

# Rotary



## The Desertarian

The Newsletter for the Rotary Club of Palm Springs



October 7, 2020

October is Rotary Economic & Community Development Month



President John Fitch

**President:** John Fritch, **President-Elect**-Paul Raffer, **Secretary**-Ed McBride, **Treasurer** VACANT  
**Board Members:** Bob Allan, Victoria Bentley, Judy Bronstein, Tim Ellis (Ex-officio), Dorys Halftermeyer-Ross, Helene Kalfuss, Barbara Lippert, Andrea Madrigal, Michele Nobleman, Frank Peabody, Paul Raffer  
**District Governor:** Barry Valdez  
**Desertarian Reporters:** Frank Peabody, Barbara Lippert, Jim Dunn, Nandy Kruger



### This Weeks Program

Deserterian Reporter: Jim Dunn

Chief Nalder informed the group that the department is now 77 people, up from 54 when he arrived in 2015. There are currently 8 open firefighter positions in the department. The obstacle to filling these is that PS requires all firefighters to also be paramedics, a certification most firefighters do not have.

Chief Nalder reminded us that the department offers community emergency response training (CERT) to learn more visit the department website here.

Department accomplishments over the past five years have included:

- Renovation of Fire Station #4
- All engines have been replaced
- 2 type three wild land units coming next year
- 10th recruitment classes
- Eliminated redundant administrative processes to improve efficiencies
- New station alerting system at a cost of \$350,000, which has reduced turn out time by 25%
- Replaced employee evaluations to be more objective
- Added a Public Information Officer

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dick Hostrop happy 95th!
- Michele, coins for kids...mail in your donations!
- Polio checks should be made out to the Rotary Foundation and put "Polio Plus" in the memo line

### Birthdays and Anniversaries for October

| Member Birthdays              | Birthday |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Allan, Robert C. (BOB)        | 4-Oct    |
| Hostrop, Richard W. (RICHARD) | 8-Oct    |
| Halftermeyer, Dorys (DORYS)   | 12-Oct   |
| Taft, Margie (MARGIE)         | 20-Oct   |
| Freymuth, Peter (PETER)       | 22-Oct   |

| Member Anniversaries             | Start Date | Years |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Nobleman, Michele (MICHELE)      | 3-Oct      | 2     |
| Bentley, Victoria (VICTORIA)     | 9-Oct      | 1     |
| Kalfuss, Leonard M M.D.(LEONARD) | 24-Oct     | 2     |

## This Weeks Program (Continued)

Nalder cited the following goals for the department:

- Achieve an ISO rating of 1. Currently the City is at a 3 rating. Achieving a lower rate can reduce fire insurance ratings for residents. The key to achieving the higher rating is to add one additional position to each station for three shifts (15 people).
- Update remaining three stations, possibly relocating some of them.
- Become a medical transport department (provide ambulance service). Currently this is handled by a private company which is common in CA. Currently the City has 1-2 units in the City at any given time and the Chief would like to have 4-5 units available

Vocational Talk:

Walter Gendell provided today's talk. Walther is originally from Long Island, NY. He went to law school in Minnesota and began working in HR with a bank. He liked HR and focused his attention on that path even after obtaining his law degree. He eventually went to work for Blue Shield. During the AIDS epidemic he left to work with people in the San Francisco community diagnosed with AIDS. Walter feels that his role working with these individuals was the most rewarding of his career. He then went back to working in banking for Bank of America followed by 8 years with Charles Schwab in benefits and compensation until he was laid off during the downturn. Walter then decided to work on projects. He and his husband Jack (married in 2008) are active in both their Cloverdale and Palm Springs communities.