

# eCone

**Meeting:** Feb. 18, 2010

**Presiding Rotarian:** Mary Bellefeuille

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**Visiting Rotarians:** none

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**eCone correspondent:** Mary Bellefeuille

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## Introductions

Introduction of members and guests was quite fun. Even though Prez Mary kept her bell home, safe and sound, members managed to get in a few ding-dings. It was great to see so many spouses of Rotarians there. Thank you!

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## Announcements

**Corning Art, Wine and Food Festival:** Bob Irvine announced the winner of the Rotary Club of Paradise Chowder Cook-off is going to “Regionals” Feb. 26-27. Only he announced it as “Chile Cook-off” (ding-ding — see below). Art Pollock has tickets.

**Wait at the bar, wait at the bar ...:**John Backues said that slots are going fast and only three more need to be filled for the symphony fundraiser on Feb. 20.

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## Recognitions (a.k.a. Fines)

**Justin Miley:** Introduced John Jans as Bill - **1 bell**

**Bob Irvine:** Reminded us of the “Chile” cook-off. **1 bell**

**Tom Baker:** forgot to introduce the wives of fellow Rotarians, including his own, who were sitting at his table. **1 bell**

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## **Program**

### **Second Annual Mini-Grant Awards Dinner**

Tom Gagne and Kent Rasmussen did a fantastic job of putting this entire program together. They were the driving force from beginning, getting out applications to the schools all the way to the end, planning the dinner last evening. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your drive and passion with this project!

Many thanks also to all of you who donated funds to make this event happen!

Kent was our emcee for the evening and, as always, had something to say to make us laugh ... or was it scratch our heads in wonderment?

Our keynote speakers were Sue Thompson, a PE teacher at Pine Ridge Elementary School, and Kristy Mullen, a PE teacher at Paradise High School. Working together, they received a grant for a program that focuses on getting kids active. They are teaching elementary-school educators how to integrate physical activity into their classroom activities; providing programs for families and students to be active together; having high-school students teach PE to younger students, and, finally, working on developing a fitness/wellness center at Paradise High School.

### **And the winners are ...**

Introduced by Past President Vickie Perez was **Laurie Waring**, a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Ponderosa Elementary School. Laurie is a wife and mom of two grown children who did her student teaching at Ponderosa Elementary. Her winnings will go towards a project she has implemented in her classroom for the past 23 years: taking her students and some of their parents to an overnight Living History Program at Sutter's Fort. It's an amazing experience in which the participants go back in time. They research the era, and experience what it was like to live back then. Laurie shared a thank-you note from one of the parents who expressed her gratitude for the Rotary Club doing this mini-grant program and awarding one to Laurie. It meant a lot to her that her student could go on this trip.

**Jonathan Mattern**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teacher at Children's Community Charter, was introduced by Past President Tom Gagne. Jonathan is a husband and father of four children under the age of 8. Thanking us for the dictionaries, he said he will share his grant winnings with his students by purchasing a Smart Tablet. This allows students to participate more in

class because they can write on this tablet from their desks and it projects onto a screen. Students won't have to worry about getting up in front of the class and writing on the chalk board. (Guess opaque projectors have become extinct?)

Chocolate Queen Candidate Jackie Gitman introduced **Kelly Mordock Levin**, a kindergarten teacher at Paradise Elementary. Kelly is a wife and mom of two children. She received a bachelor's degree in business and decided that since she was surrounded by a family of educators, she should get her teaching credential. Kelly's passion is science, and when applying for the grant, she went on line asking herself, "If I had \$500 to spend, what would I spend it on?" She made huge list of science materials including ladybug farms and worm farms. She plans to purchase things that will replenish themselves for years, such as ladybug eggs to grow.

Our final winner, **Michael Blaschke**, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at Paradise Charter Middle School, was introduced by actor and retired attorney Arthur Pollock. Michael assured us that he was a little more comfortable when it came to his turn to share because, after observing us, he felt like we were behaving just like his students. His grant dollars also will be used in the area of technology and communication with the purchase of a Smart Tablet. He loves the portability of the device and the potential that more students will participate in classroom discussions of math problem-solving because they can stay in their desks. With that, he apologized to Sue and Kristy — he values the importance of being active, but his Smart Tablet does make students sedentary.

President Mary closed the evening, sharing that Paradise Rotary is on the path of making this annual event grow so more grants can be awarded and encouraged the winners to share this mini-grant opportunity with fellow educators.

Thank you to all who were there, it was a great evening. The teachers were very excited to be receiving this award money.

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## **Reminder from Justin Miley**

As most of you may know, we have an exchange student. Josefa will be here in Paradise until July. Josefa's first host family was the Elloways, and now she is with the Touchettes until the end of March. We are still in need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final host family for April through June.

You've heard us make mention at the weekly Rotary meetings of the Elloways taking Josefa on vacations, the Touchettes taking her skiing, and other trips they've gone on as well. The Elloways and Touchettes have provided Josefa with an awesome experience so far. During the last part of Josefa's stay, there will be much less involvement with the host family due to the amount of activities that take place with the exchange students at the district level, as well as end of the year activities at school.

I guess what I'm saying is that the last term is probably the least intrusive in terms of time spent "entertaining" Josefa. For example, see schedule below. The process is very simple. There is a short background packet which will need to be completed and submitted to the district for the background check, a site visit to your home by me, and a casual conversation regarding the exchange rules and regulations.

Activities:

San Francisco – Mid April

Boat Cruise with Interact – April/May

Vacaville YE District fundraiser – May 22

Water World – June

Western Safari – Mid June (26<sup>th</sup> ish)-July 11

Depart to Chile – Mid/end of July

We are up against a timeline to get a third family in place, and would greatly appreciate your consideration in being a host family. Please feel free to call me with any questions regarding the youth exchange program: 877-0857 ext. 3110 or 519-2535. Thank you!

Additionally, I would like to create a Youth Exchange Committee. The committee would be in charge of both inbound and outbound exchange programs. We have a very active club, however, our Youth Exchange Program has been somewhat neglected. I believe that with a group of 3-5 active committee members, our exchange program could be very dynamic. Please let me know if you would be interested in being involved the committee. Thanks again.