to the world of livestock auctions where these students then sell off the animal they raised - and get to pocket the profits for their hard work! Her students manage a barnful of goats on campus as well as several productive gardens.

Christina even offers them the opportunity to learn how to use plants and flowers for beautification through her floral decoration class. In so doing, Ms. Tannehill's students truly learn about the "farm-to-

fork" pathway along every step as well as how they can then play a vital role in that chain after high school.

David proposed that the Rotary Club hold a Floral Decoration contest for Christina's students, similar to the photo contest we used to host.



David Shepherd, Christina Tannehill, Nate Smith, Kevin Houdek and Robert Leever

Moving on to **Nate Smith**, who was wearing his favorite work clothes - a set of denim overalls, is the newest member of Casa's Voc-Ed program. Mr. Smith arrived with a pedigree defined by many diverse interests (chiefly, of course, automobiles) but also a distinguished career of service for many years as a US Marine. Mr. Smith brings a quality of respect for his students and his craft - as well as the cars that students work on - that is simply infectious. His instruction has students take on monumental automotive tasks not through his sheer force of will (which is formidable), but through his infectious joy of problem solving through greasy gear-headed fun!

Nate has kept Casa's tradition of running one of the largest auto shows in Northern California alive and well and has, indeed, even expanded it. He has students involved in every aspect of running the show year after year. His is a program of respect, both for the hard work automotive repair can be, as well as the machines

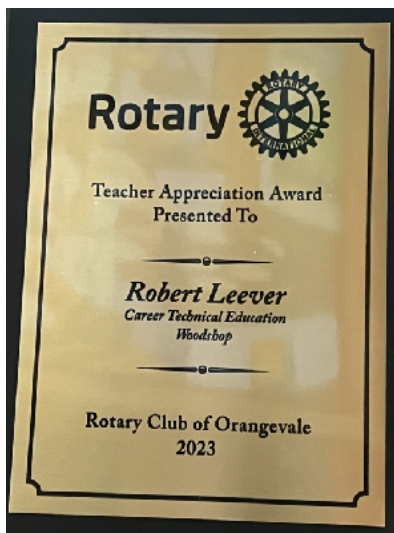
students work on; yet, it is also clearly one of love and joy for how this learning transforms students in bringing out their inner problem-solving potential.

David thanked Nate for bringing a “gaggle” of students to help the club with the annual crab feed. Nate had the students organized and ready to serve!

Next up was **Kevin Houdek**, the instructor for CA-901 Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) Program. Few at Casa Roble have done as much for as many students as this man. Throughout his career Mr. Houdek has happily surrendered countless hundreds of his weekends and evenings to ensure his students had the opportunity to do everything from present colors at athletic events to engage at air shows around Northern California; from providing practice time and extracurricular instruction and training for combative computer programming skills to social events and leadership opportunities for his many students.

Thanks to Mr. Houdek's selflessness and all he has given to his students in Casa's JROTC over the years there are numerous fine young men and women patriotically serving their country in the Armed Forces not merely to protect the United States - but to make it a better place.

David added that Kevin was instrumental in keeping the JROTC program at Casa Roble. The graduation requirement for students to earn community service hours has been dropped but Kevin still requires them in order to move up in grade. Kevin's classes provide foundation and structure to his students.



The last teacher to be recognized was **Robert Leever** who is one of Casa's most engaging and passionate teachers - and it shows with the many students who enroll in his wood-shop class semester after semester, year after year.

It's not simply through the many creative projects that his beginners work on, it's that so many boys and girls have developed a passion for carpentry - from building stepping stools to fully functional guitars... it's the autonomy he gives those students who come back for more advanced projects where they not only broaden their skills through contracting their labor to

individualized projects from friends, family, and other teachers - he also teaches them the value of a dollar earned through hard, personal work performed with one's own hands.

David reminisced about the time he went to New Orleans to help rebuild homes with Habitat for Humanity after the Katrina hurricane. He was in charge of 32 students and none of them had ever used a hammer or saw! Nate is teaching his students a trade/vocation and the pride to build things correctly.

David hopes the teachers will have their students participate in our Annual Crab Feed. Five-thousand dollars in tips were collected from the guests and that money went back to the Casa Roble clubs that helped with the Carb Feed! Help us help you when you help us!

Bill Wagner put in a plug for the Rotary Club's annual speech contest. If you have students who like to talk a lot, encourage them to sign up for the speech contest. The first, second and third place winners will be awarded money. Bill will send a speech contest email to the teachers in the spring.



Robert Leever, Kevin Houdek, Christina Tannehill, Nate Smith and David Shepherd.

A Casa Roble High School Update



Rotarian **Phyllis Macdonald** taught German at Casa Roble High School for 25 years. She is also an alumni of the school and was a Casa Roble parent. Today, she has the pleasure of introducing our speaker, **Philip Clemmer**, Vice Principal of Casa Roble.

Vice Principal Phil has lived in Orangevale for 30 years and raised his children here. During his career as a science teacher, he had the fortune of teaching only at Orangevale schools. He started at Carnegie Middle School and then taught for 12 years at Louis Pasteur Middle School. When he moved to Casa Roble he felt like all the students knew him because they transitioned from Pasteur with him!

Casa Roble's student population was once 1800 and is now down to 1100; the number of faculty members has shrunk from 80 to 35. The population of the area fluctuates but he is seeing more young families moving into Orangevale and that will eventually boost the number of students.

Vice Principal Phil is very proud of the teachers who were honored by the Rotary Club today. Nate and Robert are asked to do things in the school and in the community. Christina has put together beautiful flower displays for weddings in the community. Kevin frequently leads the ROTC in activities such as the honor guard for community events.

Casa Roble High School is the most comprehensive high school in the county. Casa offers a wide range of opportunities and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs: AVID, an award winning ROTC, A California Partnership Health Academy - SCORE, Agriculture, Auto, Fine Woodworking, Choir, Digital photo, and a wide range of Advanced Placement courses. The students learn skills that don't go away.

For example, the SCORE program is a capstone course which is available starting with sophomores and continues on through the senior year when the students

work an internship. In the end, they can take a medical assistant exam and if they pass it, they can get certified and start working at \$25 per hour.

Vice Principal Phil stopped there and asked if there were any questions.

Is there a music program at the school? There is but it's not as well known as the music program at Bella Vista. Our music teacher taught at Pasteur and is now teaching at Casa so the students who were familiar with her are taking her classes. The students are starting to trickle in.

Are there ESL classes? There is a small percentage of ESL students. They were ESL students in lower grades who have now been rated as English proficient. Only 25 to 30 students are beginning English learners.

How can the Rotary Club better communicate our programs such as the Rotary Speech Contest, the Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Award? Philip said we should work together to advertise through the weekly voice message, the newsletter and social media. There is also the Advisory class that has a broadcast program which can be used.

What has been the impact of Covid on the students? The students are focusing on school again but they don't know how to socialize. They have had to learn how to interact again. There is a loss of proficiency; a 1-1/2 to 2 years of learning loss that we are working to address.

Is there help for unwed mothers? Luckily that has not been an issue and that is a good thing, thanks to the Health teacher.

How does the school teach students to be critical thinkers? In the Social Science Department there is a course in which the students lead the learning. They select a topic to research and they evaluate the sources. They learn how to look at the topic critically.

Are there any Business classes? Yes, a Financial Math class was implemented three years ago and it is very popular. Students are taught how to address an envelope, how to make change and balance a checkbook. They play a stock market game and discuss taxes.

Financial literacy is not a strength for most students. Preparing for standardized testing has eliminated the classes we think they need; the practical education. We teach the students to prepare for standardized testing. All students are required to take the PSAT test.



President Don thanked Vice Principal Philip for giving the club an update on Casa Roble and then presented him with an Orangevale Rotary mug.

Vocational Talk

Catrina Womack's interest in belly dancing began in 2008 when her children were eight and five years old. She took them with her the first time she went to a "Second Saturday".

The "Second Saturday" in Sacramento is a monthly art walk occurring in the evenings on the second Saturday of each month. This monthly art celebration includes music, gallery receptions, open artist studios, and special events.



They went to 16th and K Street and watched a friend of Catrina perform a fusion belly dance. Catrina's daughter talked her mother into taking a lesson and Catrina was hooked.

"ITS" dance is Improvisational Tribal Style belly dancing and there are three levels of training. Catrina learned the movements and it took her three years to get through all of the levels. She got to a performance level but in order to join a street performance team, she had to pass a test.

In the test, Catrina had to demonstrate queued movement. As a leader, her movement will be followed by the rest of the troop. She passed the test and became a street performer. In 2014, she formed her own troop and named it Illuminata Fusion. They performed at parties, fairs, etc. around the United States, Mexico and Costa Rica! In 2015 she became the director of the Hot Pot Studio. In 2019 she started her own studio and introduced her students to more advance movements.

Catrina's talk was accompanied by pictures of her dance troop. She ended her vocational talk with a final slide that read - "2020 - the world shut down and so did my studio. But what a wonderful experience!!!" And now she works in real estate!

Announcements

President Don announced that **Dick Nadler**, aged 90 years old, passed away Sunday, September 3rd. Dick was a long-time member of Rotary, having joined our club in 1969. He served twice as president, and after 50 years of perfect attendance, he changed his status to honorary in 2019. A memorial service for Dick will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Sun River Church, 11223 Trinity River Drive in Rancho Cordova. **Lorie Rheams** passed around a sympathy card for everyone to sign.



Next week's speaker is our **District Governor Sidney Smith**. In advance of his visit, **President Don** wanted the club to be aware of the theme he selected for his year.

Our 2023-24 District 5180 Theme is

"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.

Let's invite others as we go, meet and do great things together! #gomeetdo

Reminder. The Underground at the Sunrise Mall is still requesting donations of clothes for children and teens. They particularly need boys underwear sizes 5-12. New underwear and socks only. Give them to **Lorie Rheams** who will take them to the Underground.

Prospector

Due to time constraints, there was no prospecting by David Shepherd. Hold onto your wallets for the next meeting!

The Thought for the Day

Quoting one is plagiarism.
Quoting many is research.

Have a Great Week and Share Rotary!