Governor’s Spin

Ordinarily, the District Governor completes official club visits by December 31 of the Rotary year. This year has been anything but “ordinary” or “official.” The clubs have decided when and how to have me interface with their members, and two have been after January 1.

I met with members of Loomis-Sunset, led by President Carrie Pronesti, on January 9 for an informal, cozy dinner and had the chance to talk with everyone during the evening. Although the club is relatively new (chartered 2012) and relatively small, the members are very engaged and get things done. They have a number of youth activities and have decided that their tree project will involve the planting of fruit-bearing trees. Sustainability is an important focus for them.

February 8 marked my last formal visit, and it was to the Lincoln Club. President Dan Johnson made it spectacular. Several PHF presentations were made, two new members were inducted, and a good social time was had by all. Did you know that the Lincoln Club has met in the same location since it was chartered in 1925? If you’re looking to make up, this is the place to come!

I had the pleasure of being with current Presidents and Presidents-Elect at the Mid-Year Retreat on
Club News

East Sac Rotary Greens Up Tahoe Elementary

Over the years, East Sacramento Rotary has built a strong relationship with Tahoe Elementary School in the Tahoe Park area. Through supporting the students with backpacks filled with supplies, handing out dictionaries to third graders, and an annual “Book Buddy” program for second and fifth graders, ESR has ‘planted’ its support to the students and families of Tahoe Elementary.

In its continuing effort to find sustainable projects that benefit all grade levels, in the spring of 2017, Carroll Dudley, ESR member, developed the idea of a greenhouse for the campus that would be available for years to come to help teach botany, math, art, and food production to the students, and even get parents and teachers involved.

States Carroll, “When I talked to Tahoe’s principal, April Shafto, she got really excited about the project.” Thus, a district grant project was born!

After many months of work, getting countless donations from other local businesses, putting in 500 plus volunteer hours by 16 members and friends of ESR,

Gov’s Spin (con’t)

January 27. It, too, was different. The Presidents, not the District Governor, decided on the format and further decided that Presidents-Elects should be invited. We had interactive table sessions on topics that were important to the Presidents and clubs. Needless to say, it was a huge success. Thank you, Presidents!

Rotary Magazine

Well, our intrepid reporters caught them! That’s right. They tracked down another group of Rotarians reading the Rotarian Magazine!

This time they were in Agra, India. As suspected, they took time away from giving polio vaccines to read the magazine. They are Frank Woods and John Messner from the Folsom Rotary Club and Tania Fowler and Desiree Wilson from Point West Rotary. The foursome was helping with the polio vaccinations on Jan. 4-6 of this year.

Of course, reading the magazine was only the beginning. From Agra, they were on to the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, palaces, mosques, the Red Fort, shopping, elephant rides, bicycle rickshaw rides, tuk tuk rides, the Mahatma Ghandi Museum, Old Dehli, New Dehli, game drive at a tiger reserve in Ranthambhore, Jaipur. An amazing experience!

Be sure to let the Tour de 5180 know where you have been reading the Rotarian Magazine. Send photos to crea@calcima.org
Who’s Who (con’t)

Humanity helping to build homes in villages south of Saigon. Four years ago, she co-created a small non-profit called Mission Sistahs, Inc. to help families around the world in the areas of clean water, education, food, clothing and housing. They are planning on working with Group Mission Trips to go to Puerto Rico this year to assist with recovery and rebuilding.

Recently, Roxanne has taken a part-time position with an organization called A Touch of Understanding (ATOU). It provides disability awareness training in schools in eight different counties. They encourage the acceptance and respect for all individuals to minimize discrimination and develop mutual acceptance.

In her free time? Ah, she shares the Mommy-ship of 13 year old lab mix rescue boy…Mr. Cody. He loves to go on morning walks to see his friends at the park, chase squirrels, go for rides in the 4-Runner, sleep and guard the house.

And, Roxanne is Auntie, Great Auntie and surrogate Auntie to 11 nieces and nephews.

Whew! We are lucky to have Roxanne!

East Sac (con’t)

the greenhouse is done and ready for planting! Key to the success of the project was the commitment of the school leadership, a newly-hired teacher with a horticultural degree, and the support of such folks as PDG Fred Teichert, who ensured the project had all the good dirt, rock and crushed granite it needed to build a structure that would last for many years.

“It has been fun sharing the progress of the greenhouse build through our club’s Facebook and website pages,” shares current ESR president, Lewie Donhost. “Community members saw what we were doing and came to help us work on the project.”

This permanent structure will allow the school to do a variety of projects throughout the school year with a great link into Sacramento’s Farm-to-Fork efforts. One plan is to grow flowers for the school’s annual spring-time fundraiser, known as April’s Treasures, where students will be able to paint flower pots, plant flower seeds and tend them as they grow and blossom for sale in the spring. And, there are plans already in process to grow a giant pumpkin from donated seed so the students get to measure, weigh and watch the growth of the pumpkin to see just how fast and big it will become. Who knows? We might have a giant pumpkin contest winner in the near future!

Club member, Carroll Dudley, also brought a more closely held personal focus to the project as a memorial to his sister, Marsha, who passed away in July 2016.

“She was a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who loved children. She would be thrilled to know countless children will get to enjoy and learn from this greenhouse project,” shares Dudley.

International

Jordanian Club Seeks Partners

The Rotary Club of Amman Citadel in District 2452 in Jordan contacted our district recently looking for a partner on a Global Grant project to train basic first responders for medical and traumatic emergencies.

If your club is interested in finding out more about this project, contact district 5180’s Global Grant Coordinator Fred Rowe at fredrowe@gmail.com.
Satellite Launched from Point West Rotary

It seems like everyone is launching satellites these days. SpaceX. Tesla. Amazon.

Well, Point West Rotary wasn’t to be left out. On the first of this month, they launched the Rotary Satellite Club of Point West.

What you ask is a Rotary Satellite? Does it spot service projects from outer space? Does it communicate the whereabouts of past district governors?

No. Of course not. It is a club formed for the short-term. More of a transitional step on the way to becoming a full, independent Rotary club. It allows people to be in Rotary without needing 20 members for a club. And, Rotarians who are absent from regular club meetings can make up via a satellite club.

So, February 1st was the Charter Night for the new Rotary Satellite Club of Point West!

The Satellite Club welcomed 8 new members. They are Sondra Wildman (Chair), Lawana Welch (Chair-Elect), Mike Bede (Secretary/Treasurer), Scott Osborne, Janice Kelley, Kevin Deacon, David Tremblay and Dina Levkov.

The Charter Night celebration was held at the Dante
Satellite Club (con’t)

Club. The new members were honored to have in attendance District Governor Sandi Sava, District Governor Elect Jack Arney, and District Governor Nominee Ray Ward.

The Satellite Club meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Black Bear Diner (reason enough to attend!) at 6:30 p.m.

Hey, and new members are welcome! To learn more, contact Sondra Wildman at pwsatellite@gmail.com

Conflict Resolution (con’t)

India, and supporting reconstruction in devastated world regions as part of the solution.

The efforts of Rotary focus on poverty, inequality, ethnic tensions, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources necessary to survive. Such endeavors help families afford food, clothing, rent, utilities, medications, and other necessities to stay alive.

Rotaract clubs in nations such as the Philippines conduct anti-bullying campaigns in schools to teach children how to handle conflict peacefully from an early age.

In the United States, efforts to protect domestic violence survivors by providing shelter, food, clothing, legal advocacy, and counseling are activities in which Rotarians engage.

As Rotarians, we must refuse to accept conflict and violence as a way of life. Rotary projects must continue to offer training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the means and skills to overcome such strife.

Rotary Foundation Grant Certification

Webinars

In 3 parts: Feb. 27, March 13, and March 27 5:30—6:30 p.m. each day.

www.rotary5180.org

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