



2019 - 2020

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CONTENTS

Call to Order
Thought of the Day
Guests
Club Announcements / News
Milestones
International News
Happy Bucks
Service Above Self
Guest Speaker
The Gallery

IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

4/14 Board Meeting 7 AM
Buttercup Restaurant
4/13 Charitable Fund 5:30 PM
US Bank



Déjà Vu

Coronavirus – Poliomyelitis

As we navigate the days ahead, sans our weekly Rotary meetings, it is interesting to observe how similar the **Coronavirus** is compared to **Polio**—also a virus.

Coronavirus has arrived at a time when almost all of us remember the experiences of the Polio epidemic when we were growing up. Surly we all have a story or knew of someone infected with Polio. It was a time when everyone was at risk—especially children—and there was nothing parents could do to protect their families. Each summer, polio would come on like the plague as beaches and pools would close and children were banned from movie theaters and bowling alleys. Returning to school in September was particularly stressful as we saw the empty desks where some of our friends would never sit in again.



In the 1940s and 1950s, polio infected thousands of children annually. In 1952 alone, nearly 60,000 were infected, leaving thousands paralyzed and more than 3,000 dead. No one knew how polio was spread and fear of the unknown ran rampant. Families were quarantined for 14 days, which was considered polio's lifespan.



Some of you may remember the March of Dimes and how it mobilized millions to raise money. Numerous researchers were seeking a cure, but it was Dr. Jonas Salk of the University of Pittsburgh, who developed the cure. On April 12, 1955, the Salk polio vaccine was declared safe and effective and mass immunization campaigns were conducted. By 1958 the oral vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin which was superior in terms of ease of administration and provided longer-lasting results. It replaced the Salk vaccine.



Today researchers and local governments in America are working around the clock to stop the spread of Coronavirus just as they did a half-century ago when the cure for the Polio virus was being developed.

So Let's Hear Your Story

Did you grow up during the 40s and 50s? Did you know anyone who contracted polio? Email your input to me so we can keep our newsletter going: joandonofrio@email.com.

Vicki Sexton said: I remember that one of my cousins was seven years old at the height of the polio epidemic in the 50s. Her mother was treating her for the "flu." Analee, my cousin, was a very active child. One minute she was active and alert and the next she was paralyzed in bed. After spending some time in an iron lung, her right arm remained paralyzed. Her life lifelong issue with polio is that, over her lifetime time, we've discovered that it had lasting effects on internal organs and her eye sight.



Clayton Worsdell: What I remember about Polio growing up in the 40s and 50s. I grew up in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. I didn't know anyone personally who had Polio. My memories of Polio were when I was in high school, in the late 50s. I would see kids my age with braces and/or with one elevated shoe. I would ask them why they had braces or wore a special shoe and they would tell me that they had Polio when they were younger. I remembered hearing about the Iron Lung and seeing it on early TV. I got the Polio booster vaccination when I went into the U.S. Army in 1960 on a sugar cube. I also remember hearing about Esther Williams who was a champion swimmer who had Polio when she was younger. I remember the March of Dimes boxes being on the counters of all the businesses.



Major Clay tells us that his mom walked upright for the first time since she was a toddler, wearing leg braces purchased by the San Francisco Rotary Club, circa 1948, after surgery at Shriners.



Bill Selb said that when I was growing up in Toledo in the 1940's and 1950's I had about three playmates who wore the leg braces. I remember one year that they cancelled summer camp (which I always looked forward to) due to an epidemic. I remember seeing newsreels of those afflicted in an iron lung. It wasn't a pretty picture. Thank God the kids today don't have to live with that horror.



Joan D'Onofrio said I remember that during the late 40s, when I was around seven or eight years old, I lived on a street where there were at least 30 kids. After dinner, we would all go outside and play until our mothers called us to come in and go to bed. It was puzzling to all of us as to why our friends started disappearing. I remember asking my mother why Billy wasn't playing with us anymore and all she would say is "never mind." No one spoke about the disappearance of about six kids. Fast forward to 1973 when I went to work for a publishing company and one woman in my department had braces on her legs and used crutches to walk. We all assumed she was in an accident as no one ever asked her what her story was, so I decided to. She was 28-years-old and told me that her mother refused to have her get the polio vaccine. When she was 12-years-old she became extremely ill. The rest she didn't have to explain.



How is the Coronavirus Affecting You?

Mary and Dave Kemnitz: We are still working because we are considered an essential business. We have slowed down but still have customers coming in. Cars2nd Chance has gotten very quiet. I will send you a picture of the vehicle the Lamorinda Rotary asked us to recondition in preparation for donating it to the Family Harvest Farm, John Muir Land Trust. We have no memories of polio at all.



Jeff Wilson: I still have people wanting to find homes or wanting to sell. I think once the shelter-in-place is lifted we will see the real estate market jump back and get into the swing of things. Yes, there will be a slight downward drop in values due to this pause in business, but, in my opinion, I believe it will be short lived.



Don Ouimet: said he is not allowed to hold funerals in the building. Anything that anyone wants to be done has to be at the gravesite with 10 or fewer people in attendance. He said they have plenty of refrigeration, so they can postpone events for a while.



Vick Sexton said that the Coronavirus is affecting me now because the clients I volunteer to drive to grocery stores and doctor appointments have mandated me to stop. I'm worried about them and not being allowed to help.

Joan D'Onofrio said that H&R Block closed today, so I am reporting from home. Our clients are all being contacted as their appointments will have to be rescheduled.

“THE MEETING WILL **NOT COME TO ORDER”**



THOUGHT OF THE DAY



Friedrich Nietzsche

*What doesn't kill you
makes you stronger.*

This is an aphorism from Nietzsche, the 19th century German philosopher. It is used as an affirmation of resilience something we are all going to need during this time in our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS



A NOTE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Governor Tina Akins says "I miss you all. Can't wait to come back to your cheerful early morning meetings in person and say hi."

Meantime the Governor wants you to know that they are holding regular district meetings on line via 'zoom' so they are not losing connections to the clubs and members while we are in jail.

CORONAVIRUS CANCELATIONS

The District Assemblies scheduled on March 21 in Red Bluff and April 4 in Fairfield will NOT take place. District Trainer Claire Roberts is working with the presenters scheduled to speak at the Assemblies to create ways to share the content of their presentations in a different way. We are considering webinars or Zoom calls, for example. Please watch for additional info as these plans are developed.

The Redding Passport to Adventure District Conference, May 1-3, has been cancelled/postponed.

The District Governor Line is working hard to figure out what's next. When can we have a conference? How do we structure it to insure a wonderful experience? Stay tuned for details as we put the pieces of the puzzle together.

These decisions were made by the current 5160 past District Governors. They all face the challenge of a daily response to the uncertainty about the Coronavirus pandemic. These decisions were NOT made lightly. The primary concern is the health and safety of **all**: you, your families, and the communities in which these events would have been held.

Governor Tina said: "I want to thank each of you who sent in comments. Your thoughts are appreciated. And a big thank you goes to the past District Governors' advisory committee, who continues to offer their advice and support. For a list of clubs and recent decisions re club meetings and events, see the **EVENT UPDATE LIST** on our district website. Got changes? Send them to me ASAP."

CLOSURE DATES

Our club was obviously closed on **March 19** and will be closed **March 26** and **April 2**. This decision was made in conjunction with the Oakhurst Rotary. We will try to keep the momentum on track by continuing to send out the Newsletter. Your input is valuable, so send us information that you want to share with our members.

CORRECTION

The current President of the San Felipe Rotary is **Sergio Gonzales** NOT Eric Zorr. **Odeon Groff** will be the new President on April 1, 2020. Sorry for this oversight.

ALWAYS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING

Three Little Pigs

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read, "And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'"

The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think the man said?"

Little Johnny raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly, "I think the man would have said: 'Well, I'll be damned!! A talking pig!'"

I Hate School

A mother repeatedly called upstairs for her son to get up, get dressed and get ready for school. It was a familiar routine, especially at exam time.

"I feel sick," said the voice from the bedroom.

"You are not sick. Get up and get ready," called the mother, walking up the stairs and hovering outside the bedroom door.

"I hate school and I'm not going," said the voice from the bedroom, "I'm always getting things wrong, making mistakes and getting told off. Nobody likes me, and I've got no friends. And we have too many tests and they are too confusing. It's all just pointless, and I'm not going to school ever again."

"I'm sorry, but you are going to school," said the mother through the door, continuing encouragingly, "Really, mistakes are how we learn and develop. And please try not to take criticism so personally. And I can't believe that nobody likes you – you have lots of friends at school. And yes, all those tests can be confusing, but we are all tested in many ways throughout our lives, so all of this experience at school is useful for life in general. "

"Besides, you have to go, you are the principal."

The Will

Doug Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons are with him. He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place so he could record his last wishes.

When all is ready he begins to speak, "My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses. My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end. Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre. Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Doug slips away, the nurse says, "Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property".

The wife replies, "No, he was talking his paper route."

...and that's all folks.