



Club Meeting

Livermore
Meets at GHMG Hotel
(Good Hotel Management
Group)
720 Las Flores Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551
Time: Wednesday at
12:00 PM
No story selected for
story_1

Club Leaders



Carolyn Siegfried
President



Ken Perine
President-Elect



Glenn D. Kubiak
Treasurer



David Michael Rounds
Secretary



Kathy S. Coyle
Training Officer
Past President



Barbara Hickman
Attendance Secretary



Dennis William O'Brien
Club Director



Sblend A. Sblendorio
Parliamentarian



James P. Schmidt
Club Director



Sonya Sheffield
Membership Coordinator
Club Director



Joel C. Swanson
Club Director



Lance Cavaliere
Sergeant-at-Arms



Patrick McMenamin
Rotary Foundation

Spur July 29, 2020

By Don Wentz on Saturday, August 1, 2020

Spur Report for July 29, 2020

Spur Reporter Joel Swanson



Premeeting-12:00 ♦ 12:30: Several were already on and participating in lively conversation when your Spur Reporter joined our Zoom meeting at noon.

Several folks compared pets during the pre-meeting. Many cats, a couple of dogs, and a parrot made appearances. We asked Steve Neff to bring an alligator to a meeting, in return for his becoming an official member again without having to go through the Red Badge process. Because Steve ♦s three local Rotary Clubs are all meeting via Zoom Anyway, he said he ♦d just stay with the RCL for now.



We had some discussion of using Zelle for dues. Glenn requested that, when paying dues, members use a credit card or electronic funds transfer from their bank account, rather than Zelle. This is due to a Zelle versus Quickbooks mismatch.

Patricia Munro mentioned that Stockmen ♦s park will open soon. When it ♦s a week or less out, Patricia will release the date.

Christina Marion, who ♦s working on her Blue badge, decided to join the International Service committee.

Chair



Carol Gerich
Club Service
Chair



Keith Beck
International
Service Chair



Mary Anne
Rozsa
Youth Services
Chair



Jay Davis
iPast President

Events

No Events found



Rotary Meeting: President Caroline started the meeting at 12:34 (by my watch)

Pledge was lead by Beth Wilson.

Song: Michael Ferrucci and Stu Frazier ♡What♡s so funny about peace, love, and understanding, ♡ by Elvis Costello. This fine song can be heard at <https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/cx08Shj99m8cc7iU5tx-4Q/>



Thought for the Day: Loretta Kaskey had our thought for the day. She asked that we be mindful that Rotary has, as its theme this year, ♡Rotary opens opportunities.♡ Loretta quoted Flora Whittemore, who said ♡The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.♡ May the choices we make provide opportunities that serve those around us and around the world well!

Meeting Front Line

- Zoom Host: Glenn Kubiak
- Zoom Greeter: Christina Marion
- Audio Visual: Alan Frank
- Spur Reporter: Joel Swanson
- Zoom Chat Monitor: David Rounds





Welcome Rotarians & Guests: We had no visiting Rotarians today. Also unique was that there were no guests of Rotarians present. Invite someone next week!

Walking Livermore Photo: President Caroline is now past the 400-mile mark. The picture she showed us was of Brushy Peak, and was a reminder that there are things in plain sight that we get so used to seeing that we no longer notice them. We need to remind ourselves to look around us!

Announcements

- District 5170 News - August 15 ♦ Virtual Membership Seminar

SAVE THE DATE!

Rotary
District 5170

Virtual Membership Seminar
Saturday, August 15, 2020

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Awards & Raffle Prizes

More details coming....

August is
Membership and New Club
Development Month

Expand Horizons
Open New Doors

Rotary
District 5170

Rotary Opens
Opportunities

The graphic is a blue rectangular banner. In the top left, the text 'SAVE THE DATE!' is written in white, slanted upwards. In the top right, the Rotary logo and 'District 5170' are displayed. The center features the event title 'Virtual Membership Seminar' and date 'Saturday, August 15, 2020' in white. Below this is the time '9:00 am - 12:30 pm' and the text '**Awards & Raffle Prizes**'. Further down, it says 'More details coming....'. At the bottom, there are two images: on the left, a woman pointing with the text 'August is Membership and New Club Development Month'; on the right, a group of five diverse young people with the text 'Expand Horizons Open New Doors'. At the very bottom, the Rotary logo and 'District 5170' are on the left, and the slogan 'Rotary Opens Opportunities' is on the right.

- TRF Newsletter ♦ did you receive it? Check it out at the following web address: <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050083/enca/files/homepage/trf-newsletter-july-2020/TRFNewsJuly2020.pdf>
- Club News: Volunteers are needed to present a Thought for the Day. If you♦re interested, contact Barbara Hickman, whose email address is Barbara@hickman.com.
- Club Grant (formerly ♦mini grant♦) applications are due soon. Grant Forms are available on our web page.
- Trish Munro ♦ Applications for a seat on the City♦s Equity & Inclusion Working Group are due August 7th. Over the past month or so, this group has been forming, and membership is still available. They are looking at equity and public safety. They will also work with the Livermore PD. They♦re looking for a broad spectrum of residents, including underrepresented groups, but all may apply. Check out their web site at http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/council/equity_and_inclusion.htm



New Member Talk: Carole Lince was born in Seattle, and moved to Springfield Oregon. She attended the University of Oregon and was hired by United Airlines as a Stewardess. She met her husband when he was flying on a chartered flight. She commuted from Truckee to SFO for several years. Carole retired from United Airlines in 2016. She has 3 daughters. She has been retired for four years now, and joined Rotary through her friendship with Sonya Sheffield.



This Week's Program:



Today, our President-Elect, Ken Perine gave an overview of Unconscious Bias, how it affects our decisions, manifests in our daily lives, and how we can see past it.

Our Rotary Club of Livermore recently posted its statement on Racism. The hard part of overcoming racism is getting to know people, and welcome them, that think differently than we do. The path to peace is in the heart of Rotary's mission.

Step one in recognizing your own biases are to realize that you are thinking is not always right. Unfortunately, our Brains aren't helping. They evolved (my words) not for our modern times, but for hunter gathers thousand of years ago. Our perception of reality is not the part of thought that is in charge all the time. In Thinking, Fast and Slow, the author, Daniel Kahneman, states that the fast part is our mental reflexes, intuitions and biases. This quick reaction thinking serve hominids well during hunter-gatherer times, but not so well in a complex, diverse world. Ages past, thoughtful consideration of a situation could get you eaten by predators. Or brains are pre-wired so that the conclusions we come to are the easy, quick ones, and not

necessarily the right ones. That's fast thinking. The slow thinking takes time, energy, and consideration. It will take you out of your comfort zone. It's something that needs to be practiced.

Ken Rosling, in his book *Factfulness*, talks more about System 2 Thinking, which Kahneman called the slow thinking in the previous book. In using the system 2 thinking, one comes to different conclusions about how the world is doing (it's not as bad as we think it is!). *Factfulness* is a good book to read to get a better, more optimistic frame of reference for the modern world.

Ken showed us a couple of optical illusions to demonstrate how the brain fools us with fast thinking. These types of illusions are one thing, but how we experience situations can also be colored by this quick thought. How can people look at the same thing, and see (and remember) very different things?

There's also overconfidence bias, that can blind us to risk. This tends to be more prevalent in younger folks. Ken showed COVID19 cases broken down by age.

Ken presented the next bias, called Herding. Ken showed a good example related to personal finances, and particularly, Stock Market Bubbles. But in herding, you don't buy low and sell high, you buy high, when everyone is talking about some hot investment, then sell when despair kicks in, at a lower price. More herding is clearly evident in politics. And in the US, with only two political party choices, the likelihood is compounded that we default to the group we see ourselves belonging to.

Confirmation Bias is also a problem. Type 1 thinking leads you to believe only things you're comfortable with.

In wrapping up his excellent presentation, Ken quoted a Max Planck statement: "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

Ken reminded us that neuroscience is humbling. There's clear evidence that Sometimes, we can't believe our eyes,

What we pay attention to matters,

We need to be on the lookout for our blind spots, and

Work must be done to be more understanding of other peoples.

Ken is optimistic about our ability to use considered, thoughtful approaches to thinking about people who think and are different from us, and improving the opportunities we get and give.

Q&A:

One question was "are there exercises we can do to build our type 2 thinking?" Ken responded that If we slow down, and realize we may not have the whole picture, that's a good place to start.

Jim Schmidt asked "What about intentional misinformation?" Ken said that this is an easy trap to fall into. The challenge for us is to do the deeper digging. We also need to realize that what you call "Truth" may not match other peoples' Truth.

One Rotarian asked "Does anyone ever have all the information?" You can spend a lot of time studying and learning, but due to the complexity of the modern world, you have to realize that we will never have all the answers.

Pat McMenemy Can you share the slides?

Norman congrats on a great job. Norm talked about cognitive dissonance. We all

look for things that agree with our thinking already.

Cheri Sheets ♦ can we do a truth test at each meeting where we put up a questions with two sides and discuss?

Trish ♦ we do actually know what some facts are. We don't have to be scientists but we must tell how we can identify facts.

Jim Hannon ♦ should we set aside the proscription against discussion religion and politics at Rotary? Maybe we need to talk about some of these divisive issues in Rotary.

Lynn Seppala shared his approach to resolving conflict in how we talked with those with which we don't see eye to eye. During your discussion say: ♦Here's what I think you're saying, and could you say what you think I'm saying.♦

Glenn Kubiak ♦ In ♦Thinking fast and slow,♦ there are exercises for type 2 thinking.

Also, Trish Munro posted a link to a test for your personal bias. Both Glenn and Caroline suggested trying it. It is a good site for getting us thinking about implicit bias: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>.

Next Week's Program

Rick Shumway, CEO, Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare



Links and Advertisers

Check out our Flickr site for all of today's photos and more!
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/62794352@N07/albums/with/72157709710922731>

Today's video will be available on our web site: <https://livermore-rotary.org/2019-2020/>



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