THE Rio Rotarian

HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

"Having fun helping others...watering the rosebuds"
-Dr. Ted Schulz

Welcome

Moving a bit sluggishly from the previous evening, Pres. Dan asks Pres. Elect (PE) Dave to lead the Pledge, and for Hector to handle Rotary Grace—which he passes off to his son, Gabe. This is followed by, "God Bless America."

Visiting Rotarians

With pleasure, Pres. Dan welcomes visiting Rotarian Gil Labrie, of Walnut Grove.

Celebrations

Sec. Leon announces that Rob Hickey, while not in attendance, and his wife, Susan, celebrate an anniversary.

Treasurer's Report

Before announcing our balances, Jay continues his agenda to parlay our cash in Vegas. Fortunately, it has not come to fruition, and our finances remain stable.

Confessions

- Betty spends a restful four days in Bodega with her husband, brother and his wife. She offers $25 to the Harvey Felt Scholarship (HFS).

- Leon's wife knows his affection for chocolate, delivering a box of Godiva on Valentine's Day. He's elated, until he learns that they are chocolate covered coffee! Recognizing that it's the thought that counts, he donates $20.

Interact Delivers

In sports, Mariko announces that varsity girls soccer celebrated Senior Night against San Juan on Tuesday; Emma is getting "twitchy" as the swimming season begins with Dan Mahoney as their coach; and Gabe says that baseball is coming together, with the varsity team making cuts soon. In scholastics, Gabe and 24 other students from the Engineering and Construction class will head to Sacramento for an educational program. Spirit Week kicks off next week with a rally.

Mariko Dupuis, Gabe De La Rosa and Emma Wright share the latest Ram's Ear.

Announcements

Before PE Dave has the opportunity to speak, Hector exclaims that, "The golf tournament is doing great!" Pres. Dan adds that the course has been booked for Friday, May 4. Hector has an epiphany, suggesting that scholarship winners should be asked to volunteer at Tequila Y Más' silent auction. This will promote the goal of the event—which is to provide scholarships to students. Rotary Charter Night is February 23. You may sign-up on line. Finally, our Annual Appreciation dinner will be held April 4th—more details will follow.

A House of Cards Has Been Built

Our speaker and exemplary Rotarian, Dr. Ted, opens with a clip of Dan Coats, Director of National Intelligence, testifying that federal spending is our "greatest national security threat." On this uplifting note, Ted takes us through our global monetary system in a mere 30 minutes, and discusses the reasons it is not sustainable. Here's a crib-note version:

Announcements

- Exec. Ed. Bob humbly notes that he's not a good golfer, despite reporting he made three pars in a row. He donates $30 to the HFS.

- PE Dave spends three days in Arizona and advises that, "It was great," donating $20.

- Gene also traveled to Arizona, visiting his 95-year old mother and his sister in Prescott.

- Jimmy lost his father in 1994, and the following week, Karli Stroing sent his mother a dozen roses on Valentine's Day. Twenty-four years later and she's now delivered a total of 288 roses. Jimmy proudly donates $100 to Josie Hamilton's PHF.

- Our Fire Chief lures Pres. Dan to lunch at the Point on Wednesday, where Dan learns it's actually a Lions' lunch. He reports the greatest challenge was maneuvering through "walkers" in the parking lot. He offers $20 to Interact.
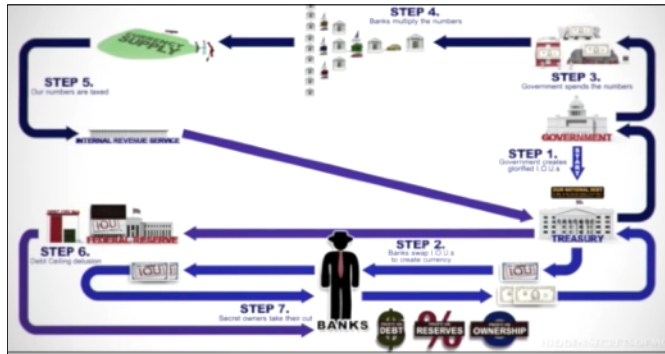
Marble Draw

Ken has the winning ticket, but fails to extract the black marble.

ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

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A broken system ripe for collapse.

- Our government provides services to us through deficit spending, which is paid with bonds (IOUs). With this currency, they buy things today, and a future generation (Interact students) pays off the debt.

- Banks buy these bonds, and make money off of interest. They also sell some bonds to the Federal Reserve, that buys them with money it does not have—and merely writes a check drawn on an empty account. Of course, the banks then use the newly minted money to buy more bonds, and the process repeats.

- Our government uses this currency to fund wars and social programs. Then, our soldiers and government employees take their pay, and deposit it back into their banks.

- Unbeknownst to most, the bank is only required to hold a percentage of each dollar deposited, which is referred to as a Fractional Reserve Ratio. If the FRR is 10%, the bank is required to hold only $10 of a $100 deposit. They loan the other $90 to a consumer who then pays back their bank that then leverages $81 (or 90%) of this new deposit. Amazingly, the initial $100 deposit results in $1k of bank credit.

- We then pay the IRS taxes so they can pay for the issued bonds.

- Every dollar in existence is an IOU; there is interest due on it. Because of this, there is ultimately not enough currency to pay the debt. But, if they stop adding debt, and paying it off, the system collapses, since no new currency is being created. For this reason politicians kick the can down the road—without new debt, our system collapses.

Upon completion of the video, Ted turns to Interact and apologizes on behalf of Rotary for our causing them to pay off our debts in the future. Sec. Leon, attempting to relieve some angst, notes that economist Thomas Picketty believes that if the system is near collapse, we simply change the rules.

With tension running high, John Blegen changes the subject asking Bob, "Do you mind sharing which 3 holes your parred?" Jimmy Mac chimes in, "How 'bout them Giants?!"

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
February 23	Charter Night No morning meeting, today! Choice of Salmon or Prime Rib	Every Wilson and Lee Williams
March 2	TBD	Derek Abel
March 9	Dave Kreutzinger-Nike Missle Site, Historian, Marin Headlands	Bob Bard
March 16	TBD	Jon Blegen