



# Rotary



## Club of La Quinta

### Club Meeting

La Quinta  
Meets at Cliffhouse  
78250 SR-111  
La Quinta, CA 92253  
Time: Friday at  
12:15 PM

### Club Leaders



Sandy Stewart  
President



Dennis Denning  
Secretary



Kevin Pickett  
Treasurer



Bruce Y. Cathcart Jr.  
Bulletin Editor



Doug Hassett  
Public Relations Chair



Diane A. Kelly  
Membership Chair



Allan Levin  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Bruce C. Underwood  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Sandra Lauer  
International Service Chair



Daniel Fissori  
Vocational Service Chair



Lea Goodsell  
Assistant Governor

### Speakers

### Events

No Events found

## This Happened at the Rotary Club of La Quinta on September 18, 2020

This Happened at the La Quinta Rotary on September 18, 2020  
Our President Sandy Stewart called the meeting to order a little after the noon hour and led those 14 of us in attendance via ZOOM in the pledge of allegiance. For those who did not have an American flag or reasonable facsimile in their home or office, Corry Hunter provided one as his virtual background. Our current secretary and resident Invocator led us in an (as always) appropriate and timely invocation giving thanks for all of the benefits bestowed upon us and asking for a watchful eye over all of the first responders working in harm s way.



President Sandy shared with us the items and actions discussed and taken at the most recent Club Board meeting. First and foremost, following up on the rewrite of the Club Bylaws, a committee will be rewriting the club constitution which when completed will be ratified by the club members. Diane Kelly will be re-instating the Buddy System where each member will be paired with another member and each will be looked upon to keep track of the other. If you have a buddy in mind I would suggest you make that known to Diane so that no one gets stuck with Allan Levine or myself in fact, Diane you could probably do the club members a favor and just stick the two of us together! Be on the lookout for a vote to take place via the internet or at the next club meeting returning David Turner to the Rotary Club of La Quinta Foundation Board for another 3-year term. President Sandy also informed us that she we need SPEAKERS for our upcoming meetings. Any suggestions would be welcome and any member who would like to give a craft talk or speak on a topic of interest is encouraged to do so! We also need a PRESIDENT ELECT!!! Anyone interested in becoming our club president next year should contact Sandy immediately to get started as our President Elect this year! And finally, President Sandy is searching for a spot to have an outdoor in-person club meeting as soon as the weather cools down a

bit any ideas on a location? Please let Sandy know.



Sandy Lauer announced that this year our club has approved donations of our DDF monies to both the Guatemala Literacy program (GLP) and to Polio Plus. Our combined donations with matching grant funds this year will exceed \$10,980.00. This year the total funds raised by Rotary for the GLP will exceed \$600,000.00! And as many of you are aware, this year the African continent was declared Polio Free leaving only the wild polio virus still at large in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Our next Club Board Meeting will be held via ZOOM at 5:30 PM Thursday, October 15, 2020. An invite with log-in info will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Paid your 2020-2021 Rotary Dues yet? They are OVERDUE if you have not. If the charge card email is not working for you, please snail mail your check made payable to the Rotary Club of La Quinta to: LQ Rotary P.O. Box 5431, La Quinta, CA. 92248.



Our speaker this day was Mike Graglia, the founder of the SynGAP Research Fund (SRF). SRF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and was incorporated in 2018 to improve the quality of life of SynGAP1 patients through the research and development of treatments, therapies and support systems.

Mike informed us that [SynGAP1-related intellectual disability](#) is a rare genetic disorder caused by a variation on the SynGAP1 gene, with only 200 diagnosed cases in the United States and approximately 500 cases diagnosed worldwide. It leads to several neurological issues in patients, including mild-to-severe intellectual disability, epilepsy, autism, hypotonia (low muscle tone), apraxia (delayed/no speech) and impulsivity/aggression.

Mike explained to us that each Mom and each Dad has its own DNA that when

combined in an offspring each individual cell of that child has a copy of each parent's DNA. Sometimes in the copy/paste process there are typos and in the case of SynGAP1, an important protein in the brain is damaged or missing. When this happens it results in the disorders listed above. Mike shared with us his very personal story of first realizing that his son was not acting as a normal child and the stress and heartache he and his family experienced on a journey that ultimately led to the diagnosis that his son had SynGAP1.



Also in attendance this day was our good friend and fellow Rotarian Andrea Durette (Palm Desert Club) who shared that her daughter was diagnosed with SynGAP1. Both Mike and Andrea told us what a relief it was to finally learn what was wrong with their children and to be able to re-examine the drugs being administered to them to treat the symptoms of a previously undiagnosed disorder. Mike stressed the importance of getting anyone genetically tested who has or exhibits mild-to-severe intellectual disability, epilepsy, autism, hypotonia (low muscle tone), apraxia (delayed/no speech) and impulsivity/aggression. Testing that 10 years ago cost around \$10,000.00 now cost only \$250.00!

There is a huge deficit in our society today where only the popular diseases and disorders can attract significant funds for research and development of treatments and therapies. In the case of SynGAP1 with only 200 diagnosed cases in the United States it is so unknown that it attracts little or no attention from anyone outside a small circle of those afflicted or affected by the afflicted. Because of this Mike and his wife founded the SynGAP Research Fund in order to bring attention to this horrible disorder and to create a vehicle to Fund the Science of SynGAP1. In addition to their outreach and education programs and raising funds for research, the organization also connects parents and family members with others in similar situations and is developing a community support group. It should be noted that Mike and his wife provide ALL the operational costs of the organization and so any contributions or funds raised go 100% toward funding the research on SynGAP1. It is a very noble undertaking born out of necessity and Mike can use all the help he can get in this endeavor. As Rotarians, together we raise millions of dollars annually in our battle to eradicate Polio from the planet. Just imagine what an organization like ours could do to help research and develop treatments, therapies and perhaps even cures if we were

to identify and fund the thousands of lesser known disorders like SynGAP1. Perhaps once we eradicate Polio we can do just that! Until then, to learn more about the SynGAP1 Research Fund and possibly contribute to the cause please check out the following links.

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/solve-syngap-teampayton>

<https://syngapresearchfund.org/>

Thank you, Mike, for a most enlightening presentation and for your service above self!



This newsletter was written by Bruce Cathcart

Friday, September 25, 2020