

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for December 14, 2009 A Personal Story of Polio

By Ken Prouty

Preliminaries



President **Susan Nowacki** called the meeting to order and selected Honorary Member, **Duncan Holt** to lead the Pledge to the Flag.



President **Susan** also recognized helpers:
Cashier **Tarina Hall**,
Setup **Chuck Baker**,
Greeter **Brad Leslie**,
Ticket Sales **Bob Zeni**,
Rotary Moment **Gary Lucas**,
Photos **PP Jim Valinoti**,
Bulletin **PP Ken Prouty**,
Program **Matt Delaney**.

Dale Sipe introduced his and **Teddie's** daughter **Cheryl Bennett**, back in Santa Rosa after 20 years away. **Dale** expressed the Sipe delight to have her back in town.



PP Chris Parr-Feldman introduced her guest, **Glen Mattsson**, a consulting engineer.

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Coming Up:

12/19 - Christmas Party

12/21 - Dr. Mary Bates, Boys and Girls Club, Santa Rosa

12/28 - DARK

1/4 - Petaluma History, Katherine Rinehart

1/11 - Club Assembly

1/18 - Efren Carrillo - 5th District Supervisor

1/25 - Jennifer Sloan, Executive Director, Arts Council of Sonoma County

1/30/10 - [Crab Feed](#)

Announcements & Such

PP **Phil Talamantes** circulated a sympathy card for **David Wattell** whose father passed away at age 96.



Kris LaPore and **Tracy Kline** reminded us of the importance of our wine items for the Silent Auction!

Ever smiling **Casey Williams** gave us a run-down on both silent auction and live auction Crab Feed donations. In sum, we are doing well but need additional items, especially in the travel area.

Rohnert Park Rotarian **Dale Knight** announced a February trip to Uganda, not to see the gorillas, but to visit our sister village and hand carry some school supplies. She will be accompanied by **PP Chris Parr-Feldman, PDG Mike Merrill** and wife **Maureen**. Others interested in going on the trip should see **Chris**.

History & Membership



Club charter president **Carson Mitchell** was given 30 seconds to describe the very first Rotary project in Chicago. He kept it to 30 seconds of lawyer-like obfuscation so we must wait for a longer time allowance sometime later to know the rest of the story.

Barbara Larson was revealed to be the member who was issued steel toed boots on her first job. Work in that lumber plant lasted only 3 days and then she told us about her various jobs over the years. She has 2 daughters who filled their homes with grandchildren and Barbara loves it. She is sure to have a long life because her father is now 87.

PP Scott Bartley's father **PP Bob Bartley** was a founding member of our Club, filled all of the officer chairs during his many years of Rotary and was a master at constructing elaborate debunking torture devices as Presidents became Past Presidents. He left a lasting memory in the form of the annual Bartley Barbeque. But a greater reward was allowing young Architect **Scott** to join the Club after he and his partner bought out their employer, our own PDG **Dick Keith** who retired and moved his family to Hawaii.

Recognition

PP Pete Lamonica, Chuck Olson, PP Phil Talamantes, and PP Jim Sullivan (or as **Ginny** refers to them as "The Boys" -© Ed) spent their regular December week in Hawaii playing golf, and they were without their wives!!! **President Susan** levied the appropriate fine.

GQ Chuck Baker was recognized for his "dapperness."

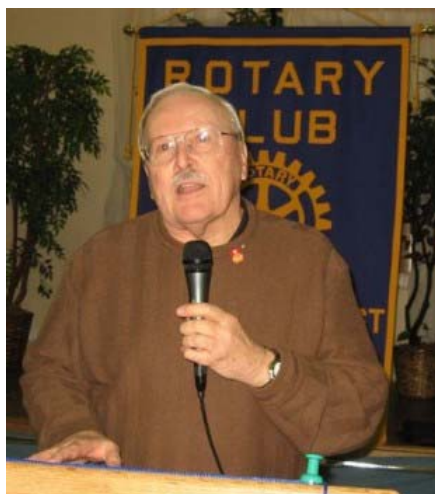


Time to recognize **Brad Leslie** yet again as his Red Badge turned to Blue! Congratulations **Brad!**



PP Brian Herndon and Sharon spend most of their time in retirement aboard their huge, elegant, powerful motor home but grace us with occasional visits. This return was to be "Home for the Holidays" (that would make a great song title) and be there for their first grandchild's first birthday.

Program: A Personal Story of Polio, PDG Larry Myers



The program was presented by the great motivational speaker, Ukiah resident **PDG Larry Myers**. **Larry** spoke briefly of his personal story as a polio victim at age 8. He thanks Sister Kenny for his recovery with few polio aftereffects. Sister Kenny was a nurse in her native Australia where she developed a regimen of passive exercise that helped children in the acute stage of polio to recover with fewer aftereffects than those placed in braces. She published her methods in the 1930s and in the 1940s moved to the US where she lived and taught her method. It was controversial at that time because it was not accepted by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Fortunately, **Larry** was treated at one of the few Sister Kenny method facilities at that time.

Larry developed a lifelong interest in polio care and was instrumental in developing Rotary International's **Polio Plus** program in the mid-1980s. His Rotary International awards are legendary. He talked proudly about what PolioPlus accomplished early on and how it was joined later by the Gates Foundation and

national governments to achieve a reduction of countries with polio epidemics from 125 to 4!

Larry confidently predicted that the last four countries who were reluctant or strongly resisted PolioPlus will soon help eradicate polio among their populations for two reasons: polio vaccine is now specific to the strain in that country eliminating the multi-strain vaccine that was not as effective, and much of the opposition from political and religious leaders has been overcome. Many will be joining PolioPlus teams in the field encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated.

Thanks, **Larry**, Rotary Foundation, and the thousands of Rotarians who helped fund PolioPlus. Imagine the enormous number people in the world who have been saved from polio!

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