



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

May 22, 2008 at 12:15p.m.Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: **Terry Wilson**; Greeter **Coy Baugh**;

Program

Kati Farquhar - Grace Foundation/Pony Town

Last Week



Tim Ruffin, District Membership Chair, gave an informative and interesting talk on the topic of Rotary Membership Recruitment. It is a reality that membership in service organizations around the world is down and it is important to bring in new members if Rotary is to continue to serve its mission. Tim noted that the 53 clubs in District 5190 are doing well with membership up by 60 in the past year. Tim talked about the types of people that join Rotary, why new members are needed and what those new members get out of being Rotarians.

Tim once believed that every Rotarian should be bringing in new members. He has personally recruited over 50 members to Rotary. While it would be nice if everyone was an active recruiter, the reality is that only about

25% of members bring in new members. Tim works in sales and finds it easy to enlist people to join. He has come to the conclusion that not everyone has the contacts or the ability to recruit new members every year. He now suggests that individuals that don't recruit new members can help with membership by working on retention. Members with less than five years in Rotary account for 65% of all resignations. Tim encourages all members to work to integrate new members into the club. All members should make a point of personally getting to know and build relationships with new members. Volunteering as a mentor to new members is a great way to get people involved.

Tim gave the profile of the best new members as being approximately 40 years of age, with a stable career and an established family. People at that age have achieved a certain level of security and discretionary time. They are ready to give back to the community. There are obviously exceptions to this profile, but this group consistently produces members who bring the most to the organization.

Due to the natural turnover of 10 to 15% a year, it is essential to recruit new members simply to maintain current levels. In addition to maintaining numbers, new members are essential to bring new ideas to the club. Tim cited examples from his club of new members changing their biggest fund raiser from a golf tournament with 100 participants to a crab feed that has grown from 400 to nearly 900 people. Involving new members in ongoing programs brings positive changes each year.

People join Rotary for all kinds of reasons, but there are common experiences that lead members to stay with the organization. Fellowship cannot be overstated as a reason that members enjoy and remain in Rotary. Friendships are forged and people gain great satisfaction from having a common cause that serves others. Most people want to be involved in something bigger than themselves that will contribute to a better world. Tim claims it's healthy to laugh and he laughs more each week in Rotary than anywhere else. In addition to the contributions and fellowship, Tim asserts that Rotary is a great place for individuals to grow personally and as leaders. He cites the experiences of club presidents who invariably hone their speaking skills and develop as leaders over the course of their year in office. Involvement with international visitors through any number of Rotary programs leads to an expansion of cultural understandings and improves our dealings throughout the world.

To retain new members, it is important to provide experiences that will involve them and keep them interested. New members should be given opportunities to become involved and to serve. Interesting and informative programs each week are very important. Tim wrapped up his presentation by cautioning against overwhelming new members with too much information. Don't obligate prospective members to become involved in every aspect of Rotary at once. It is sufficient to convey that their only obligation is to pay dues and attend meetings. Then, offer opportunities and let the new member decide how to become more involved.

Presidents Corner



WINE AT TOWN CENTER

Debra Miller reports that tickets are going fast for Wine at Town Center on June 14, 2008. There is a firm limit on the number of tickets to be sold and once they are gone, no more will be made available. Anyone interested in tickets should contact Debra now, before tickets run out.

At left is **WOW** provider **Norm Headley** going over his notes with **Coy Baugh**. Norm had laryngitis and asked Coy if he would read his notes. Coy said that although it was written in doctors script he thought he could handle it.

RED HAWK CASINO

Julie Sandberg got a private tour of the Red Hawk Casino construction site and reports that it will be a first class facility. In her role as the co-chair of **Wine at Town Center** Julie has been working with the people at Red Hawk to elicit their support for Rotary projects. As a new member of the local community, they are working to be good neighbors and will support select community programs. They may be an important partner for Rotary efforts in the future and we should be sure to give a warm welcome to **Mike Sproull** when comes to tell us about Red Hawk on May 29, 2008.

PHILIPPINE BOAT PROJECT

Jim Buckley reports that construction of the floating health clinic for the Agusan Marsh in Mindanao is proceeding on schedule. The hulls for the catamaran boat were completed before the end of April and moved close to the Agusan River. He received pictures on May 7 showing the floor in place, connecting the two hulls. It is beginning to take shape and the boat should be completed by the end of May. Jim predicts that the first birth on the boat will take place soon thereafter. He also announced that he has received a considerable donation of medical text books from a contact in the publishing business. These books will be placed in the library on the boat. Follow the progress of the project and view pictures of the construction at: <http://www.cameronparkrotary.org/cpagusan.asp>

Scholarships

Chuck LePere, **Darol Rasumssen** and **Bill Vandegrift** attended the annual scholarship presentations at Ponderosa High school where six scholarships from CP Rotary were presented. This year, the club awarded three merit (academic) scholarships and three vocational scholarships. Additionally, **Bob Clarke** reports that the Cameron Park Rotary Foundation granted an additional five scholarships.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS

When reporting on the scholarship presentations, **Chuck LePere** told of his efforts to correct an erroneous announcement of presenter **Darol Rasmussen**. His "correction" only made things worse as he introduced Darol as **Darol Vandegrift**. He was rewarded by a poke in the back from Billy V and was still laughing as he offered ten happy bucks to report his gaff.

Past District Governor **Bob Dorr** welcomes **Ane Deister** back to our club.

The Ponderosa High School athletic program continues to soar. Spring sports may not get the attention paid to football and basketball, but that doesn't stop the Bruins from dominating in other sports. PHS Principal **Chris Moore** announced that the boys' baseball team was

victorious in the first round of playoffs. They are also experiencing great success with the girls' swimming, boys' volleyball and girls' soccer. As a Super Bell Ringer, Chris doesn't have to pay for his announcements, but he continues to enjoy coughing up bucks for the many accomplishments of PHS. You have to appreciate his generosity and the pride that he takes in his school.

Max Callaghan has already paid for the privilege of announcing that there will be a new addition to his family. An ultrasound reveals that it will be a boy and Max is dreaming of rooms in a color other than pink. The possibility of a blue room is definitely worth \$10.

Carolyn Doty gave ten happy bucks to remind everyone of the Chamber of Commerce mixer that evening and of the Chamber sponsored candidates' forum for District 2 Supervisor candidates on Wednesday. Feel free to contact Carolyn for additional information.

Not only does **Debra Miller** have a college age daughter, that daughter is graduating from Chico State next week. A proud mother, Debra had a big smile as she offered ten happy bucks.

ONLY PRESIDENT GARY IS BLUE

There was much discussion and selective threats of fines for members not dressed in blue. Turns out that President Gary announced it would be a blue day at the previous meeting. It also turns out that the announcement came after the bell when nobody was listening. After much confusion, the note taker gave up and no fines for the purported infraction were documented. Watch out, the wrath of Reynolds is sure to follow.

Bob Dorr made a deal for his birthday. Each Rotary Club is to try to raise \$1000 for the eradication of polio. Bob contributed \$100 toward this goal.

Birthdays in May

Bob Dorr
Tom Keating
Steve Long

Anniversaries in May

Mike & Chris Reeg Collom
Verne & Chris Sanders

Upcoming Calendar

May 22, 2008 - **Kati Farquhar** - Grace Foundation/Pony Town
May 29, 2008 - **Mike Sproull** from the Red Hawk Casino - Meeting at Elks Lodge (tentative)

Upcoming Words of Wisdom

May 22, 2008 - Words of Wisdom - **Terry Wilson** after a greeting from **Coy Baugh**
May 29, 2008 - Words of Wisdom - **Carol Hodgson** after a greeting from **Gary Gall**

The Last Word



CAMERON PARK ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND:

Mike Collom reports that contributions to the Endowment fund exceed \$22,000. We are over 20% of the way to securing the entire \$100,000 pledged by **Darol Rasmussent** to build this fund for scholarships. Have you written a check lately?

At the left our Greeter **Ulla Peterson** greets new member **Ben Young**.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 3, 2008 - Monthly Board meeting at Kobe's restaurant at noon

June 14, 2008 - **Wine at Town Center**

June 15 - 18, 2008 - Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles