

eCone

Meeting: Oct. 29, 2009

Presiding Rotarian: Mary Bellefeuille*

* sans glasses; with new contacts

Visiting Rotarians: none

eCone correspondent: Evan Tuchinsky

Halloween Hat Day

The local haberdasher industry got a major boost this week, with many a distinguished chapeau (and a few undistinguished or undistinguishable) donned in honor of All Hallows Eve. The following Rotarians received unofficial awards for their achievements in headwear:

Larry Hartt: best fit for his personality

Art Layton: cheapest hat

Wally Hutton & Bob Gustafson: best witches

John Rank: least adventurous

Bob DiPietro: best Madge (which I think was supposed to have been “best Marge” *a la* Marge Simpson, unless blue-haired Madge is a blue-badge joke lost on a red-badger like your humble correspondent ...)

Plus, incoming Paradise Rotary President Bob Irvine got to wear the coveted “birthday hat” in honor of (or pity for) of his 50th birthday November 3. Happy birthday, Bob!

Updates

Foundation Minute: Kathy Maxwell announced that Foundation recognitions will be made at the Thursday, Nov. 19 meeting. She also reminded us that November is Rotary Foundation Month and “please make your donation.”

Interact Minute: Trudi Angel renewed her request (not quite yet a plea) for chaperones for the Nov. 8 District Meeting in the Bay Area, going from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.; seven or eight Interact-ers would like to go. She also gave an update on the senior-center project: The group will convene at Sunshine House on the first and third Monday of each month, interacting (no pun intended) with residents from 4 to 5 p.m. before holding their club meeting. (They still will hold their meetings the other weeks at the Northern California Ballet.) Plus, if that's not enough, Vicki Perez let us know that Interact has donated \$100 to the PRPD Halloween event, where they'll also volunteer!

Public Relations Minute: Casey Taylor awarded no fake bonus points this week but was pleased to inform us that the Group Study Exchange for firefighters got coverage in the Post; no calls so far, so if you know a fire/EMT person who'd like to visit Mexico ... Meanwhile, Casey has Rotary brochures available for anyone who would like to display them at their businesses. (Might some fake bonus points come to those who do? Believe they just might!)

Announcements

Pumpkin weigh-off: The results are in! Our champion grower is **Cheryl Almeida**, whose prized pumpkin topped the scales at 65 pounds! Second place is **Tom Gagne** (50 pounds); third is **Bob Irvine** (47).

Softball: John Touchette presented Mary with a ball autographed by the league championship team from Rotary. Queue up the Queen CD and sing along: "We are the champions, we are the champions! No time for losers, 'cause we are the champions ..."

Magalia Fire Safe Council: Dave Bermann reported that the few, proud attendees of the informational event learned about fire-prevention and heard thanks given to our club.

Camp Venture: We have funding for one or two scholarships for next summer's entrepreneurship camp. This is a great opportunity for students – and for Rotarians who care about students! If someone is interesting in "chairing" this opportunity, please contact Mary.

Hospital Gala: As part of our sponsorship of Feather River Hospital, we have a table for eight at the big gala Nov. 7, 6 p.m., at the Elks Lodge. Contact Mary if you would like to attend. The proceeds will benefit the expansion of the Emergency Department at our vital medical center. **Sherry Swim** will be honored that night, and other fellow Rotarians will be there, too, so even if you don't grab one of the free seats, please support this event.

Missing items: Ed Doyle and Art Pollock inventoried the storage unit and determined that we are missing the following items: aprons, a pop-up tent, two tables and two cash-boxes. Mary offers "no questions asked" amnesty to people who return said items.

Rotary at the Races: A re-reminder that Dec. 5 is the big day at Golden Gate Fields. Supporters of Rotary, equines and/or bookies are welcome.

Dictionary Project: Trevor Davis has seen our dictionaries! They're in, and team captains will get their school assignments next week. Stay tuned.

Chocolate Queen: Jackie Gitman has accepted the nomination from Rotary as a candidate for Queen of the Chocolate Festival. She hopes to match the amount raised by reigning queen Alice Smith, \$24,000 ... but she knows she'll need a lot of help, so anyone interested in rallying to her cause is invited to her house (1432 Nunnelly) at 6 p.m. next Thursday (Nov. 5).

Junker for the jeweler: Don Peck is in the market for a "beat-up, piece-of-junk car." If you have one of those, you apparently now have a buyer, too!

Unannounced Announcements

President got BOO'd! From Mary: "A small pumpkin and bag of candy was anonymously left on the hood of my car. Many thanks for showing the love!!!! The chocolate was melted, but it is being enjoyed!"

She remembered!!! A week after Mary's friends held up "Raffle" and "Raff Full" signs to remind her, our esteemed president called for this week's drawing unaided. Way to go!

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 5, Cozy Diner, 7 a.m. breakfast, 7:15 - 8:15 meeting

Next New Member Orientation: Tuesday, Nov. 17, Mary Bellefeuille's house, 6:00 p.m.

Bring a friend to lunch: For everyone who brings friendly folk to a meeting, that team will earn real, not fake, bonus points!

Presidential Trivia

Here is Mary's challenge for this week:

When and where is the 2010 Rotary International Conference?

Remember, first e-mail reply with the correct answer yields a coveted Wild Card Make-up Card!!!

Last week's winner: Bob Irvine, who looked in his Rotarian magazine to find the next RI President will be Kalyan Banerjee, a member of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat, India, since 1972. (A most apropos winner, since Bob will be *our* next president!)

Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

Casey Taylor: Promoted her school's holiday program during the P.R. Minute. **1 bell**

Trevor Davis: Promoted his church's Trunk-or-Treat event during the dictionary announcement. **1 bell**

Kathleen Dwyer: Went to her high school reunion in Sunnyvale and had a "pretty good time." **2 bells**

Gary Manwill: Had two daughters appear in the sports sections of two newspapers on the very same day! (Camie, who plays for Utah Valley College, headlined the Post; Karly, Paradise High, the E-R.) He took a trip to see Camie play, squeezing in a 177-mile bike ride. Oh, and he scaled Mount Shasta twice over the summer. **4 bells**

John Touchette: Lecturing at a "Dinner With The Doctor" event even though his wife holds the Dr. title. (At least he got his degree in exercise physiology, which relates to the topic.) **2 bells**

Tom Gagne but charged to **Mary Bellefeuille:** Tom's son got engaged a few months ago, and while the proposal has been all over YouTube, Mary gave Tom no recognition until today. **1 bell**

Kathy Maxwell: Many trips, but none with a Rotary bear. Reasons/excuses include: "I'm too busy – can't be bothered with stuffed animals"; "I can't have any more weight in my suitcases"; "Then I'd have to come back and tell you everything I did, and I don't wanna." **2 bells**

Speaker

Josefa Valentina Cacaes Zapata (our Rotary Exchange student)

Topic: Chile

Josefa made a presentation about her homeland, complete with PowerPoint slides. Chile is a ribbon-shaped country approximately 4,000 miles long on the southwest coast of

South America, along with several islands and territory in Antarctica. The Andes Mountains separate Chile from Argentina, though several tunnels connect them, which is particularly good for beach-loving Argentines during the summer. Chile is roughly the same distance from the equator as the United States, so its climate zones are similar, just in reverse: Northern Chile features desert environs, central contains agricultural lands and Southern has forests, lakes and volcanoes.

Santiago, the capitol, boasts about half of the country's population. It is centrally located, about an hour from Josefa's hometown, Rancagua (pronounced rahn-COW-ah). The climate there is similar to Paradise. Her father works at the largest copper mine – copper being the largest export of Chile – and her mother works at a bank that does business with wine manufacturers. Josefa says the center of the country is a lot like Napa, known worldwide for its wines (“I don't like wine, but people think that,” she said). At her school, Trinity College, students wear uniforms and each class of 25 stays in the same room all day – it's the teachers who move. She has a brother and two sisters.

A few other quick facts: Chile's currency is the peso (544 pesos = \$1); the primary language is Spanish; Michelle Bachelet is the country's first woman president; it's known as “the country of poets” because of Nobel Prize winners Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda; and Chileans are a *futbol*-crazed people (“If you see a boy who doesn't like soccer, it's *wow!*”).

Correction

In an eCone note last week, our president misidentified the relationship of a guest to a Rotarian. Olivia Tomatis is Vickie's step daughter, not daughter-in-law. Sorry 'bout that!

Feedback

Got an opinion about the lunches? The Elks will provide us with other food items if I just give them suggestions. So any ideas the members have would be greatly appreciated. Please pass them along to Mary. (While you're at it, please let her know what you think of the eCone – kudos and critiques alike.)
