

# Rotary



## Club of Concord

### Club Member Birthdays

William Bobetsky  
October 23rd

William H. Guthreau  
October 27th

Stanley Gaunt  
November 6th

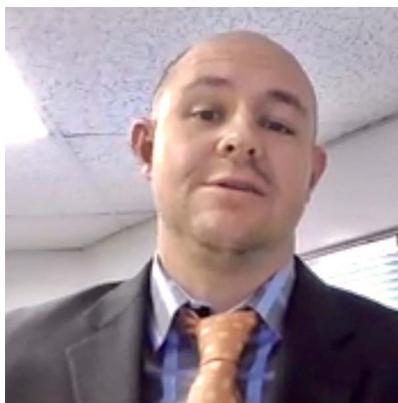
Roy F. Querio  
November 20th

## Club Meeting Report for October 16, 2020 by Al Kappadahl

Friday again, already. Time is supposed to slow down when you are confined. Another beautiful day that we should be spending outside but that would keep us from the intimacy of seeing each other's



image in that little square zoom box.



This is an historic day, as all are in some way or other. An 11 year old girl, Grace Bedell, wrote a letter this day in 1860 to Abraham Lincoln, who was running for President. She urged him to grow a beard, as All the ladies like whiskers, and they would tease their husbands to vote for you, and then you would be President. He did and that did indeed make the letter historically important.

So, we tune in to see **George Calhoon**, who sits quietly waiting for our approval of his bearded fullness with each week of confinement and we were off again with some pre-meeting chatter. Our speaker today, District Governor (DG) **Mark Roberts** of the Lamorinda Sunrise Club, told us about his visits with his grandchildren, and **Marilyn McClaskey** found her zoom bearings and how to be heard.

At 12:15 exactly **President Dr. Brad Prescott** began with a stirring rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by Carrie Underwood, before introducing **District Gov. Mark**.

The Gov. reminded us that this is his second try at visiting us, as unfortunately we had to reschedule (as a courtesy to our last year **Dist. Gov. Tina Akins**) our tribute to retiring Past Pres. **Ron Light** on his day which would have been his first club visit of his year. **Mark** began with his personal thanks to **Tina** for all the time that she so generously gave to him as he prepared to follow her. He also praised our **Dr. Michael Barrington** as the kind of Rotarian who makes things happen throughout our District.

**Mark** also spoke about the meeting of all 130 District Govs from all over the world and this year's theme of **Opening Doors**, as well as his pleasure of seeing that all 73 of his clubs have been doing impressive things during this trying period. **Mark** thanked all Board Members for their help in making things happen by encouraging members to take part. He also emphasized that Rotary International (R.I.) is concerned with diminishing membership #s, and that our District had a net loss of 100 last year, with the 73 clubs now totaling 3200 members.

He noted also that he is tired of hearing that Rotary is an old white man's club and complimented us and especially **Memory Woodard** and **Michael Barrington** for starting the Diablo Valley Rotaract Club, as one of the innovative ways to involve younger and more diverse people to join with us. **Mark** himself was a founding member of the UCSF College Rotaract Club in 1966. He closed his remarks by reminding us that the District exists **To Serve Members** and thanked us again for all that we do.

**Brad** thanked him and asked for questions. **David Litty** began: Will you have a live or a streaming District Conference this year? **Gov. Mark** answered by inviting us all to his our

District Conference, April 30 to May 2 in Sacramento, both live & virtual, with some great speakers. **Susan Cohen Grossman** was next. She asked about methods of diversity outreach. **Mark** replied that his prime example was the D.G. of Dist. 5170, (Oakland & South), who has started **Ethnic Clubs** by reaching out to existing groups (e.g. an East Indian Club in Fremont) to become Rotarians, and they immediately accepted the invite. **We must diversify**, said **Mark**. **Rick Ernst** asked about District and Global Grant allocation. The basis of grants is the allocation of the \$ we send to Rotary each year (Every Rotarian Every Year our pledge to each give \$100 every year). Those funds are held for two years and the interest is used to help pay expenses, then of the money is sent back to the District for their distribution based on the individual clubs' applications. The remainder is retained by the Rotary Foundation for international and other Global Grants. Funds available have decreased the last 2 years due to Covid and also because the District has also funded some **Emergency** items for a total of \$25,000 Covid grants. (We got \$2500 for the Salvation Army food costs).

**Mark** also reminded us that his wife is set to be DG in 2+ years and that the funds he raises during this year will come back during her tenure, which prompted **Pres. Brad**, with beautiful wife **Stephanie** sitting by his side, to ask about wives following husbands and **Mark** replied that is has been done several times before. **Wow perhaps ya think?**

**David Litty** had a second question. **What have you seen at other Clubs that we can use in Concord?** **Mark** responded that the most impressive was the addition of an **Innovation Director** as a Board Member at the San Ramon Club, dedicated to keeping the Club vibrant. He was also impressed by the Chico Club's Centennial Project. They are the largest club in the District and their 180 members are going to construct a new city park next year. **We all Clubs need to do better at letting the Community know that WE make a difference.** This will also help in recruiting new members. Clubs are doing diverse things: Making backpack food gifts for weekend outings, doing video mentoring for kids, holding a virtual golf tournament as a fundraiser, having a Halloween drive through fundraiser with full dinners supplied by local restaurants, and **virtual auctions.**

**Gov. Mark** concluded by expressing his appreciation for all that our Club does. **Brad** put on the Skipper's cap and asked **Gary Collins** for an update on our Salvation Army Renovation project. **Gary**, sharing the screen with **Rebecca Sgambati** ...



of the Benicia Club. She told us that she and her husband Dave own both the Peak Performance & Float Co. and the Sgambati Painting Co. in Walnut Creek. They are donating the labor for painting and getting the paint donated. **Gary** also has lined up Floor Coverings International to supervise labor in installing new flooring, 2000 sq. ft., without charge, but the material cost (at cost) is \$10,500, which we must raise before the project can start, which will be after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year because of the high use of the facilities during the Holiday Season. It's the Holiday Season, folks: Please think about helping this very worthy Club Project.

**Major Gwyn Jones** joined in the appeal, noting that this year two major chains, Safeway and another, have decided NOT to let the Salvation Army bells be in front of their stores and this means about **20% less \$** collected this year than last a major blow to their funding.

**Captain Brad** then called on our newest member Red Badger **Joshua Gotto** [see photos of Josh at top of this newsletter] to give his vocational talk and It blew me away this young fella has done more already in his lifetime than anyone else I've ever met. He grew up in Globe, Arizona and in 2005 graduated from the U of Arizona with a BS in Operations Management, a BS in Management Information Systems AND a BA in Creative Writing, after which he went to Shanghai, China and worked for 2 years as a writer. In '07, he came back & went back to the U of AZ where in the next 3 years he graduated with a Law Degree and an MBA Both

Hired by Bowles & Verna of Walnut Creek he served there until 2013 when he met the love of his life, Kayla, and they traveled through Eastern Africa before returning to Shanghai where he worked as a Consultant to C Suite Execs (Chiefs of Co's) and was simultaneously running two schools in different ends of the 25

million resident city. In 2017 they returned to Walnut Creek where he established his own law firm, **Gotto Law Offices**, specializing in estate planning and probate litigation. They just welcomed their first son, **Theodore Peter Gotto**, born May 5<sup>th</sup>. Kayla is **Brad's** niece and the **Kaminski's** granddaughter. So a triple Welcome, **Gotto's**. His law offices are at 910 Court St., Martinez. 925 444 0428. Hand clapping by all who were watching.

**Brad** called for Committee reports, starting with **Memory Woodard** who asked us to again donate all of our spare toiletries for our Interact Kids drive to fill 100 bags for The Monument Crisis Center by Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> travel tooth paste, body wash, anything you have & don't need call or email her about pick up.

**Bill Bobetsky** called for hands-on (with social distancing) helpers NEXT Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, to repaint our U.S. map at Cambridge School playground with 2 shifts, 8:30 & 10:30. Call or email him.



**Luis Alcon** [see photos at top of this newsletter!] called for immediate help Monday, Tuesday & Wed. THIS WEEK, at 8:30 or 10:30 at Golden State Lumber to place labels the new dictionaries we are again donating to the six most challenged elementary schools in Concord. TODAY THIS WEEK folks. Masks, of course. Email or call him. 925 408 1170.

## Birthdays

**Bill Bobetsky** gave \$ 100 to celebrate his and **John Kaminski** settled on \$50 to the Foundation.

**Peter Baldacci** said he'd give \$50 birthday \$ to the Salvation Army if **Gwen**, in his English brogue, could repeat exactly a phrase about cars and far and such, and by golly **Gwen** came close enough that **Peter** conceded it worthy, even on the 2nd try.

**President Brad** concluded a very full meeting by calling on **Memory Woodard** for our closing thought from Buddha. *Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.*

And we were done.

## Upcoming Speakers

October 23rd  
[Ron Mullin and Michael Barrington](#)

November 6th  
[Steve Taddei](#)

Hear of the the exciting adventures of two of our most illustrious Rotarians.

Braver Angels presentation helping us to navigate discussions through these politically divided times.

## Club Leaders



[Bradford T. Prescott](#)  
President



[Ronald E. Leone](#)  
President-Elect



[Sandra J Newman](#)  
Secretary



[Tina S. Akins](#)  
Treasurer



[Paul F Meyerhofer](#)  
Treasurer



[Richard Andrus](#)  
Public Relations  
Chair



[Guy S. Bjerke](#)  
Public Relations  
Chair



[Marcus Pierre](#)  
Youth Services  
Chair



[Wanda D Waltman](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Memory A. Woodard](#)  
Youth Services  
Chair



[Inge Z Yarborough](#)  
Club Director  
Fundraising



[William Chan](#)  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



[Gary Collins](#)  
Membership Chair



[Rick Ernst](#)  
Membership Chair



[William Bobetsky](#)  
Community  
Service Chair



[Nelson Meeks](#)  
Community  
Service Chair



[Stephanie Prescott](#)  
Club Service  
Chair



[Richard Wm Vossekuil](#)  
Club Service  
Chair



[Susan Cohen Grossman](#)  
International  
Service Chair



[Gashaw Takele](#)  
International  
Service Chair



[Ignacio J Ruvolo](#)  
Vocational Service  
Chair



[Michael Joseph Barrington](#)  
iPast President



[Milton J. Smith](#)  
Assistant  
Governor