

NORTH FRESNO ROTARY



BULLETIN FOR MEETING OF 10/02/14



Rotary Club of North Fresno

Chartered October 5, 1948

District 5230

northfresnorotary.org

90 Members

Upcoming Events:

October 24th: Charter Night at Fort Washington. More to come. A must for Newbees.

Following Weeks:

October 9th: Joe Grebmeier, our District Governor.

October 16th: Jean Irwin, joint meeting of the ten Fresno and Clovis Clubs.

October 23rd: Martin Wendels, leader of Fresno Co. Search & Rescue Mountain Unit.

October 30th: Al Perry, Veterans Honor Flights.

For those responsible for the programs; Please review the above programs for accuracy and correctness of topics and presenters.

After a week's hiatus, **THE PREZ** made a triumphant return and opened the meeting with a rousing "Goodday," and reminded us to continue "Lighting up Rotary." **RALPH** also mentioned that October is **Vocational Service Month**, and that we will be asking our long standing members to re-visit their Craft talks in the near future.

Yours truly did double duty this week, greeting members and guests as they arrived and taking on the daunting task of Cub Reporter to create the weekly bulletin. There were 3 visiting Rotarians from clubs within Fresno, and a plethora of guests which was heartwarming to see.

Raffle tickets were ably sold by **OWEN HUNTER** who easily surpassed the \$60.00 ceiling set for him, due to the large crowd of attendees.

The invocation was delivered by **ED KACZMAREK**.

Our pledge to the grand ol' flag was led by that versatile COG **RHONDA WESSELS**.

The **PREZ** reminded club members that the next 2 weeks we have special visitors that will present programs. October 9th, we will be honored by the presence of District Governor, **JOEL GREBMEIER**, and asked that Board Members arrive by 11:00 AM.

PREZ TO BE BERNADETTE HANSON told us that we have good club representation for the meeting on **10-16-2014**. If you still haven't registered you may still do so online or contact Bernadette. Please plan to be here by **12:00 noon**, as the meeting will **begin at 12:15**. Our club attendance goal for this has been set at 90%.

Resident **PANCAKE QUEEN, KATIE SIEMENS** brought 4 guests from Fresno High and asked the club to acknowledge one more time their ceaseless efforts in making that event such a rousing success. Their **SERVICE ABOVE SELF** mentality was recognized by a standing ovation from the

members. The volunteers were Perlita Castro, Angela Romero, Jurlissa Centano, and their advisor Melissa Bangerter. Way to go ladies!! Does this reporter see some future Rotarians in the making?

A gift in the amount of \$7200 was presented to the Saint Agnes Medical Center Ultrasound Department by **PETER SCHEER** of the Endowment Fund. Our donation was matched with another \$7200 given by Austin Ewell, the current President of the Men's Club. This money will help the department purchase a specialized pump to drain excess fluid from patients with liver disease. Instrumental in bringing this need to the club were members **NICK SMALDINO AND CHARLES SMALL** and **TERI AMERINE**. The gentlemen are former members of the Men's Club, while **TERI** is one of our newer members, with history at Saint Agnes.

Cindy Couto, representing the Ultrasound Department was very grateful. She said the normal time to perform the draining procedure in patients is between 1.5 and 2 hours. With the pump, the time requirements are cut down to approximately 30 minutes. Having this pump also allows her department to be more efficient in scheduling and doing ultrasounds for other patients who need them.

One of the guests at the meeting, Chris Collins mentioned a fund raiser for a group interested in helping West African nations. The current Prime Minister of the country in question is a Fresno State graduate. It is a wine tasting at Moravia Wines on October 10 starting at 6:00PM. All are welcome to attend. Monies raised will go to fund the development of a language department over a 3 year period. The cost is \$40.00 per person and \$75.00 per couple. Chris passed around yours truly cub reporter's hat to collect business cards and raffle off 2 sets of tickets to the event.

PATTI O'NEILL introduced our guest speaker Darius Assemi, a well known developer in Fresno. When asked why he had decided to work and build in Fresno, Darius once replied, "Fresno is home to me and I am home to her." The original topic quickly morphed into a discussion of what he sees as the future of development in our fair city.

He stressed that in order to help develop the best Fresno possible, we as individuals need to become actively involved in policy decisions in creating the general plan for the growth of the city moving forward.

This can be accomplished by supporting candidates with community goals in their platforms, and getting governmental agencies as well as the various economic sectors to put aside their differences and collaborate in making policies for the benefit of all.

The final segment of the discussion involved his vision of the future of Fresno with regard to:

The downtown Mall projects and how we can revitalize the area to make it a desired living area
Landscaping in the face of the drought
Water issues
Solar energy

When the final bell closing the meeting was rung, there were many in the room who wished we could have continued the discussion longer.

Submitted: **NEAL HOWARD**