

MORGAN HILL ROTARIAN

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Secretary: Kevin McGinty
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Club Service Lisa DeSilva ,
Club Service Wayne Goulding
Community Service Brad Ledwith
Youth Service Carl Reinhardt
Vocational Services Chris Sellers
International Service: Peter Anderson

Endowment

Board President Craig van Keulen

District 5170 Governor
Don Allen

Assistant District Governor Area 6
Ric Heinzen (Gilroy)

Websites:

.Rotary5170.Org
Www.MORGANHILLROTARY.ORG

ROTARY MEETING of October 22, 2003

Greeter: Rita Garcia
Flag Salute: John Tarvin
Invocation: Brad Ledwith: ‘the sounds of silence...’
Toast: President Steve: to Live Oak Interactors for their terrific job so far this year, exemplified by their successful “Wheel Chair Marathon” last weekend.
Reporter: Brad Ledwith’s ghostwriter

Visiting Rotarians:

Steve Kinsella, Gilroy
Craig Gartman, Gilroy
Kay Keeshen, San Jose

Guests of Rotarians:

Elaine Ditmore (Dana’s relative)
Sheila Peterson (Dick’s relative)
Mike Dent (not reported whether he is related to his host
Bob Brentnall)

President Steve says

SERVE WITH A SMILE!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Steve announced that November is “Foundation Month” (as in The Rotary Foundation). Ben Fuller & Randy Elder are our Foundation Chairs this year, and next week, Ben will be handing out the raffle booklets for members to either sell or buy (so who’s ever been able to sell one? Don’t we all just buy them as our donation?!). Grand prize drawing is a free trip to Osaka, Japan for the International Convention May 23-26; 2nd place prize is a free trip to San Jose, Costa Rica for the Uniendo America conference Jan 22-24. Steve stated that our Board officially encourages philanthropic contributions of our members, besides the well-recognized energetic contributions at our local events – all a part of being a true Rotarian (no “RINOs” please!). And remember, your donations to the Foundation get invested for 3 years, and then returned to our club in the form of matching money, *multiplying* their value! (It sounds like the money goes farther than our dues!)
 - Elizabeth announced that the Bolivian dinner party raised \$1550 for the orphanage project (but this reporter saw an additional check being written later; it is unknown at press time whether this was an account about to go to collections, a last-minute effort to be kept of the sheriff’s list, or simply an honest Rotarian making good on his mark). Special donations were received from Roger&Janie and David Lister. Party-goers consumed one case of Argentine wine, one case of Peruvian beer, and more Bolivian pisco than can be legally imported. She thanked the World Community Service committee members (and others) for their help: Bob Brentnall & David Bischoff for keeping everyone’s drink glass full, Charles & Peter for BBQing the meat (their fire management made it look more like “smoking”), Arlene & Lou for kitchen kibitzing, Amy for the many bouquets of flowers, and innumerable Interactors for their tremendously poised work as servers and their fearlessness as cleaners.
 - Elizabeth gave Peter what looked like a mock pre-Colombian carving (sort of a token totem) for taking the bars off the doors of his house for the event. Peter positioned the face of the evil-looking figure so it would glare piercingly at the forthcoming sheriff, who was scrambling to recover from one of President Steve’s announcements (see next section).
 - David De la Cuesta praised the Live Oak Interactors every way he could think of for their 24-hour “Wheel Chair Marathon” on the L.O. track last weekend; they raised something close to \$2k (Hmmm. that’s better than the Bolivian party!) with almost half of that coming from our club members. (The track held up fine, and nobody got hurt!) They had support from many parents, teachers, and, of course, many Rotarians who turned out to support the group during the day. David thanked those Rotarians who dropped by and especially those who pitched in to cook them dinner.
 - Carl Reinhardt announced that the District Interact Leadership Conference is this weekend (Oct 26) at Independence HS in San Jose, and he encourages Rotarians to join him there. He is also looking for someone to help get a new Interact Club off the ground at the Charter School. (That would be THREE Interact clubs we would be sponsoring! A big “attaway!” for Carl.)
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Another of our
PAST PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVES

This one by
Arlene Greenberg
1996-1997

Arlene related that Rotary helps provide us something that transcends regular work-a-day life and volunteerism. In Rotary we enjoy wonderful opportunities for community service, but as our work is shared with others in the club, event-after-event, sometimes elbow-to-elbow, we build a great bond of fellowship. Performing public service deeds together with our colleagues enhances our bond of fellowship with those colleagues (us!), which feeds back into itself by making the service work doubling rewarding. It’s a circle.

She fondly told of significant events during her tenure, such as providing a hero’s welcome to our hometown Olympic Gold-medallist swimmer, Jill_____, going to the Day-at-the-As and the money it raised for the successful Camp RYLA event, assisting the City in disaster preparedness, performing our Rotary Day of Thanksgiving by remodeling and beautification of the Senior Center, and, of course, the famous ROTARY WATER debacle:

For the Taste of Morgan Hill that year, it seems we decided to provide small bottles of water for a modest price, but somehow our purchasing manager (?) moved the decimal one or two places, and we wound up with 12,000 bottles! A few more than we thought necessary. Anyway, we saw to it that the event would be used for a good public relations opportunity, so we had the water bottles (from Safeway) affixed with a prominent ROTARY label. The trouble is, the affixer wasn’t water proof, so when we cooled the battles in ice, the labels came off. It took us years to unload the inventory. But it seems Bernie was disappointed we’re out, because he asked Arlene if he couldn’t get just one more bottle!

PRESIDENT STEVE REMINDED US OF THE FOLLOWING

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (check our website for more):

These are to be marked on our calendars, PDAs, and/or refrigerator doors:

Nov 14, after work – The MH Chamber is hosting a reception to honor Al Chew for all he’s done for the community in his many years doing business here. 6-8p.m. at the Community & Culture Center

Nov 14, 6:30 pm -Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista is hosting a fundraiser “Mystery Dinner” at San Juan Oaks - \$65/ea for an entertaining evening.

Nov 19 – Interactors will auction their work teams to our club members at lunch.

THE PROGRAM

As Director for International Service, Peter was asked to introduce our special guest today: OSCAR AGUILAR, member of the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa Kaputzihil, Honduras, District 4250. Oscar was brought to us by our District as part of the “Partners in Rotary Service” program, started just last year by PDG Brad Howard. He is one of five Rotary dignitaries in the program this year, one each coming from Honduras, Brazil, India, Afghanistan, and Ghana.

Oscar said District 4250 as one of the two districts in Central America, covering Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras. It has 49 clubs and about 1300 members.

Oscar recounted that 5 years ago Hurricane Mitch devastated his country of only 5 million people, in just a few days making 20% of the entire population homeless. It was shortly thereafter that PDG Neal Hoffman implemented the District 5170 “Hands for Honduras” program, wherein \$100k raised by clubs in the district was turned into \$250k by the miracle of Foundation matching money.

Partnerships were linked between several different clubs in 4250 and several different clubs in 5170, and together, 7 humanitarian aid projects were devised.

Oscar described the projects in great detail, using a nice power-point presentation, somewhat dazzling our members. But he got to our hearts, when he personally and humbly thanked us for our participation in one of those projects: the reconstruction of a 20,000-gallon tank distribution system, sewage treatment plant, and sidewalks for the mountain town of San Juancito on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa. That town had been close to being totally wiped out by monstrous mudflows. A companion project was the construction of 52 new houses in the town, at a cost of about \$2k each. (According a 4-year old clipping from The MH Times left on our tables, the L.O. Interact Club had contributed to that housing project.)

Other projects completed in the District 5170 “Hands for Honduras” program are:

Construction of 18 new houses in the town of San Juan de Flores.

Reforestation of part of La Tigra National Park, the watershed for Tegucigalpa’s water supply that had been stripped of soil and vegetation by floods and mudflows.

Construction of 25 houses in the town of Comayagua.

Establishment of “Community Banks” in the towns of San Juancito and San Juan de Flores, wherein loans are being made for people setting up cottage industries, many for as little as \$500 to buy such simple equipment as coffee roasters. All the first round of loans have been paid back, and the banks continue spawning more local industry.

Re-construction of several “hanging bridges” to restore the only access to several mountain towns.

Oscar had been brought to Morgan Hill by his personal host, Bert Raphael, of the Mountain View club.