

NORTH FRESNO ROTARY

BULLETIN FOR JUNE 16, 2016

Rotary Club of North Fresno
Chartered: October 5, 1948
District: 5230
email: northfresnorotary.org
Current Members: 98



Upcoming Meeting Events:

June 23: Last meeting for **BERNADETTE**: She gets roasted and toasted
June 30: Social gathering

Future Club Events:

June 23: Demotion Roast for the Honorable **BERNADETTE HANSEN**.
No Guest Speaker scheduled, it will not be without a surprise! **WEAR RED**
June 24: **DEMOTION PARTY FOR BERNADETTE HANSEN**
Time: 6:00PM-11:00PM.
Location: Ft Washington Golf Club **WEAR SOME MORE RED**
July 9, 2016: First Annual Run for Humanity along with the Pancake Breakfast
July 9, 2016: Annual Pancake Breakfast. 7:00AM-11:AM
Fig Garden Village @ Elbow Room

Future Volunteer Bulletin Reporters:

June 16: Neal Howard, since Doyle is commuting less from the Coast.
June 23: Neal Howard, standing in for our next Prez Elect
June 30: Jim "Sy" Sizemore
July 7: Eric Mayu; if the baby is born around then, the current editor Neal Howard will stand in for his final edition.

The meeting was called to order by Sergeant At Arms RHONDA WESSELS at 12:30PM

- Invocation: MIKE RABARA
- Flag Salute: JOHN LEONARDO
- Raffle Tickets: TIM HENSLEIT

There did not happen to be any visiting Rotarians at this meeting. Guests introduced were as follows:

Jim Sanderson
Ted Woody
Nick Grim
Kim Smaldino

In her opening remarks, President BERNADETTE HANSEN expressed some remorse about this being her last official meeting. She also acknowledged DICK POWELL for his support of her administration.

TONY AKEL on behalf of the Membership committee, thanked those club members who recruited new members, and gave a special welcome to all those new members in attendance. There was a grand prize drawing for bringing new people to the mixers/meetings over the past year. That was given to PHILLIP GURULE.

In the regular raffle, BERNADETTE offered a Palm Desert weekend in honor of her final meeting. The lucky winner of that drawn by our Exchange Student LOULA BOUNOUAR was TERI AMERINE.

MARSHA WAGNER was also a raffle recipient of a bottle of wine.

BERNADETTE mentioned that North Fresno Rotary was named the WORLD CLASS CLUB for Region 5230, and that she was most appreciative of a gift of tea from Sri Lanka that she received from incoming President PAUL GIBSON.

Moving from lunch to breakfast, KATIE SIEMENS announced that the posters for the breakfast are available. Take a few and get the word out! Also, that this is our only fundraiser for the year, so continue to work hard selling breakfast and raffle tickets. Today was the first day to turn in money from ticket sales, and if you need extras contact BERNADETTE.

We are still in need of RUN FOR HUMANITY sponsors at the T-Shirt level (\$250). Contact HAGOP BEDOYAN to contribute. This year's run will be a timed and sanctioned event, and we are expecting a huge turnout.

Rather than a speaker program, during the meeting there was a video about LOULA from the time she arrived at the District Governor's meeting up until last weekend. She will be leaving June 26 to return to her homeland of Belgium.

BERNADETTE gave a special thanks to all the club members who entertained LOULA at home, or took her to events during her stay in Fresno.

The formal presentation was a travelogue about Belgium. Here is some of the information I could remember from this terrific visual.

- Belgium is one of the most densely populated countries in the world
- The earliest human presence in the country was over 800,000 years ago.
- The port cities are Antwerp and Ghent
- The country is steeped in a very religious past, so there are many churches and abbeys across the landscape. It was believed that these buildings would serve as centers of knowledge and literature as well.
- There seems to be a staggering amount of castles/chateaus from different periods and styles. They are well maintained and would warrant significant visiting time.
- Coal and steel are the primary industries
- Primary languages are French, Dutch and German
- 1815: There was an impressive lion monument built to mark the spot where Napoleon was defeated and vanquished to St. Helena
- 1830: Brussels became the capital city as was the seat of the initial constitutional monarchy form of government. In the 20th century this became a federal government.
- A World's Fair was held there in 1958
- There is a large series of canals used to link their primary port cities, as well as offload ship traffic.
- There is a high speed train directly to Paris
- From what I could see, there is a wonderful mix of modern architecture, churches, abbeys, castles and chateaus to rival any other country in the world.

There was a spirited Q & A session with LOULA following the presentation. LOULA plans to attend a music festival upon her immediate return to Belgium. **PARTY ON!**

Answering some questions reminiscent of high school yearbook awards, LOULA shared the following:

- Favorite memories: Travel to places such as L.A. and SFO. Also daily life with friends at home and at school
- Favorite Food: Mexican, especially TACOS
- What she expected America to be like: She said it was hard to picture, because the only reference point she had was movies she had watched before coming here.

- Hardest adjustment: Transportation, or lack thereof compared to back home
- The upcoming election: NO COMMENT!
- Nicest individual: Outside of her fellow exchange students and friends at school, LOULA chose NICK SMALDINO for his generosity.

LOULA graduated from Clovis North High School, and contributed 11 pages of text and pictures to the yearbook.

Her birthday is July 16, and she was given a gift for both her graduation and pending birthday by BERNADETTE on behalf of the club.

LOULA will continue her education next year attending a college in the Netherlands at an institution located about 30 minutes from her home city of Liege. That training will include some years of what is considered a liberal arts education, followed by 2 years of specialized training. GOOD LUCK, and we are sure you will be successful whatever path you choose to follow.....

From this reporters perspective, my wife Celeste and I were grateful for the opportunity to share an evening at Roger Rocka's with you and your friend Carly. What a couple of fine young women. I hope that you will remember it and smile when you recall your time in Fresno.

A FOND FAREWELL AND SAFE TRAVELS HOME. May your life turn out to be just what you imagine.

Reporter: NEAL HOWARD

If you are responsible for one of the above events, please review it for accuracy/correctness of the topic/presenters