



# the CLARIFIER

## CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 50 | December 13, 2019

### ROTARY ENGAGEMENT... AND PLANNING?

*Submitted by Chris Shaner*

We had a great time during our program today!! The final meeting of the decade was to be a strategic planning exercise, but that was eclipsed by the warm up exercise which we all welcomed. We played "Get to know each other better," a sort of bingo game. Cards in hand, we each traversed the room and asked each other questions to fill the card and had a great time exploring one another's past and present! For example, this writer has been in all 50 states! Have you?

During lunch, each table had discussed questions about Club priorities and the responses were given to **President Cameron Troxell**. As a prerequisite to further planning, we were each given a list of questions to answer and return or bring to our January 3rd meeting. The leadership team wants to know what members want from and for the Club. Stay tuned!



### BILL'S BIKES FOR KIDS

*submitted by Buff Wright*

One would love to tell a story of children, Interactors, Rotarians and members of the Claremont Senior Bike Group (CSBG) nestled all snug in their beds on this rainy Saturday winter morning, but NO! At 7 am on December 14, about twenty-five Interactors, senior bikers and Rotarians woke up and headed out to the Presbyterian Church to welcome families to Bill's Bikes for Kids, where at 8 am, 27 children and their families would receive at least one of their Holiday wishes, a brand new bike! **President Cameron** opened with a pledge to the flag.

Claremont Rotary supports programs for young people, and Bill's Bikes for Kids is one of our most successful continuing programs, now in its 20th year! Bill's Bikes for Kids started 20 years ago in the garage of then Rotary Club president Bill Gruber. We were honored today with the presence Lois Gruber, the widow of Bill Gruber, the founder of Bikes for Kids and their son Scott and his wife Trisha. **President Cameron** presented Lois with Bill's Rotary Name Badge as a remembrance of his role in starting the program, which has grown to be one our most popular and beloved youth programs. We are very pleased this year to be able to give away new bikes to 27 very deserving students from four schools: Oakmont, Mountain View, Sumner, and Vista del Valle. Congratulations to each student! On December 7, the bikes were assembled in record time by more than 3 dozen people,



*Continued p. 5.*

## ROTARY: THE MEETING *Notes submitted by Harry Sparrow*

**President Cameron** opened the meeting and turned to **Ron Coleman** to lead the "Smile" song. Cameron then asked **Lucinda McDade** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. And she did!

Songster Ron returned to the front of the room, saying he didn't want to be "Santa mental" but he thought we should sing a traditional holiday song, "[You Better Watch Out.](#)" After the song, Ron pointed out that it was **Paul Steffen's** birthday and that **Nick Quackenbos'** birthday had been the day before. The group sang Happy Birthday to our two celebrants.

### WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

**Frank Hungerford** led the introduction of guests, by presenting **Sharon Douglas**, a visiting Rotarian. She came forward to offer a Rotary Flag from her club; but we couldn't locate ours!

**Ron Coleman's** guests included his father, Harry Coleman, his sister, Lyn Sutton and his brother-in-law, Andy Sutton.

**Jerry Tambe** introduced his son, Patrick, as his guest. We'll be seeing more of Patrick!

Cameron then led the group in reciting the Rotary 4-Way Test, which the whole country would be well served to follow.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Holiday party** was a success, thanks to chair **Anita Boling, Anita Hughes** and all of the members of the Holiday committee, as well as those who brought center pieces and dessert offerings. The Hughes Center became a beautiful venue.

Please be thinking about how to participate in **CHAP**, the City of Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program. **Anita Hughes** will send information about volunteering by email. Information is also available [online](#).

The **Rotary Leadership Institute** will be offered **January 11** at the Windmill Library at 7060 Windill Ln, in Las Vegas. These sessions are great for preparing for leadership roles in Rotary, and are helpful for any leadership role, with training in strategic planning and such. Ask **Anita Hughes** for more information about registering or search for RLI on DACdb.

The **World Peace Conference** will be at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario **January 17-18**. [Register now!](#)

**Ron Coleman** urged everyone to vote in the club election and he sneaked in this groaner. What do you call a frog hanging from the ceiling? Mistle Toad!

**Together We Prepare** will be February 19-21 at El Roble. Watch for sign up sheets!

**Bernadette Kendall** celebrated that we selected 14 El Roble students for TLC. Two alternate students were provided to Sunrise and then we were able to send two from the Ontario-Montclair Club when two of our students backed out at the last minute.



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In light of this being a gift giving season, **Roger House** shared an insurance claim story associated with a gift. Be aware of the dangers of the latest electronic gift craze. Xbox, Nintendo Wii and Play Station will provide hours of excitement and enjoyment for your growing family. A recent example is from Albert and Alex, two brothers, who concentrated competitively at the game on the screen. When the competition rose to a crescendo, with voices raised, Alex lifted his right arm, throwing the controller at the TV screen with the precision of a baseball fast pitch! The resulting insurance claim for \$1123 for replacement of their new 60-inch Vizio television was denied.



The Club belatedly received a certificate from LA County acknowledging our 90th anniversary.



## End of the year letter from President Cameron Troxell

Greetings! During this break between the two halves of our Rotary year, I hope you experience some seasonal fellowship with family and friends and perhaps some needed tranquility. I look forward to seeing you in the new year at our five January meetings. We have interesting programs lined up, beginning with craft talks on January 3 from two of our newest members: Francis Limbe and Clarina Pia Roda.



One of my greatest joys as a Rotarian came at the December 13 meeting with our Engagement Activity. Everyone present at the meeting was able to connect with at least 20-25 other people in some way. I hope we can continue connecting with others, by either continuing the conversations that were started, or by meeting new people. If you were not present, I encourage you to make these connections too. To this end, **attached** is the Engagement Activity handout (Icebreaker Bingo). Print out a copy, bring it to the meetings in January, and fill up your "Bingo Card". It's a great conversation starter!

I sent a copy of Table Questions distributed at the meeting by email before Christmas. Those who attended the meeting either filled this form out before they left, or took it home to fill out and return later. Basically, we are trying to get input from members to help clarify our club's strategic goals. Whether you were at the December 13 meeting or not, I am asking if you could please complete the **attached** survey form. You could either fill out the digital version and email it back to me at [rotarycam1920@gmail.com](mailto:rotarycam1920@gmail.com), or fill out a printed hard copy and bring it to the meeting on January 3. We will also accept them on January 10. Putting your name on the survey form is optional. The first question on the survey refers to the projects and organizations we currently support, so a third document listing all of them is also **attached**.



Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the life of our club over these past six months. From the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Dunk Tank to Bill's Bikes for Kids on Saturday, December 14, all of your contributions have made a difference. It has also been exciting to have so many new members come into our club. We've had a lot of great Rotary experiences so far, and I hope that 2020 brings a lot more to come!

Warm holiday wishes,

President Cameron

## Bike Repair Station at the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

On December 12, **Cameron Troxell, Tom Shelley, Mark Carson** and **Buff Wright** joined representatives of the City and biking community to dedicate a Bike Repair Stand for the Claremont Wilderness Park. Our club, led by **Tom Shelley**, was instrumental in establishing and funding the stand. **Mark Carson** made a key contribution as well; Permeco fabricated and donated a plaque that credited the Rotary Club of Claremont, Tour de Foothills, Claremont Senior Bike Group and The Friends of the Wilderness Park. It was a nice moment for our Rotary Club.

The event was well covered by the [Friends of the Wilderness Park](#) and [the Courier](#). Read all about it!



## There was time for Sergeants!

**Nick Quackenbos** acted as sergeant and he did a *fine* job.

**Anita Hughes** was fined for appearing on the Channel 11 news – Anita and **Zoe Tebeau** went to see the Christmas lights in Richmond. At one point when their car was stopped, a Channel 11 reporter stuck a mic in their faces and asked them about the lights. Both answered, but Zoe didn't make the final cut when they went to air. Fine!

**Arman Ariane** was fined for being the last to Susie to arrive even though there was conflicting input that **Brett O'Connor** may actually have been the last.

Nick next "sold" an old picture of **Susie Ilsley's** father from the Courier. She would gladly have paid a bigger fine.

**John Allen** was fined for having the audacity to travel for work and business, therefore missing multiple meetings. John named at least five different states that he had visited recently.

**Lucinda McDade** was given the chance to make an announcement for the price of \$1. The Botanic Gardens are having the annual Luminarias program 12/13-14 and 20-21.

**Tom Shelley** was not fined, but thanked richly for leading the efforts to buy and assemble the 27 Bill's Bikes.

**John Tulac** was given the chance to tout his newest grandchild for a dollar.

**Ned Paniagua** was fined for daughter getting her driver's license, with an added fine for **Chrissie Paniagua** who discovered that he hadn't paid for her lunch when she arrived second.

**Rich Laughton** was fined for announcing that Together We Prepare was scheduled on a weekend, though we're sure the kids would love to come to school on Saturday to learn CPR.

**Ron Coleman** was fined, but Nick said maybe we should pay him for being so surprised at the holiday party when he was called up to lead the group in a singalong and he didn't even have a bad joke for the crowd.



### Bill's Bikes for Kids, continued

including Claremont Interact members from CHS and El Roble (thanks to Rotary liaisons **Bridget Healy** and **Nona Tirre**), Claremont Senior Bike Group members, and Claremont Rotarians and family. On the morning of the 14th, the bikes were on display, awaiting arrival of children who had written compelling essays to earn a bike.

Following **Cameron's** introductions, the usual holiday jokes by M.C. **Ron Coleman**, and holiday songs by our Interactors, Ron welcomed the kids and families. He gave thanks for the assistance of the CHS and El Roble Interact Clubs, as well as for the assistance of the Senior Bike Group and countless Rotarians. Purchase of the bikes was made possible by donations from Claremont Rotarians, and the Claremont Senior Bike Group and other local citizens. Richard Mayo of Cycling Connection helped us purchase the bikes through MBI Sport Inc. in South El Monte. Cameron highlighted recent donations, including from Deborah Hench, who again took advantage of a matching gift from the Weingart Foundation, together donating another \$1,000 to the program. Many Rotarians contributed to funding the bikes.

Ron Coleman thanked **Karen Sapio**, pastor of the Presbyterian Church for providing the venue, and the Bikes for Kids Committee: **Tom Shelley, Betty Sheldon, Dennis Smith, Rich Laughton, Jim Lehman, and Lark Gerry**. We welcomed Claremont Superintendent of schools and Rotarian **Dr. Jim Elsasser**, President of the Claremont School Board Steven Llanusa and Director Hillary LaConte, and teachers from the participating schools. Representing the City were Claremont City Council Members Edgar Reece and Cory Calaycay, and former Councilman Sam Pedrosa. Several Claremont Police Bike Safety Officers were an impressive presence. Students received a short bike safety talk from Officer Eric Orozco, accompanied by timely knock knock jokes by Ron, and serious advice about caring for their chain, brakes, tires and most importantly, their helmet. He recommended that they use "529 garage" (<https://project529.com/garage>) to register the bike serial number so it can be identified if the bike is stolen or lost. Sam Pedrosa spoke about the importance of wearing a helmet, even on short rides, illustrating his point with his own helmet, damaged in his accident close to home. Finally, Tom Shelley, chair of Bill's Bikes for Kids, provided information to help parents reinforce best practices and rules of the road for bikes. AND we sang happy birthday to Ron!

After a few more jokes, students were happy to get to the main event, stepping forward to get their bikes and helmets and a box of candy from our local Kiwanis Club! Members of the Sr. Bike Group assisted with adjustments so that the bikes and helmets were just right. It was a great occasion for all!





# Icebreaker Bingo

Find someone who...

Has overcome significant hardship	Has binge watched something	Has done something dangerous	Always YELPs new places first before trying them	Is left-handed
Has a loved one who is far away.	Been on a cruise	Played competitive sports in high school	Has a hidden talent	Has the same number of siblings as you
Has met a famous person	Has had a tattoo or a piercing	Can perfectly recite the 4-Way Test from memory	Has traveled to more than 25 states	Loves to cook
Has a hobby they are excited about	Has felt like an outsider	Speaks another language	Has lived in another country for at least six months	Has attended more than one college
Was born in the same month as you	Helped someone this past week	Currently has at least one pet	Eats at a restaurant one or more times / week	Plays a musical instrument

## Table Questions

1. If I had \$10,000 to spend, here's how I would parcel it out to these projects we now support.

2. Some other projects and organizations I would like my club to support:

a) Along similar lines as the ones we already do

b) New things we haven't yet tried

3. a) Some club social activities I particularly like are...

b) Here's some new ones it would be neat to have the club try...

## Table Questions

4. a) Here's what I personally like most about being a member of Claremont Rotary

b) We are at our best as a club when...

5. Here's how my experience with Claremont Rotary could be even better:

a) Here is what I could do to help with this

b) Here is what the club leadership could do

**Projects/Organizations Supported by the Claremont Rotary Foundation in 2019-2020**

<b>Claremont Community</b>	
	Best B.E.T.T.
	CHS Chamber Choir
	CHS AVID Scholarships
	Community College Scholarships
	CHS Interact Scholarships
	Mountain Biking Team
	Music - Pipe Organ
	Renaissance Scholars
	Scouts
	Rick Whyte Student Awards
	Together We Prepare/CPR
	Bill's Bikes for Kids

<b>Claremont Community</b>	
	Ability First
	ARTstART
	CLASP
	Crossroads
	Forever Kids
	Hope Partners
	Priceless Pets
	RSABG
	Blaidell Center Kitchen Renovation
	Shoes that Fit
	Theater Summer Camp
	Uncommon Good/Clinic to College
	Yellow Bus Program (LA County Fair)

<b>International</b>	
	School for the Blind in Bethlehem
	Education for Girls -- Piyali School (India)
	Jeff Domond -- Hospital/School in Haiti
	Rotaplast
	Shelter Box
	Village Network Africa

<b>District 5300</b>	
	Corazon (building houses in Mexico)
	Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest
	District Governor's Project
	Peace Conference
	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
	Stover Awards
	Teen Leadership Camp (TLC)