



# THE Rio Rotarian

*"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." - Milton Berle*



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

*"Having fun helping others...watering the rosebuds"*

*-Dr. Ted Schulz*

## Welcome

Pres. Dave calls the meeting to order at 7 a.m. Jimmy Mac is asked to lead Pledge and Derek Abel, Rotary Grace. After a bit of indecision, Dr. Ted takes charge and leads, "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!"

## Guests & Visiting Rotarians

There are no visiting Rotarians, but Cub introduces the "Big Dog," Gary Moreland, who just celebrated his 80th birthday.

## Treasurer's Report

The Camp Fire Fund is nearly \$15K.

## Birthdays & Celebrations

Patrick announces dryly, that in Leon's absence, that he has no birthdays or celebrations to report, so if you have one, "better luck next year."



## Announcements

- Molly thanks everyone that attended the joint Christmas Party with Lions.
- Patty announced that the toy drive was a success! She suggests that we deliver our donation to Paradise ASAP. Jon adds \$50 and Gil another \$150. Other generous Rotarians step up taking the Fund to \$15K. Lee and Cub agree to coordinate delivering a check to the Paradise Club.

## Confessions 2019!

Eddie announces that his daughter, Rose, was engaged to on Christmas day. He likes the groom-to-be and offers \$100 to Interact. He also, voluntarily, spins the wheel for his phone-ringing infraction. The fine? The President is required to apologize to Eddie.

Jim Lira goes on a spending spree at Abel's, and buys a Tahoe and new company trailer. He donates \$100 to the Harvey Felt Fund and \$50 to Paradise. The Lira family recently provided \$1,000 to a family in Paradise, and offered to donate coats (which were redirected to a worthy cause in Walnut Grove).

Hector reports that his daughter Alyssa turned 21 on December 21—and despite promising to never buy her a drink at Foster's, buys her a drink at Foster's. It was not disclosed whether she kissed the moose. He also mentions that his birthday was on December 28. To celebrate Alyssa's return to school, he donates \$50 to Interact.

Cub describes receiving a distress call from his brother's family that their dog went missing near their cabin in Arnold. Cub drives to the rescue at 3 a.m. on New Years Day, with his dog Boss. Boss picks up the scent, and the mission's accomplished! Derek also proudly mentions that Abel Chevrolet has now sent four cars to Paradise, with potentially more to follow. He donates \$50 to, "wherever it's needed."

Dr. Ted travels to Flagstaff, Arizona for a 2-day vacation and graciously donates \$100 to Paradise.



*Pres. Gabe De La Rosa, Destanie Rendon, Can Yilmazer report on HS affairs, while Mariko Dupuis sums up her first quarter at UC Davis.*



*To the uninformed, Cub and Lee may appear inattentive, but they were coordinating calendars to deliver \$15,000 to Paradise!*

## High School & College Back in Session Next Week!

Boys and Girls Soccer practice has continued through the holiday, with boys playing a game on 1/7 and girls on 1/9. As for basketball, varsity boys recently lost to Gault by one point. Exchange student Can announced that this will be his final meeting before his return home to Turkey next week. He was a joy to have!



*Alyssa De La Rosa and Josie Hamilton enjoy a last meeting before heading back to college.*

Mariko is thoroughly enjoying her first year at UC Davis; and Josie reports that she likes her current classes, and all the clubs that she's participating in.

## Marble Draw

Lee has the winning ticket, but has no luck when asking former Interact Pres. Josie Hamilton to pull the black marble.



### Newsletter Team

Edwin Okamura, Jon Blegen

## Gary Lazdowski: 45 Year Rotarian!

Born and raised in Oakland, California, Gary Lazdowski moved to Concord at the age of 16, but did finish his parochial school in Oakland. Following high school, he attended St. Mary's College, where he was not an "A" student, and maybe not even a "B" student! At the time, a fellow student's family was connected with the Concord garbage company and offered him a job working weekends. Now, 50 years later, he can proudly say that he's scaled from driving a truck to becoming the GM and COO. They remain a family-owned business, and have grown to 380 employees, from the 28 when Gary began.



*The Club is grateful that Gary's never once considered moving to another Rotary closer to his home.*

They bought the Rio Vista garbage company in 1974 and he has been directly connected to Rio Vista ever since. Interestingly, to this day, the same father and son drive the garbage trucks in Rio Vista—despite not living here. They live in Pittsburg, where the trucks are deployed.

Their company has a partnership in Napa, which includes Paradise. As he mentioned previously, 33 of the 35 employees in Paradise, lost their homes. They have since found jobs for 1/3 of the employees, with the others either moving from the area, or working on the removal of debris. FEMA estimates there are 6M tons of demolition material. To put this in perspective, that is roughly what Rio Vista generates in 30 years.

In closing, Gary offered shopping bags to be used at Lira's exclusively; and recalled his welcome to Rio Vista by John Abel, Rex Smith and Jack Dolk—who gave him grief for raising rates, and threatened to open their own garbage company!

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
January 11	TBD	Patrick Byron
January 18	The Camp Fire	Lee Williams
January 25	TBD	Ken Wudel
February 1	Montezuma to the Rescue - D Schindler	Eddie Woodruff
February 8	TBD	Bob Bard
February 15	TBD	Gil Labrie