

The Buzz

9/18/2020

It was a sunny, but chilly day so the club met in the atrium room at Chandler's.

GUESTS

The club was honored to have District Governor Lyle Staab at the meeting today for his governor's talk. We also had Assistant Governor Mike Musson as a guest.

GOOD NEWS

We had three uplifting stories to share. You may find all the information on Google to get the full stories:

A 19-year-old young woman is fighting the California wildfires by co-piloting a Chinook helicopter that is flying over the fires and dropping fire retardant. *What was your summer job at 19 years of age???*

Following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Laura, a local McDonald's franchise gave away over 10,000 free meals to those affected by the storm.

Two 11-year-old girls used their time during this quarantine to go house to house in their neighborhood asking to check their neighbors window wells to see if any animals had been trapped and needed rescue. They found baby birds in one window well and when they were delivered to the wildlife refuge, those birds turned out to be chicks of an endangered bird which were treated and then released into the wild.

Please check out the links below to see the full stories.

https://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/watch-now-endangered-baby-birds-released-at-dunes-after-being-rescued-by-kids/article_c92dba17-77b1-5367-8ea3-0ec92609d056.html

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/11/us/hurricane-laura-lake-charles-mcdonalds-meals-trnd/index.html>

https://www.wfsb.com/19-year-old-pilot-helps-fight-wildfires-in-california/article_10c2994f-9bc8-5935-b2b3-2cd1fc3a594a.html

- Happy Dollars
 - Wes was thankful that in order to keep Rotary, his customers and co-workers safe, he chooses to get a COVID test every two weeks and all have been negative thus far
 - Wes is looking forward to driving on the INDY 500 track on Sunday. He is glad that it won't be in his own car 😊
 - Bill K. was excited that the White Sox (#1 in the American League's central division) clinched a spot in the playoffs!
 - Mike E. played golf with other Rotarians last Sunday and took \$5.00 from them which he gave as Happy Dollars to our club
 - Pat G. was happy the Chicago Bears won their game on Sunday.
- Announcements
 - Gabby V. announced a garden clean-up on Saturday the 19th at the Butterfly Garden. It is hoped as many Rotarians as possible will attend. Please see the information sent by Eileen earlier this week for more details about this project as well as other upcoming service opportunities.
 - Gayle E. was collecting Vacation Drawing tickets. We NEED to sell more! There are no festivals or events this fall that will allow Rotarians to increase sales, so it is up to each Rotarian to do their part. Sadly, there are 10 Past-Presidents who have yet to turn in even one ticket! Let's get on it people.
 - Roger S. needs 7 additional mentors for the Fishing Well/ACE scholars. Thank you to those who have volunteered already. A sign-up sheet was passed around during Club. If you can volunteer as a mentor, please contact Roger.

Foundation Meeting

The Club meeting was suspended to hold a Foundation meeting.

Glenn S. called for a vote to expedite \$14,225 being transferred to the ACE II grant. The vote was a unanimous yes and the Foundation meeting was adjourned.

Fun and Frolic:

Allen G. was once again the fine master. He led the Club in wishing our Jewish members, friends and neighbors a Happy Rosh Hashanah. This is the year 5780 on the Jewish calendar.

Anyone who was wearing the identical Rotary sweater as Allen was exempt from fines this week.

The fines were the usual; no Rotary clothing, late, late to board meeting=\$2

Allen gratefully thanked Jean S. for once again suggesting a great question for the club.

- Those who didn't answer the question were fined \$3.
- Jodi, Darrell, Dom and Bob F. were each fined \$2 for various "sucking up" answers to the week's question. Each stated that Allen was the cleverest thing they could think of which helped them not one bit.
- Steve L. was the last to respond. He said the person who thought to add a hole punch to the cigar cutter was clever because he can perform both operations quickly while driving. Allen suggested that was NOT an activity that was safe to do on the road so Steve was fined \$5
- Bruce D.'s response is worth reading and received a \$2 fine
- Mary S. named Flex Seal Tape which along with duct tape makes her feel as though she is handy
- Michael O. agreed with Mary about duct tape and added WD40 as those two items can fix *anything*
- Bill L. thought he was clever for convincing Mimi that he was rich prior to getting engaged
- Tom G. was fined for naming all of George P.'s under his breath comments clever
- Jim F. was fined for naming his new Tesla- *braggart!*
- According to Allen, Ted G. responded in his usually verbose manner while naming the power strip that allows plugs to be inserted in various directions as the cleverest item.
- Allen will send all the responses and this reporter will forward them on.
- Allen also fined all the PP's who hadn't sold a Vacation Drawing ticket \$3 and all members who have yet to do so \$2
- The final fine of the day was given to DG Lyle S. Allen had the pleasure of attending a Rotary meeting in Sweden four years ago. Their DG gave the program that day and delivered it in Swedish. After the meeting, the DG apologized to Allen for not providing an English translation. Allen assured him that none was necessary as he knew the DG's speech concerned the need to get more members, do more service and raise additional funds, the same as every DG speech Allen has heard in his many years of Rotary membership. 😊 Allen then had the pleasure of hearing Lyle's speech at the morning's board meeting and lo and behold, it was indeed the same speech!

Allen felt that Lyle short-changed our club by ending his speech to the board by saying that this club was doing fine. FINE, only FINE?! Our club has been written up in the international Rotarian magazine 3 times in the last year, including this month's 7-page spread. It is raising and donating record amounts of money during a pandemic year, started meeting virtually within weeks of the quarantine, and have increased

membership! So, if that is only doing fine, what are other club's doing???. This brought out the "Fine-O-Meter" and the Club decided to fine Lyle \$20.

PROGRAM

District Governor Lyle Staab addressed the club with his hopes for this Rotary year.

He promised to get Allen back for all the fines he has paid while visiting this Club. (Really, how else does he think we raise all that money? We are shameless and fine everyone.)

Here are the highlights of his talk:

Each Rotary year's theme is decided by a team who considers the in-coming international president's thinking and how it relates to current events. The theme is then presented at the international presidents' conference in January. The video of current international Rotary president Holgar Knaack's speech at this year's conference was shown. No one could have expected the pandemic and the resulting changes that resulted. However, President Knaack loved the theme and kept it stating that Rotary can still open opportunities even in a pandemic. Rotarians are exactly the kind of people to see a problem and work toward a solution, even and especially when facing challenges.

Even with so many changes and cancellations, Rotary is doing wonderful things for the world. Clubs are encouraged to find opportunities. Some opportunities thus far are:

- \$25,000 was given by Rotary International to the Chicago and suburban food depositories as well as other dollars in other areas to assist with food insecurity
- Jennifer Jones of Canada will be sworn in as the first female president of Rotary International in 2021. She is qualified to make decisions and changes to create more equality, diversity and equity in Rotary. She is an excellent communicator and leader. Lyle really likes Holgar Knaack, but he is a bit jealous that Bill K. the next 6440 DG will have the opportunity to serve under President Jones.
- A decision was made to add a second international focus to Rotary. The eradication of Polio remains the number one goal, but in addition to that goal, Rotary will seek ways to work with other organizations to support the environment and climate change. This goal is not universally lauded and there have already been rumblings that Rotary will lose members who do not believe that climate change is real. However, most of the leadership in Rotary feels the need to address this problem and think it will increase younger persons' interest in the organization.
- There will be an increase in focus on vocational service. The original group who started Rotary expected to network within their peers and members, something that Rotary has not emphasized in many years. Current thinking is that this is something that should be

brought back. To that end, a pilot program has been created using Districts 6450 and 6440. Please go to www.therotarynetwork to learn more about this program.

- Rotary is joining with the Toastmasters organization to provide training in leadership and speaking. Toastmasters training videos are already available on the Rotary International website.

Holgar Knaack's Goals for 2020-2021:

Create new innovative Club models to expand Rotary's reach

Encourage each club to hold an annual "strategic meeting" to plan goals from year to year

Select new members carefully. Make certain that proposed members understand what is expected of them as Rotarians prior to them joining so they are aware of the responsibilities and expectations coming in and remain active, engaged members.

Finish the job on polio! Nigeria was just proclaimed polio-free after four years free of wild polio infections. Now we must work on Afghanistan and Pakistan: vaccinations have restarted in those two nations. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given 4 billion towards reaching this goal, the United States has given 3.4 billion and the rest of the world has given 3 billion. President Knaack is also asking each club to do something to bring awareness to International Polio Day on October 24th.

Lyle's Goals for 2020-2021:

Increased membership: District membership has decreased considerably. He believes there are people who agree with the goals of Rotary and would love to join, but the traditional lunch or breakfast meeting doesn't work for them. He is encouraging the formation of satellite clubs who meet to do service projects and/or meet virtually. Lyle thinks that in the future, this type of club will surpass the traditional club in membership and become the main clubs while traditional clubs become smaller.

Fund Raising: Some clubs raise significant amounts of money while others have a difficult time if it. Lyle suggests that idea sharing can assist all clubs to raise additional dollars to help our communities and world.

Governor Staab challenges each 6440 Club to:

- Adapt-continue to be creative and flexible

- Invite-Keep up with members who aren't attending and invite new members. Don't lose people due to COVID
- Matter- This club is doing great things. Some people want to wait out the COVID crisis before getting back to the work of Rotary, but he sees this as a mistake. This crisis has pointed out the need for Rotarians to fulfill community needs.
- Aim high-Don't simply settle, find new ways to serve.
- Finally, have fun! - Rotary presents the opportunity to serve alongside wonderful people and have a good time in the process

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Wes: "Let your actions serve as a reminder to all who see you that Rotary Opens Doors.

Please consider joining the club next Friday either at Chandler's or virtually. If we haven't seen you in a while, be assured, you are missed.