

The Desertarian

The Newsletter for the Rotary Club of Palm Springs. California

Rotary Opens Opportuniti

August 19, 2020

August is Membership Month "We are all on the Membership Committee!"



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

<u>Desertarian Reporters</u>: Frank Peabody, Barbara Lippert, Jim Dunn, Nandy Kruger, Carole

President: John Fritch, President-Elect-Paul Raffer, Secretary-Ed McBride, Treasurer VACANT



This Week's Meeting

Desertarian Reporter: Carole Rogers

President John opened the Zoom meeting with the Four Way Test

Michelle Nobleman holding up a sign to read so we could not fault our memory. A full "room" of 15 Rotarians and 1 Guest.

Our first vocational speaker was Ryan Saunders Ed. D, Principal of Cahuilla Elementary School.

He grew up in Southern Illinois as the first of 6 kids in a small rural town where is was the paper boy for all of the 800 residents.

He has been the principal of the school for 7 years, having taught classrooms previously. His husband, Brad, is also a middle school principal in the District.

He shared a visual report on the Palm Springs School District activities during the Pandemic.

On Nutrition: The District has served 2,263,043 meals to local families from March 16 through August 3 – families show up at the school every Wednesday from 7-8:30 am to collect enough food for 3 meals a day for a week. Local farmers are providing the produce.

On Technology: Every student is issued an Ipad or Chromebook and 4200 internet hot spots have been installed in family homes.

On PPE: Thousands of masks, face shields, plexiglass, wall mounted hand sanitizers, portable washing stations issued.

Distance Learning: Offered an online class to parents – "Distance Learning 101" There is one weekly class Zoom schedule given for all 16 elementary schools. (i.e. 8:45-9:45 English language)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Dowler will be our program speaker on September 26 where he will show slides of the Rotary water project in Moldovia.
- **Vocational Minute Presenters** for next two weeks:
 - 08/26/20-Victoria Bentley 8 **Carole Rogers**
 - o 09/02/20-Judy Bronstein & **Eileen Reilly**
- Michelle Nobleman put on her "Coins for Kids" hat and reminds everyone to donate some coins in a container to be shared some time in the future.
- REMINDER FROM THE BOARD Please pay your dues by September 1!

Birthdays and Anniversaries for August

Birthdays	Birthdate
Alderman, David	27-Aug
Fritch, John	31-Aug
Wedding	Anniversary
Anniversaries	Date
Kalfuss, Leonard &	
Helene A.	29-Aug



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This Week's Meeting (cont.)

The District is on the Governor's "watch list." In order to be removed from it to be able to get back to normal, the County must be Covid virus free for 14 days. The "normal" will be hybrid learning (some on line and some live.) Projected to take place in December but realistically after winter break.

One question came up about how the District was dealing with child abuse or neglect. "Go Guardian" is a program that allows teachers to monitor students buzz words that sends alerts. Also the District employs a licensed mental health professional who can counsel parents and students with the emotional impact of not being around friends and distance learning.

Our next speaker was Jim Dowler, a long time Palm Springs Rotarian of 21 years who recently moved to Arizona. Jim talked about his involvement in Rotary International service projects in four continents from a water project in Moldova (Eastern Europe), Palliative care project in Hungary, Birthing project in Kenya where Rotary built 3 hospitals. Jim is now involved though his local Rotary club in working with the Apache Indian nation on a water project. His club, with his leadership, has also delivered thousands of dictionaries to Apache children,

Frank Peabody reminded Jim that he instigated Frank's involvement in the Tour de Palm Springs where our Club sells logo bicycle apparel.

Bob Allan also reminded Jim that he is responsible for Bob's involvement in the USO at the Palm Springs airport. Bob continues to be on the Board. Jim gave a history of how he brought the USO to life in 2 days when warned that a group of 85 marines were expected. Jim and his wife volunteer once a week at the local Air Force Base.



