



# the CLARIFIER

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 2 | July 10, 2020

## Program: Club Assembly Featuring President Buff Wright

By Jim Lehman

The purpose of a Club Assembly is to provide a platform for the new president to present the leadership team, the budget and her objectives for the coming year. In order to provide relevant context, let us begin at the beginning: Buff was born in Lisbon, Portugal, to missionary parents. [For the rest of this story, see her Sr. Craft Talk. [[8/2/19 Clarifier](#)]] Flashing forward, today, Buff is retired from higher education administration, and is an aspiring Zoom master. She's the mother of Matthew (fiancée Shannon) and Sarah (husband Andrew) and grandmother of Leo (5/7/20), and stepmother to Heather (husband Vince—they have three teenage boys).

President Buff took a few minutes to review the successes of President Cameron Troxell's year, including a Gold Patch for Uniting People, a Gold Patch for Taking Action, a Platinum Governor Distinction Patch, a RI Rotary Citation with Platinum RI President's Distinction, and we are in contention for the District Governor's Bell. We funded local groups such as a new Scout troop, held the Bikes for Kids celebration in December, Together We Prepare at El Roble in February, and a Rotary Work Day at Hope Partners. We sent members to two peace conferences, both District and International. We advanced fellowship activities under the leadership of Susie Ilsley and Nona Tirre, who organized networking events at Taste of Claremont vendor locations. We celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as our usual fall social and an event in March just before social distancing entered our lexicon. Despite the

disruption, we have been able to fund scholarships and Hope Partners.

Our 2020-2021 Foundation budget is funded by the 2019 Taste of Claremont. (A Courier [video from TOC 2019](#) was cued up but refused to play for the meeting—A Taste of Tulac? Maybe, as a random You Tube item then started to play on audio.) OK, order restored. How do we keep doing the important work we are known for?

It starts with the Leadership Team, including Directors **Nona Tirre** (2021), **Mike DeWees** (2021), **Chris Shaner** (2022), **Lark Gerry** (2022), **Susie Ilsley** (2023), and **Jerry Goldman** (2023), along with President Buff, President-elect **Mark Carson** (Secretary), President-elect-elect **Jim Marchant** (Treasurer), Immediate Past-President **Cameron Troxell** and Past President **Ron Coleman** (through December 31—then our new PEEE joins the team as Treasurer). This policy team is augmented by the Management Committee, which oversees fundraising and grants, membership development, public relations, community and youth activities, club meetings, and operations. The Management Committee includes **John Tulac** as Foundation Chair, overseeing District and RI



*Continued on page 3*

### Watch It!

[Here is the link to Buff's first meeting on July 10th.](#)

Password: 5H+9%\$&N

### RI 2020-21 Theme: Rotary Opens Opportunities



RI President Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, **Rotary Opens Opportunities**, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

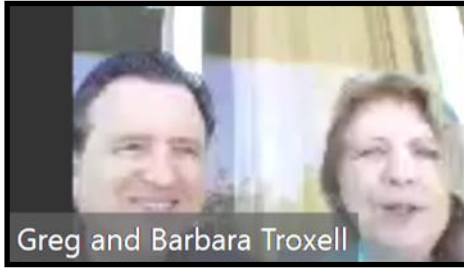
## Rotary, the Meeting

With the ring of her handbell President Buff Wright started her first Zoom meeting.

Congratulations went out to President Buff during the meeting from the group and she credited (blamed?) Bernadette Kendell and Jim Lehman for her trajectory. Early comments were dwarfed by Cameron Troxell's (re) revelation that he

went by Greg for 10 years up to high school before going back to Cameron for college. He changed

his name back in Zoom in honor of our visiting District Governor Greg Jones.



Greg and Barbara Troxell



**Tom Shelley** was thanked for fixing the Rotary Bench. He glued the pieces together and took two pieces of aluminum angle and painted it to avoid having to etch our name again with a router. "You should

have been an engineer," said **Paul Steffen**. Our club gets a lot of exposure on the wilderness trail and we appreciate (actual engineer) Tom's tremendous effort. But Tom really undermined the repair committee that was in process of deciding and delegating and coordinating, rendering many emails moot.

It took Buff less than 5 minutes to mute everyone and explain how zoom views work. Did she mention that we've been doing this for 4 months? There was a moment of silence for our lack of a song and we went into breakout sessions.

Breakout session sneak peek: Group with **Susie Isley, John Tulac, Paul Steffen** and **Mike DeWees** discussed hair, tax deadlines, missing deadlines, frozen turkeys and leeks, moving to Finland, and of course the many reasons Cameron may have changed his name from Greg after 10 years.

*Continued on page 4*

## Welcome Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Two guests today.

Greg Jones is our new district governor from the Pasadena After Hours Club.



John Bifone is new Corporate Associate member who would be inducted already under normal circumstances.

## Inspiration for the Day by John Tulac

Jackie Robinson said: "Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life."

Maya Angelou said: If you're always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be



*John, inspired by the Big Island*

Martin Luther King said: "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Gandhi said: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

But It is too easy to feel small, unimportant, ineffective. However, as the Dalai Lama said: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."

Kavita Ramdas, senior advisor to the Ford Foundation's president, said: "We need women who are so strong they can be gentle, so educated they can be humble, so fierce they can be compassionate, so passionate they can be rational, and so disciplined they can be free."

And we are fortunate to have such a woman in our new Club President, Buff Wright. We are the Rotary Club of Claremont. We can do anything we choose to do.

"And now," as Max said in *Where the Wild Things Are*, "et the wild rumpus start!"

## Program: Club Assembly Featuring President Buff Wright

*Continued from page 1*

grants and projects and donations to our local Rotary Foundation and to RI Foundation. **Harry Sparrow**, whose consulting career has dealt with development of people, is Member Development Chair, and will be paying special attention to engaging members, new ones in particular, in leadership development opportunities within Rotary. **Lyn Childress** chairs Community Service, with a goal of at least four projects for the year (and one—the Thompson Creek Trail benches—is on its way to completion!) in a year where face to face interaction will be severely restricted. She has taken on a challenging task! Youth and Scholarships is chaired by **Paul Steffen**, who will be coordinating with Lyn to engage students in the larger enterprise of Rotary service. **Nona Tirre**, also a Director, is Public Image chair, building on her fine work of the recent past. **Karen Sapio** chairs Administration, and will focus on inclusiveness and engagement.

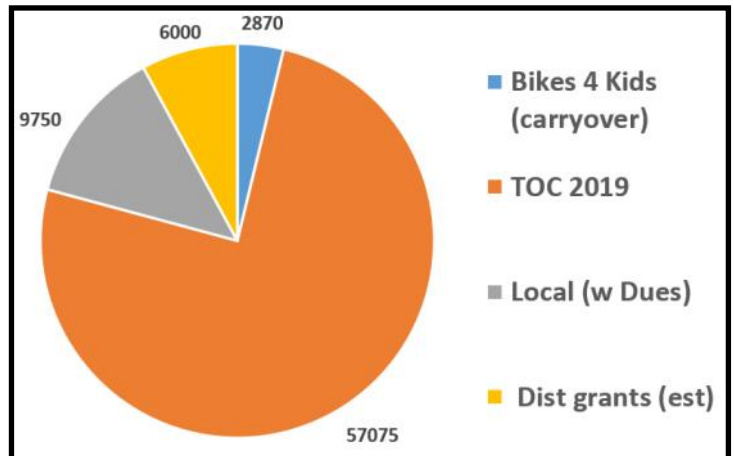
RI, for its part, has a five-year plan for us to 1) increase our impact—it's all local, so what are local needs, and how can we help meet them. 2) Expand our reach—work with community organizations and with other Rotary clubs nearby and abroad. 3) Enhance participant engagement—inspire members and support them as they do the work. 4) Increase our ability to adapt—we have made a good start this year, and will be tested throughout the next.

Everyone's interested in what we do with the money—Budgets! We have two separate budgets, one for Operations, funded from our quarterly dues, and one for Foundation, funded by Taste of Claremont and by quarterly giving. Under Operations, we fund supplies and materials, accounting and legal, public relations and media, District meetings and the travel to the RI Convention for the President-elect and District Conference for the President. We also pay RI dues and District dues for all members. Normally, Operations subsidizes a portion of the meeting cost when we have lunch meetings and social events,

The Foundation Budget: quarterly giving generates, at current giving patterns, about \$13,000 for RI Foundation, about \$1400 for Polio Plus, and about \$10,000 for local Claremont Rotary Foundation-supported projects.

Total **local** Foundation revenue for 2020-2021 looks pretty solid. We have \$57,075 from TOC 2019, \$9750 from member giving, \$6000 (est.) from District grants, and \$2870 from Bikes for Kids carryover from last year.

If we collectively gave at the recommended level for **local** giving, receipts for the Claremont Rotary Foundation would be closer to \$17,000. It's something to think about, especially as the Taste of Claremont, our largest source of local



“Local” Foundation Funds available for 2020-21 projects

funding (the orange area), is on hold for 2021-22.

Now where does all this funding go? We have a long list of recipient organizations from last year, many of which we have been supporting over a number of years. This year we will be asking each to submit proposals for what they'd like us to fund. And the Board will assess priorities before making commitments. Member input will be welcome, and Buff will probably conduct some club polling along the way to get a feel for what the membership wants to do. This same scrutiny will extend to our district and international projects. We have an opportunity to think carefully about how we want to focus our efforts and resources. What will be our best impact on our community? What do we want to be known for?

The Claremont Lions Club (now defunct) was known for providing glasses to people around the world. We know Kiwanis for their griddles and pancakes and hot dogs and burgers, and we have an idea that they support local charitable enterprises like we do, but can we name them? For that matter, can folks name our areas of impact? This year we'll have clubs like Kiwanis come speak to us about what they're doing, which can help inform where we choose to engage.

Buff's superpower is education, policy, and administration. She hopes to have all hands on deck as we get under way, but she confesses she's not great at delegating, so let's help her—take it on, run with it, make it happen. What do you want from Rotary? What inspires you? How will you participate and contribute?

Buff came in for the fellowship, drawn in by her co-sponsors, Bernadette Kendall and Jim Lehman. She was intrigued by Corazon Build after talking to Paul Steffen,

*Continued on page 4*

## Rotary, the Meeting

*Continued from page 2*

### Announcements

**Lucinda McDade** said that the Botanic Gardens is doing “freeze wild” with Burt & Rocky’s. Ice cream infused with native plants. She said they are delicious and she’s still here so safe too! Try the cactus fruit infused vanilla and support local businesses who need it! [calbg.org](http://calbg.org)



**Mark Carson** as chair of Taste of Claremont said that they going in a different direction and are no longer doing taste at usual venue since...well, COVID as you might be aware. Mark said they will do something and it’s being discussed at committee level and keep sponsor level but keeping the TOC brand is also important.

**Anita Hughes** asked for the three choices for service committees so we can divvy up the tasks and update the directory.



**Bridget Healy** announced

that interact officers are meeting via zoom with Brett O’Connor for guidance on the interact club next year.

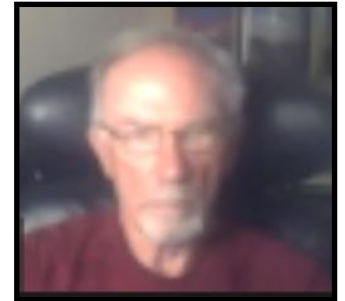
**DG Greg Jones** said RYLA isn’t until next March so he’s hopeful. But TLC is coming up in December and no decision has been made yet but it doesn’t look good. There was a RYLA make-up planned for Fall but that has been cancelled.

### Sergeants



**Bonita Ramos** was the sergeant and fined **Tom Shelley** for his good work on fixing the Claremont Rotary Bench at the top of Mountain. He took it home and fixed it and is reinstalling it Saturday. He was thanked and fined for seeing the need and acting on it by himself.

**Harry Sparrow** was fined for joining a whiskey club and was asked to explain. Harry said his son gave him the membership and they are both doing virtual tastings. (explains why he’s looking fuzzy)



*Continued on page 5*

## Program: Club Assembly

*Continued from page 3*

and joined in several builds in Tecate Mexico. And she had a real Rotary Moment at last year’s RI Convention in Hamburg, as Rotaract members conducted the parade of flags—all 165+ nations of Rotary, carried by the young people who are our future—moving and inspirational.



Comments of appreciation, screen applause, and thumbs up reactions ensued. **Rizek Abusharr**, Honorary Member, former President of the Rotary Club of Jerusalem, introduced himself and greeted members. That led to the introduction of Past President **Lee Goldstein**, former Past President of the Visalia Rotary Club and a frequent visitor.

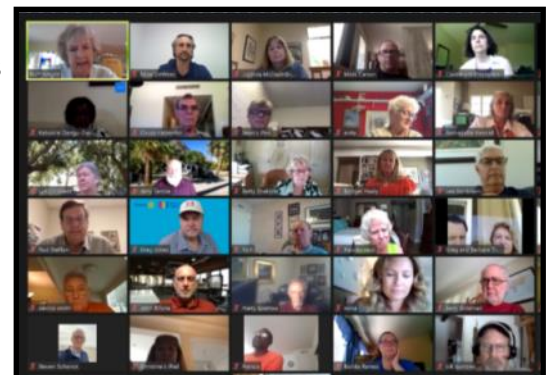


Finally, one further objective President Buff has for the year is that we explore [Rotary Fellowship](#) and [Rotary Action Groups](#), which gather Rotarians from far and wide together around a singular interest. John Tulac is a member of the [Water and Sanitation Action Group](#). Jerry Tambe is a life member of the [Wine Appreciation Fellowship](#) (not tequila?). Harry, there’s one for [Whiskey!](#) (Former member Dan Kentner was a member of a Skiing Fellowship. )

A world-wide selection of Rotary service and experiences is available to enrich your lives and the lives of others!

There will be more on this as we go along.

Great start, President Buff!



## Rotary, the Meeting

*Continued from page 4*

### Sergeants

**Marc Carson:** fined for his daughter Julien is now a licensed driver after pushing off an appointment due to COVID and passed with flying colors.

**John Tulac:** fined for a class he is teaching, a class (assumed in international law?) he is doing online and has been teaching for 16 years...NOT taped. It consists of recorded lectures and a focus on breakout sessions.



**Nona Tirre** also fined for giving intel that John was “taping” and that isn’t a term used anymore since the 90’s.

**Rich Laughton** took the RV up to Temecula for 5 days and enjoyed the town at a social distance

**Frank Bedoya** missed a fine by being absent, but **Bridget Healy** caught his fine by listening to the police commission meeting. Frank is the chair of the police commission...there were a ton of public comments and it went to 1am.



Bonita asked **Jerry Tambe** who was Rotary’s first club president...Jerry said **Lee Goldstein** but the answer was Silvester Schiele.

She then asked **Lee Goldstein** what the clubs of Ecuador, Uganda and Singapore and Kampala all have in common? Lee said they all meet on Wednesday but the answer is they all meet on the equator. Nice guess!

## Greetings from Pete Robertson

Pete Robertson has been a member of Claremont Rotary since August 1971! He recently moved to Aptos, near Monterrey, but hasn’t cut ties with the Club! He considers Claremont his home town. Pete’s wife died after 57 years and he reconnected with his high school sweetheart as her husband had also died. They got married and moved to Aptos, so we won’t likely see him unless we can persuade him to drop in on zoom! He says that he enjoys reading about all of us and keep my dues in Claremont Rotary — next August will be 50 years in the Club. Pete was President in 1985-86 when the Club hit its high water mark in membership at 122, and the club started the breakfast club (Sunrise) the same year.



Pete wanted us to know that he has many fine memories of Claremont Rotary and sends greetings to all who know him!

# IN-ZOOM

## Zoom Audio Transcript (voice-text (mis)translations)

Buff Wright: And I am happy tangy. Oh, Greg. You're still here. I thought maybe you would leave after that.

Ronald Coleman: Mm hmm. Well, what would. What do you call a rapper. That works at Burton Rockies.

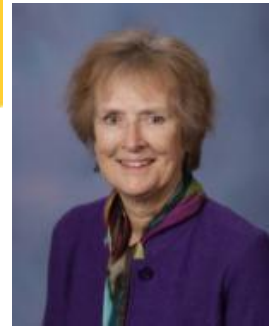
Lucinda.McDade: Oh no, that I don't know, run.

Ronald Coleman: Scoop dog.

Bonita Ramos: And is free, but on here. Well, we're welcome. We're glad you made it back safely from your troubles is Frank, but I'm here.

Okay, I'm Brigette. Do you wanna I understand that he was putting you to sleep last night there was a meeting with the police commissioner, is that correct





**Buff Wright**

Claremont Rotary  
President  
2020-2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

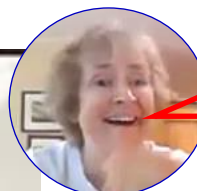
July 17	Randy Lopez, Claremont Chamber of Commerce
July 24	Having Difficult Conversations, Leah Zimmerman
July 31	Chaos & Ash, Kendall Johnson

### Photo of the week



Schenck

*A pic of a pic of a pic taker*



Are we having fun yet?

Virtually..but your presidency is still in its infancy.



**Bacon Bits**

Let's fill up the pig!



Sergeants' committee gathers before each meeting at 11:30 AM in the Orchard Lounge at the DoubleTree Hotel and anyone with information to share is welcome!!



### Clarifier Committee

- Mike DeWees, publisher
- Lark Gerry
- Bobby Hyde
- Jim Lehman
- Steve Schenck
- Chris Shaner
- Harry Sparrow
- Peter Weinberger
- Buff Wright, editor



### Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are always available on [DACdb](http://DACdb) and [www.claremontRotary.org](http://www.claremontRotary.org)

### Join us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont)

### Taste of Claremont

[tasteofclaremont.org/](http://tasteofclaremont.org/)

### July Birthdays

- Marc Winter 7/4
- Cameron Troxell 7/9
- Karen Sapio 7/12
- James Elsasser 7/14
- Carole Dorsey 7/18
- John Bifone 7/19
- Jack Schuster 7/23
- Abe Esquibel, Felix Villanueva 7/24



*Notes: Mike DeWees (meeting), Jim Lehman (program) Photos: Steve Schenck  
The Claremont Rotary Club meets at the Claremont DoubleTree on Foothill at 12:10pm*