



Lakeport Rotary Club Rotogram

EDITOR: JENNIFER STRONG

www.lakeportrotary.org

Reporter: Tom Lincoln

Club Leaders



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President-Elect



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[Mark Buehnerkemper](#)
Club Director



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Club Director



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[Pamela Harpster](#)
Club Director



[Natalie Moon-Wainwright](#)
Club Director



[Gregory D. Scott](#)
Club Director



[Daniel W. Christensen](#)
Membership Chair



[Bruce Maxwell](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Duane H. Barnes](#)
Assistant Governor

Meeting:

Called to order by President Jeff at 12:08 p.m.

Invocation:

Pastor Greg Greg was his usual soothing pleasant invocator, giving thanks for the recent rains that have kept us from drying up and blowing us away. He made special mention of Tyler Banks who passed away early this week. He was the 23-year-old son of Carrie and Shannon Banks of Upper Lake. Carrie is a long time employee of Lincoln-Leavitt Insurance.

Pledge:

Led by me with perfect cadence.

Program:

Greg introduced Michelle Kwei, whom he met through his involvement with Toastmasters.

Michelle gave a captivating and very inspirational talk about her amazing life, the challenges she has faced and her method of overcoming a severe disability and leading a fulfilling and productive life. She is a clinical pharmacist by profession. She was born in Taiwan and raised in New York City. At age 11 she was involved in a car accident which resulted in a serious permanent disability that left her able to walk only with the aid of crutches. Instead of allowing that disability to control her life she determined that she was going to live her life fully, despite her disability.

Michelle shared with us that she found three over arching commitments that led her to overcoming her disability.

1. Even though you can't walk, find a pair of shoes that speak positively to you.
2. Take that initial step, even you it means temporary failure.
3. Place yourself in others' shoes so that you can empathize with their challenges.

Early in her journey, she attended a friend's wedding and wanted to be in her friend's shoes. But, knowing that she couldn't she began her search for shoes that would fit her and her life circumstances. They ended up being hiking shoes. In 2016 she decided that she would learn to hike. She bought a ticket to Peru and undertook an effort to climb to the ancient ruins of Manchu Picchu. It was an undertaking that would challenge a person in good shape without disabilities.

The tour leader took her aside and warned her that the trek was be extremely difficult and dangerous. But she was determined to overcome her disability and complete the hike. She shared a very emotional video of her last several steps, obviously struggling, to complete her journey and reach the destination along with her fellow hikers, many of whom helped her through the most difficult phases of her journey.

It was one of the best and most uplifting programs I have seen since joining Rotary many years ago. Thank you Greg for sharing Michelle with us.

Sunshine:

Capt. Dan was absent, so Melissa filled in. Much to our collective disappointment, there was no sunshine to report. No birthdays, no anniversaries, no nothing. Appropriate, though, given the inspirational program that we had just enjoyed.

Detective:

Gary paid for a tangle between vehicle and bear and tree.

Tom Powers was mentioned for something, but I wasn't paying attention. Ruth and I paid up for a week-long trip through our favorite destination, Idaho. Jennifer snitched us off, so we got even by pointing out that she will be conducting a demonstration this Saturday of her aviation prowess as she practices her landing skills at Lampson Field. Admission is free, but show up early in order to get a premium seat (Red's outdoor dining tent is the best venue). Jennifer will be attempting to find the secret sauce of the Lincoln perfect landing technique.

Detective Pam then directed her venom to the hapless Steve Davis, who apparently has been missing from the Zoom meetings as long as I. She tried to extract a \$50 fine from Steve, but he countered that we likely wouldn't see him again for a very long time if that was the fine amount. So, several sympathetic Rotarians chimed in and volunteered to buy shares in the fine, which I believe resulted in Steve actually making money on the deal. We'll likely see him at next week's Zoom! Steve also shared that the authorities in Greece finally caught up with him and his lovely wife for being victims of a hit-and-run motor scooter accident. I guess in Greece, you are guilty until you prove yourself innocent, even for an accident in which you were the injured victim. He and Elizabeth have received a



notice to appear in a Greek courtroom in March. Play the COVID card, Steve!! It works in our courtrooms.

And, finally, Art paid for wife Judy getting tangled in their property's razor wire perimeter. Why the razor wire, Art? You're not even a sitting judge any longer! Give it to Mike Lunas.

Announcements:

There were a ton. Here is my best recollection.

1. Our guest speaker Michelle will also be a guest speaker at the next local Toastmaster gathering.
2. Melissa reminded folks that the Fair Foundation Wrangler Roundup drive-by dinner pickup will take place this Saturday.
3. Jeff said the District 5130 Training Assembly will be conducted in Hollywood Squares style on April 16 and 17. Get your reservations in early. Seating will be limited.
4. Someone mentioned that there will be a club board meeting next Tuesday. Come stag or come drag.

Finley:

Marty was the big winner thanks to me. I chose his number. I'm fine free for the rest of the year. That's all folks. See you next week.

Birthdays

Natasha Levchenko
February 27th