



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for April 21, 2008 SRJC Athletics Program, James W. Forkum

By Susan Nowacki

Preliminaries



President Fred Zmarzly called the meeting to order. He asked **Chuck Baker** to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Carson Mitchell** gave the Rotary Moment.



Mike Moore, our Greeter for today, introduced visiting Rotarian **Shir Doctor**, an Electrical Engineer. **Chris Rosell** introduced his guest Ryan Bruenslot (sp?).

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Coming Up:

4/28 - Rotary Speech Contest,
Carston Mitchell

5/5 - Evening Cinco de Mayo
Celebration @ Harvest Moon
Winery (details TBA)

5/12 - GSE Team

5/19 - Planning Commission
Overview, Scott Bartley

Announcements and Such:

President Fred announced that the next District Governor for the 2010 – 2011 year will be **Jim Flamson**, Calistoga Rotary. (www.rotary5130.org). He also congratulated **Chris Parr-Feldman** for her 65th birthday. He also announced that he had received an email that a singer was being sought to sing the National Anthem at the Conference in San Francisco in May.

Sunshine Chairman **David McDonald** gave an update on **Richard Standard** that he was recovering from heart surgery and should be back in 2 to 3 weeks. He also said that "**Von**" **Von Der Mehden** had undergone surgery on his back and was recovering nicely.

President Fred said that our annual Speech Contest would be held at the next meeting. There will be 5 to 6 speakers participating. The program will start at about 12:45 PM on April 28th.

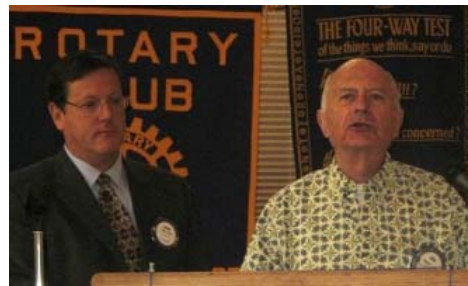
He also told the group that there will not be a meeting at lunch on May 5th because there will be a Cinco De Mayo party at **Ginny Pitts'** house that evening where all members and their respective spouses or partners are invited.

David McDonald gave a brief report on the retreat he chaired on April 19th with the new Board Members for next year. He said that he was thrilled with the Board member's turnout and the enthusiasm of the group; he said that we should have a lot of fun.



Chris Parr-Feldman noted that our group's Crab Feed was featured in the current issue of "Santa Rosa" magazine.

Community Service Director and Projects Committee Chair **Chris Young**, presented several donations to club members who accepted them for the following organizations: **Gary Lucas** - \$1,000 for Great Strides for Cystic Fibrosis, and **Bob Zeni** - \$4,000 for Save Our Students, a counseling program for elementary and alternative high school students.



Recognitions

Mike Moore recognized **Jim Hinton** for his three week excursion to South Africa, Zambia and Botswana from which he and fellow member **John Hathaway** recently returned. **Their wives Carolyn and Jan accompanied Jim and John.** Jim described vehicle safaris in no-sided vehicles that were very close to the wild animals in the bush. He said that he looked a lioness in the eyes from about 5 feet away. They saw lions, elephants, hippos, rhinos, many birds, antelope, leopards and Cape buffalo – altogether a fantastic experience. He said that he was glad to pay a small fine.



Raffle

A raffle ticket purchased by **Diane Winsby**, was drawn by our guest speaker, and therefore gave **Diane** a shot at picking the black marble, however she didn't manage to pick the right one. And for the second week in a row the bottle of wine was won by **Bill Dodson**.

Program: SRJC Athletics Program

Our guest speaker today was the new Dean of Instruction/Athletic Director of P.E., Dance & Athletics at Santa Rosa Junior College, **Mr. James W. Forkum**. He was been in education for 38 years, 33 of them as a basketball coach and 5 years as athletic administrator in Hawaii. He was a member of the Hilo, Hawaii Rotary Club. He told the group that he has had over 16 trips to China as a basketball coach. These trips were, he added, where he had learned to "gag & smile at the same time".

Mr. Forkum said that when he was on his first trip to China, (Hong Kong) with his basketball team, the following event occurred:

Several teams had been invited. When they arrived, the players were all loaded into buses and driven to their hotels. The Chinese guide then had all the coaches get into a van to be driven to their hotels separately. In an accent that was difficult to understand at best, the Chinese guide asked the coaches if they would like to have a snack. After some discussion the group said that a snack would be great so the van was pointed in another direction, and they soon found themselves at a place near the harbor. After literally walking over sampans and piers they arrived at a small restaurant; when they were lead inside the entry, they immediately understood the true meaning of "snack". A large aquarium was along one wall and inside swam many SNAKES – snacks they weren't. Anyway, he said that each of them was asked to choose the snake that they would like to have for their snack. He said that he looked for the smallest one!



The waiter then placed a small shot glass in front of each guest, then the snake that each guest had picked was brought to the table alive and the side of the snake was slit. Then the snake was held over the shot glass and a clear liquid oozed from the slit and filled the glass. The snakes were then taken into the kitchen and prepared. This is when he learned to chew and eat fast – but the best was yet to come when the Chinese host picked up his glass, indicating that everyone should join him, and belted down the snake's liquid. A true story about how to "gag & smile" simultaneously!

On a serious note, **Mr. Forkum** gave our group an overview of the SRJC athletics program. He noted that the SRJC program is one of the top programs in the country both for academics and athletics. Being tops in both disciplines is unusual. SRJC athletes have an average of 3.0 GPA and 53% of them are going to school on Doyle Scholarships.

SRJC has been in the top 10 in the Pepsi Challenge, a nation-wide community college award program, for many years; in 2007 they were rated #3 in the USA. He said he was proud of local support of their programs. There are 20 intercollegiate varsity programs, for both men and women, at the college and many of them have been very successful. SRJC is in one of the toughest conferences in California. There is a Foundation "Endowment Fund for Excellence in Athletics" that will begin to produce yearly income for these programs this year. He invited our group to learn more about this fine organization.

The physical education program at SRJC is one of the best in California and many instructors have been acknowledged for their work. Along with fitness programs they contribute much to our community. He announced that facility upgrades would continue; soon artificial turf will be installed in the baseball and football practice fields. Later lights will also be installed. A new building for the Health, Wellness and Rehab Center will be built in 5 to 6 years.

Dean Forkum is a welcome addition to an already excellent program and SRJC, and he will bring his many years of experience to the athletic program's benefit.

President Fred closed the meeting at 1:35 PM.

Your Bulletin Reporter:

Diane Winsby



Your Bulletin Editor:

Jim Valinoti

