



# THE Rio Rotarian



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

*-Dr. Ted Schulz*

## Welcome

Dave Mason takes on the Pledge, and Betty, Rotary Grace. With Valentine's on his mind, Gene leads us in, "My Girl," by the beloved Temptations, while the Millennials in the room (Sam and Mariko) familiarize themselves with a new song.

## Our guest

Jim Wheeler, ED of The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce

## Treasurer's Report

Before launching into Rotary's most exciting financials, Jay proclaims that it's Ground Hogs Day, and hopes everyone enjoyed the Blood Moon Solar Eclipse. Our bank balances remain stable, and the CDs have been accounted for. While Jay was away, Leon impressively placed all our Financials online. But, realizing that many of us remain in the Stone and Chisel Era, he promises to continue providing an oral report.

## Confessions

- Sec. Leon heads into town to run a few errands—strangely offering \$20 for this non-confession. Returning home on Airport at 60 MPH, and listening to dance music, he nearly runs Ed. Edwin into a ditch. Edwin recalls feeling a "breeze," but apparently nearly lost his life. Leon offers another \$20, exclaiming, "He's one lucky guy!"

## Investigation Continues

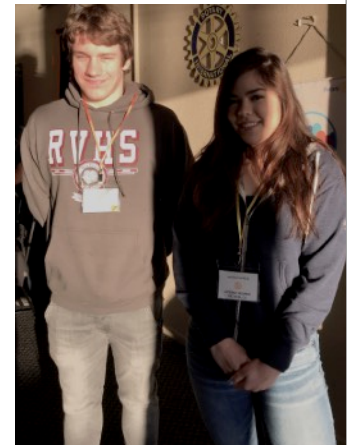
By all accounts, the Booster Club dinner was a grand success, but set-up was challenged. Each year, before the Booster Club dinner, Jimmy Mac generously donates his precious time to assemble their PA system. To be more efficient, years ago, he jerry-rigged wiring to make the process faster. Without notice, the wires were ripped out, to Jim's dismay. Upon inquiry, he's told that our own Pres. Dan was responsible. Dan, of course, pleads innocence, and "Attorney" Betty adds that those wires were "grandfathered," and should never have been removed for code violation. Mr. McPherson is demanding names.

## Student Rotarian Report

With only Sam and Mariko in attendance, they provide a concise report, and answer a few random questions from inquiring Rotarians.

Varsity Girls soccer loses to Bradshaw; JV Boys basketball wins against Highlands, while Girls and Boys Varsity are handed defeats. In academics, students will be visiting Sacramento for the Academic Decathlon Super Quiz. Africa will be their topic.

Sam confirms that his new residence is nice, and he now has a "brother."



## Announcements

Lee reports that Charter Night will be February 23, at The Point. No-host bar is from 6-7 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and the program will begin at 8. It is a no-host bar, but if you bring your own wine, there will be no corkage fee. \$35/person. Lee hopes Hank Tussy can make it, along with the Head Commander at Travis Air Force Base. Sign-ups are going around.

President Elect Dave reports that the Golf Tourney, "Is doing great."

Tom and Dick met on scholarships. They are finalizing the essay topic, and completing the application. The application will be at the high school by the end of the week, and due back the first of May.

## Rio Vista Celebrates 125 Years!

Jim Wheeler, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, opens his presentation by warming the crowd with praise of our professionally produced

## Announcements

- Jon Blegen misses a few weeks, but for good reason. He had cooking duty with Delta Dozen, and the week before, he was in Palm Desert playing golf for 4 days. Feeling generous, he offers more than the Sergeant-at-Arms' suggestion, donating \$50.
- Cub sells a SS Track Camaro to a dear friend in SoCal, and had plans to take her to the track to teach her some technique. Unfortunately, she wrecks the car on the way to dinner, and then develops a stomach bug! Not ready to throw the weekend away, Derek visits other friends for dinner, and bathes in the 80 degree SoCal heat. He donates \$40.
- Affectionately, Patty addresses Pres. Dan, "Hey Dummy," for nearly passing her on confessions. Jay and Patty travel to Flagstaff to visit their grandchildren, then head to Albuquerque to visit Jay's mother who just turned 94. To celebrate, she donates \$94!

## Marble Draw

Jimmy Mac has the winning ticket, but the black marble eludes him.



### Newsletter Staff

**Co-Editors:** Edwin Okamura, Dick Burkhart

**Executive Editor:** Bob Bard



*Jim Wheeler and Exec. Ed. Bob proudly exhibit a Rio Vista Ambassador pin.*

"The RioRotarian." Jim acknowledges that he enjoys the newsletter so much, that now, as the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus, he has begun modeling a newsletter after ours.

He goes on to further recognize, that in 5+ years he and his wife have lived in Rio Vista, that our City is the most unbelievable town when it comes giving—in both time and money. Jim hopes that in the past few years he was with RioVision, he too has contributed. Now, as the ED of the Chamber, he looks forward to injecting new energy into their group, which celebrates 114 years of history in town. When Mayor Kott recently asked the Chamber if they could do something special for our 125 Year Anniversary, their board readily agreed to ambitious plans:

- Redo entrance sign to the town, which entails cleaning up the existing space and building an archway over Main Street.
- Phil Pezzaglia wants to label historic buildings downtown. What's the oldest building in town? What was the first theater in Rio Vista? (Oldest is the Pizza Factory and the bakery was the first theater.)
- Jim wants to work more closely with merchants, and plans to speak with every business owner this year—about 200.
- Jim will address the Council on Tuesday to lay out their plans for the year.
- The Information Forum, will be formalizing an equipment library whereby contributing nonprofits can loan items to each other. For instance, Lions Club has 100 wine glasses, while St. Joseph's Church has 14 canopies. That is but one of their initiatives. The idea of the group is to coordinate, and learn from each other. If interested, their next meeting is February 12.

With a few moments remaining, Jim fields questions. First up, Betty inquires into the what the Sidwell Hotel will become. Jim answers that Mr. Jack Hirsch will have retail on the ground level, and apartments above. In addition, he elaborates that Hirsch is also renovating the old postoffice as a turnkey restaurant and intends to convert a few rooms in both buildings into Airbnb units to address the shortage of available rooms in the City.

Jim is excited about 2018! As a community, we will do great things.

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
February 9	TBD	Jim McPherson
February 16	TBD	Ted Schulz
February 23	Charter Night No morning meeting, today! Choice of Salmon or Prime Rib \$35—You may bring favorite beverage	Every Wilson and Lee Williams
March 2	TBD	Derek Abel