



# Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

**Bulletin for May 12, 2008**

**Group Study Exchange Team from Nigeria with Team Leader Olowu Olu, Lagos Central District 9110 Nigeria**

By Anne Abrams

## Preliminaries



**President Fred Zmarzly** welcomed everyone to the meeting at St. Rose right at 12:30.

Thanks to the following Rotarians for their assistance with today's meeting: Set Up: **Dale Sipe**, Secretary: **Janet Coddling**, Cashier: **Doug Angelo**, Greeter: **Mike Moore**, Tickets: **Chuck Olsen**, Rotary Moment: **Gary Lucas**, Photos: **Jim Valinoti**, Bulletin, **Anne Abrams**.

The Pledge: **Past District Governor Mike Merrill** found **Janet** holding the flag to our right having retrieved it from the closet. She held it high reminding **Pres Fred** of the "statue of liberty." **Mike** led us in the pledge.

The Rotary Moment: The Rotary Moment was delivered by **Gary Lucas**. "If you spend life waiting for a sunny day you'll never enjoy today." Have a fulfilling week.

### Special Welcome:

**President Fred Zmarzly** welcomed back **Von der Menden** who has been recovering the past few weeks from orthopedic surgery. **Mike Moore** wanted to know if this was an HMO or PPO situation but **Von** stated just that he was happy to be here. Welcome back **Von**! It's wonderful to see you at our meetings again. We wish you a rapid and successful recovery.



### Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

**Mike Moore** joyfully introduced several visiting Rotarians. **Barbara Beedon** from the Sebastopol club joined us representing the American Lung Association and is currently Assistant District Governor. **Tim Miller** of the Rohnert Park-Cotati attended representing Real Estate. **Debi Zaft**, Mortgage Broker, was here from the Santa Rosa Downtown Club. **Vicki Locker** from Santa Rosa Sunrise attended as an Educational Consultant. **Steve Ribbau**, Retired, attended from the Santa Rosa East Club. **Phyllis Ribeiro** also from Santa Rosa East Club and Mobility Aids was here. And lastly he introduced the GSE Team leader from Nigeria, **Olowu Olu** representing the Lagos Central District 9110.

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### Coming Up:

5/19 - Planning Commission Overview, Scott Bartley

5/26 - DARK

5/29 - Rotary Association Dinner hosted by Sunrise Club at Fountain Grove Inn

6/2 - SF Rotary Centennial Program

### Announcements and Such:

**President Fred** announced several club anniversaries. Effective on 5/7 **David McDonald** has been a member for 7 years. **Carl Munoz** was a member for two years on 5/1; **John Withers** will have been in this club 43 years on 5/18. Congratulations John! And **John Palmer** on 5/13 will have been a member for 48 years, longer than the club has been here according to **Pres Fred**.

**President Fred** reminds us that effective today our postage rates went up again to 42 cents for the standard envelope. Don't you wish you'd invested in some of those "forever" stamps?

On May 5th we were at **Ginny Pitts'** home for our Cinco de Mayo party.



A standing crowd clapped her praises as she thanked **Tarina Hall** and **Scott Bartley** for helping set up for the event. Most all members attended and there were 86 people enjoying a great time. **John Palmer** stood watch over the margarita maker and **Pres Fred** noted **John** was speaking Spanish with a southern drawl by the end of the evening. Thanks **Ginny**. Please see **Carl Munoz** or **Dale Sipe** to pay for your attendance if you haven't already. Spouses attended at no cost as guests.

**Pres Fred** invited all to attend the board meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Also there is a **Rotary Association Dinner** hosted by **Sunrise Club** on 5/29 at **Fountain Grove Inn**.

**Ken Dansie** announced he needed three volunteers for Ridgeway to interview 12 kids. **Mike Moore** now playing golf five days a week can't fit it into the busy schedule. Thanks **Phil Talamantes**, **David McDonald** and **Tarina Hall** for volunteering.



There will be a GSE social event at 5:30 at **Mike Merrill's** home at 9482 Vinecrest in Windsor with wine and food. Please come and meet the Nigerian GSE Team. There will also be an event for the GSE Team on 5/14 at 5:30 at Sonoma Mt. Village in Rohnert Park the site of the old Agilent facility. It's \$16 to attend.

### Students of the Month

**Bob Zeni** introduced our students of the month from Piner. Student of the month, **Max Potter**, was unable to attend as he is taking the Advanced Placement exams at this moment.

**Leah Wycoff** was introduced and talked about her experiences and goals for the future. Leah is quadra-lingual speaking English, Spanish, French and German. She spent a year abroad with a German family who were involved with politics. From this experience she gained an appreciation of other cultures and sensitivity to the difficulties of those with language barriers. Her year of study in Germany was rigorous with 13 subjects. The first day she said was the most difficult of her life. She knew no German but after the year she became fluent and passed all her school subjects. Leah's many accolades include golf club captain with three years on the team, advanced placement government, French Club (president), singing in choir and member of the Key Club; she has tutored reading, and attends German classes on Saturdays in Marin County. Leah was accepted to all the colleges to which she applied and will be attending Dominican College where she will study International Business. **Bob Zeni** presented her with the Rotarian of the Month award for Piner High School students.

## Recognitions



**Janet Coddling** presented our club's "Rotarian of the Year" award to the distinguished Mr. **Harry Rubins**, citing his dedication to the Rotary International Foundation on behalf of our club. Harry accepted the award promising to keep attending and being an active Rotarian. Harry received a standing ovation. Congratulations, Harry, and thanks for all your efforts and dedication to Rotary. One of the perks of winning this honor is a free Rotary lunch for the entire year.

**Dale and Teddy Sipe** have just returned from a few days cruise to Monterrey and Victoria, B.C. They had a great time celebrating 64 years of marriage together. Congratulations!

## Raffle

**Will** got a chance at the black marble and **Teddy** won the bottle of wine.

## Program: Group Study Exchange Team from Nigeria With Team Leader Olowu Olu, Lagos Central District 9110 Nigeria

The GSE team leader, **Mr. Olowu Olu**, representing Nigeria was introduced by **Chris Parr-Feldman**. He stated his first days here were very cold and was grateful for the shirts his hosts had purchased for them and will be cherished souvenirs of the trip. He was grateful for our pleasantly warm weather-perfect day here in Sonoma County.



Rotary Club in Nigeria was founded in 1965. They represent 1800 members from 75 clubs and four districts (#9110). The clubs are active in improving the lives of Nigerians by helping women, children, and also providing water projects. In their city of several million people obtaining adequate water is still a problem. He hopes one day Nigeria will be a "developed" nation.

The following team members were introduced and each told a little bit about themselves and showed photos of their families. **Adebisi Gillo** from Lagos state, **Enoh Udjah** who works in Business Administration with Siemens Medical Solutions, **Kunle Fakiyesi** from SW Nigeria in accounting and international banking and who enjoys soccer and music, and **Tosin Eleshinnla** from Northern Nigeria in chemical engineering.

**Tosin Eleshinnla** told a bit about Nigerian culture, its geography, and government. They have a Presidential system of government elected to 4 year terms. Their economy is based 80% on oil development. They have a national health system. They provide 9 years of free compulsory education. Some of the festivals celebrated in Nigeria and points of interest are: Eye Festival, Yam Kari Game Reserve, Obudu cattle ranch, Arugungu Fishing

Festival, the Durbar Festival (horse racing), New Yam Festival of Igbo's (harvest), Zuma Rock in Abeokuta City, Ikosgosi warm springs with the biggest widest waterfall in Nigeria, Yoruba and Igbo Wedding ceremonies.



Agricultural cash crops are: tobacco, soy, cotton, rubber, cocoa beans, palm kernel, cashew nuts, and cowpeas. There is also a fishing industry. Main industries are oil and also gas.

It was an interesting and informational program.

Your Bulletin Reporter:  
**Anne Abrams**



Your Bulletin Editor:  
**Jim Valinoti**

