



PASADENA ROTARY CLUB
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPOKES NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 5300 * Rotary Club 794 * March 20th, 2020 * #620
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This Week's Program

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

PASADENA ROTARY CLUB'S

MARCH 25, 2020

MEETING CANCELED

DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED HEALTH EVENTS AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE PASADENA ROTARY CLUB MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS THROUGH THE END OF APRIL 2020 ARE CANCELED. IN MID-APRIL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL REEVALUATE THE CURRENT CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CITY, COUNTY AND STATE MANDATES, AND MAKE A DECISION ABOUT FUTURE

CANCELLATIONS.

STAY SAFE, PASADENA ROTARY!



by President Scott Vandrick



Pasadena Rotary Club's Board of Directors adapting to a new way of getting business done. Hats off to all Board members for their service!

First of all, Happy 100th Birthday, Pasadena Rotary Club! Through our collective goodwill and friendships, we have inspired and uplifted our community, created lifelong, positive relationships, and have weathered any number of storms to emerge at this moment in time. I am proud to be a Pasadena Rotarian, and thrilled to be sharing and celebrate this milestone birthday with all of you! Scroll below to see "Happy Birthday!" photos submitted by members to

help commemorate this great occasion.

Now to business: This is an official notice of the cancellation of future meetings THROUGH APRIL 30, 2020. Taking our direction from City, County and State Health Officials, the Pasadena Rotary Club Board of Directors decided to close the Pasadena Rotary Club of Pasadena weekly meetings until such time as deemed safe for public health.

This includes the cancellation of March 25, April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22 and April 29. In mid-April, the Board of Directors will meet again to discuss and decide on the future of scheduled meetings.

You might be wondering about a few pieces of business which the Board of Directors discussed and decided recently, and I'll summarize them for your here:

• The next 7 weekly meetings (through April 30, 2020) of the Pasadena Rotary Club

- The next 7 weekly meetings (through April 30, 2020) of the Pasadena Rotary Club will be canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pasadena Rotary member will not be charged for lunch during this time, and your bill will only reflect membership dues and whatever Rotary Foundation or PolioPlus donations you've individually chosen to give. This nominal amount will continue to support the administration of Club activities during this time.
- The Board has approved a plan to support the University Club during this difficult time through a *Letter of Agreement* which solidifies our partnership over the months and years to come.
- Activities such as Community Grants and International Projects will honor the Club's commitments to fund important work but the approval and awarding of grants will be done virtually and by mail.
- Annual meetings such as Dan Stover Music Competition, Teachers of Excellence and Courageous Citizens, etc. are on hold until more information and direction are received from our elected officials and from Rotary International District 5300.

And a reminder: this weekly correspondence, *Spokes*, will continue to be published each Friday during our closure, so please find possible future cancellations communicated here.

In the *Scout Zone*, you'll find a snippet of what would have been presented to celebrate the Pasadena Rotary Club's 100th birthday. **President Elect Cory Brendel** was tapped to create a reenactment of our Club's founding on March 18, 1920, and that incredibly inventive script is published for your reading enjoyment. I hope you feel the pride I did when I read it the first time!

My spirit of service and my heart of friendship is with you all! Continue to practice kindness and patience as we're all in this unusual situation together, giving each other the right to be scared and to encourage positivity that we'll emerge stronger than ever. As Rotarians, we rise to challenges with dignity and lead with compassion.

Please stay safe and healthy, Pasadena Rotary.

Yours in service,




Scout Zone

By Past President Mary Lou Byrne, Bureau Chief Emeritus

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, PASADENA ROTARY CLUB!

HERE'S TO 100 MORE YEARS OF AMAZING SERVICE!



It was Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – one hundred years since that fateful day when Organizing President Charles J. Hall and the gang got together and founded our beloved Pasadena Rotary Club!

It was supposed to be a party. There was supposed to be champagne, and birthday cake. Chef Eddie of the U Club had planned an extra-special buffet lunch including a prime rib carving station! The Music Committee had a special song to sing, and **President Elect Elect Cory Brendel** had rounded up the Rotary Tarnished Brass Players to perform his own dramatization of the founding of the Club! It was gonna go something like this:

CAST:

NARRATOR – Centennial President Scott Vandrick

WILL – Past President Dave Mans

CHARLEY – Past President Diana Peterson-More

JOE – Past President Mel Cohen

FRANK – Past President Frank Nicholas

JOHN – Immediate Past President Mary Lou Byrne



A dramatization and reenactment of actual events – these fine actors pictured here were time traveled from Los Angeles in 1920 to represent other people – time traveling services courtesy of Robert Lyons Time Travel Inc.

NARRATOR

In 1919, Pasadena was a boom town. The war was over. There was new construction everywhere and new, prosperous businesses starting. Pasadena had become a famous resort destination, boasting such attractions as wonderful weather, the unique Mount Lowe Railway, the Hotel Green, the Tournament of Roses, and renowned architecture such as the Wrigley Mansion, the Gamble House, and the Blacker House. Dr. Willis Baer, President of Occidental College and Vice-President of Union Bank in Pasadena, invited a group of influential Pasadena businessmen to a meeting at Occidental College to propose and discuss starting a Rotary Club in Pasadena. In attendance were Dr. Willis Baer; Charles Hall, Joe Leddy, Frank Creller, John Baer, Jack Mitchell, and Herb Hall.

THE PLAY BEGINS:

WILL Gentlemen, you are men of honor and integrity, and are among the finest men I know. Our businesses are doing well. But we have all done business with persons who we, regrettably, have no intention of doing business with again. We need a way to know our fellow businessmen, a way to know and trust who we interact with. There is a recently formed organization in the country, called Rotary, which encourages and inspires a higher level of conduct from its members, is devoted to community service, and to the creation

of a strong fellowship among its members through regular meetings. It is mostly in major cities, but Charley and I believe Pasadena needs to be a part of this. Charley?

CHARLEY In 2005, an attorney named Paul Harris started the Rotary Club in Chicago. It has taken off. There are now over 150 Rotary Clubs nationwide, including the earliest clubs formed in San Francisco, Seattle, and our nearby Los Angeles Club, which is the 5th club ever formed. Now they are in Canada, England, Europe, and even South America. The purpose of the club is to bring businessmen together to build strong relationships, serve the community in which they live, and most of all, commit to conduct themselves with integrity. Joe?

JOE I've also looked into this a little bit, at Will's request. I'm very impressed. Listen to this: "Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

WILL Gentlemen, we as businessmen cannot live our lives solely in pursuit of money. Profit is of course the first goal of business – without it we cannot support ourselves, our employees, our families, and the charitable causes we believe in. We are no good to anybody if we do not thrive. But the pursuit of profit without integrity, fellowship and service is worse than empty. It leads to avarice, hostility, and corruption. This thing called Rotary is about being better people and better community members. Can we all agree that a fellowship devoted to higher standards can only help everybody?

FRANK I couldn't agree more! I for one would very much like to know a group of other business and community leaders that were committed to these values. I would prefer to do business with men I know and trust, and be in a group that would help me to get to know them better.

JOHN I think this has immense potential! I can see such a fellowship succeeding on several levels: the simple fact of regular meetings cannot help but remind us of how we have committed to live; we could support each other when bad times or business problems arise; and frankly, I think such a fellowship, meeting regularly, would have the inevitable effect of keeping people on track by holding us accountable to our standards. Who among us would want to lose the respect of his peers by being seen to have fallen short of such important, standards and goals?

CHARLEY And there's strength in numbers! Why, we could collectively get behind community service projects! I had lunch with Stu French just the other day... you all know

Stu...He was wondering how the Boy Scouts might raise funds for a clubhouse for their camping trips in the San Gabriels. Maybe we could help them with that?

***WILL** Why not? There is no limit to what we can do, gentlemen! We can become a known and respected force in the community! Shall we do this? Rotary has been a big success in Los Angeles.*

Shall we resolve to form the Pasadena Rotary Club? I propose we do so, and that we should start immediately! That is why you are here.

***ALL YES!** (Various expressions of enthusiastic support: Absolutely! I know of several persons I think would be very interested.)*

***NARRATOR:** The club was formed. The first meeting happened exactly 100 years ago today at Occidental College. Early meetings were subsequently held in Hotel Green, and the club later moved to the Maryland Hotel. The First service project was the construction of a clubhouse in early 1921 for the San Gabriel Boy Scouts on land in Rubio Canyon which was donated by Henry Huntington. At the end of its first year, the club had grown to 37 members.*

The players had met and rehearsed, the moustaches and hats had been procured, and **Cory** had imparted his enthusiastic stage direction to all ("Let the enthusiasm level BUILD!!").

Alas, Pasadena Rotary, it was not to be.

The University Club was dark and silent when **Centennial President Scott** and **Immediate Past President Mary Lou** arrived at noon to sign some important checks for various Club business including one for a fabulous Global Grants project. Club Administrator **Wendy Anderson** was close behind to collect and mail out the checks.





Before leaving, everyone went into the dining room to take one look at what might have been (making sure to leave ample distance and not touch each other). The University Club personnel were hard at work scrubbing everything down, and Food and Beverage Director Jonathan Camacho and Chef Eddie joined our three Rotarians as everyone stood six feet apart and thought about the "birthday blast that might have been," and what will be again.

"Don't forget," said President Scott. "Even though we are physically separated, we still, all of us, have this amazing power. Now let's go on out there and physically distance, but emotionally and spiritually and virtually... connect the world!"


PS: Thank you for helping us celebrate our BIG BIRTHDAY, Pasadena Rotary! Cheers to celebrating all together once again soon.



Rotarians (and pets!) help the Club celebrate, from LEFT TOP: Kori Anderson (Wendy Anderson's dog), Leah Snell and Sable, Deborah Lewis, Past President John Foulkes,

Centennial President Scott and First Gentleman, Tony, and Immediate Past President Mary Lou Byrne and Gary Kearney – all illuminating our future.
Cheers, Pasadena Rotary! You are missed.

Upcoming Events



2020
Rotary
International
Convention in
Hawaii
on June 6-10
has been
canceled

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 2020 CONVENTION CANCELLATION](#)



DISTRICT 5300 ASSEMBLY & CONFERENCE

MAY 1 & MAY 2, 2020

WESTIN, PASADENA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GALA DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020

WESTIN, PASADENA

PASADENA ROTARY CLUB WILL BE MAKING A **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT** THAT EVENING – YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT! MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US!

Happy Birthday To These Rotarians!

Matt Hourihan

March 20

Cyrus Afshin

March 21

Rotaversary

Ellen Simon

March 19, 2008

12 years

Bob Martin

March 20, 2002

18 years

Upcoming Programs

SPOKES is a weekly newsletter published by the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

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See you on Wednesday!

Pasadena CA 91101

*Complimentary Valet Parking

See you on Wednesday!

Should you have questions regarding this publication, please call us at 626-683-8243 or 626-400-6750 or send us an email to office@pasadenarotary.com.

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