

the CLARifier

CLAREMONT ROTARY NEWSLETTER

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 95 | Week 18 | November 3, 2023

PROGRAM: Claremont Police Chief Aaron Fate

Submitted by Buff Wright



Alan Jack introduced the speaker for today, Aaron Fate. Aaron still prefers to be called Aaron...he doesn't always answer to Chief!

He told about his development in the department. He began employment with the Claremont Police Department 25 years ago. He was looking for a job at a time when 100 people would show up in the El Roble

Gym, and many already were uniformed. He was chosen, to his surprise, and then went to a 6 month academy as a patrol officer. After that he became a motorcycle officer for several years, writing tickets and making friends left and right (that got a laugh). Then he started teaching in the DARE program when it switched from talking about drugs to 5th graders, to talking about life choices. His bureau also dealt with other administrative tasks.

He then got promoted to "agent". Introducing himself as "Agent Fate" drew some interesting responses – they figured he was FBI or some such. The title was renamed Corporal. His next step was Detective. When he indicated a preference to work in robberies, he got assigned to domestic violence and child abuse and sex crimes. It was oddly gratifying because he had an opportunity to direct the offenders and victims to services that would help. But it was also a trying case load that weighed on him.

When his first daughter was born, it seemed a good time to move up. He became a Sergeant and supervised people in the field for several years. Aaron picked up more tasks when they had to lay off one of the two Captains. He learned a lot about the department in that year about jail regulations, records, dispatch, etc. At the end of the year, they shifted the responsibility to a civilian, and he was promoted to Lieutenant, back in the field, overseeing shifts. He was then Captain of Operations for 5 years, then two years ago he became Chief. Time flies!

From April 2020 and April 22, the department lost 44% of staff. So when he took over as Chief in November 2021, his number one goal was staffing. Finding qualified people is a challenge. They changed testing requirements, and some other processes. They found four people who could be sent to the Academy. He would have been happy with two. They all graduated! Then they went to the more rigorous field training program, and 2 passed. Those two hires started to build the force. They also were confronted with officers who wanted to transfer from other departments – not always a good thing as the culture of the prior department might be different. Right now, they have one more person on staff than is in the budget. This helps with filling planned retirements, but is a budget issue short term.

Continued, p. 4

NO MEETING

**NOVEMBER 10 for
Veteran's Day nor
NOVEMBER 24 for
Thanksgiving**

Next Hybrid Meeting Nov. 17

District Governor Mike Soden
12:10 pm @ HUGHES CENTER
[ZOOM LINK](#)

Inside This Issue

P.2 Welcome, Announcements, Inspiration
P.3 Sergeants
P.4 Program, cont'd
P.5 Bacon Bits, events, etc
P.6 Peace Conference

Rotary (the hybrid) Meeting.

Submitted by Mike DeWees

President Nona wasn't feeling well, so instead of a wig we got the opposite, with charismatic Past President **Ron Coleman**. **Chris Shaner** led "Smile," "America the Beautiful" with **Cameron Troxell** on the piano, and **Susie Ilsey** led the Pledge of Allegiance.



WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

Ron resumed the meeting earlier than usual and brought Jim Marchant back up for guest and visiting Rotarian introductions.

Marla Lefler's son **Paul** and his dog Trump joined us again (and brought avocados for sale from their grove)



Mike DeWees' daughters Natalie and Emma, both of whom are in Interact, joined us.

Alan Jack introduced visitor **John Hill**, and perhaps sensing this was the only introduction he was going to be allowed to give today he gave us John's very impressive bio. A 22 year Sheriff veteran, John also worked for the UN Police Task Force and currently works for a non profit offering scholarships to students in Guatemala.

Cameron and Barbara Troxell introduced **Martina Del Curto**, technically CHS Principal James Mitchell's guest. Martina is an exchange student from Italy staying with the Troxells.

Chris Shaner led the "Welcome Song" and was treated with a Ron joke.

"Hey Chris, did you hear someone stole the toilet at the police station? The officers have nothing to go on!"

The jokes continued to have a police theme in tribute to our program, but no donuts please!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Ralls announced "**Bills Bikes for Kids**" is coming up. The build is on **Dec. 9** at the Claremont Presbyterian Church and the giveaway will be there the next Saturday, **Dec 16**. This year there will be 31 bikes with helmets and locks. We're looking for donations, if you are able to give, to reach our \$4,000 goal.

Mike DeWees announced that the Tour de Foothills bicycle race is **Nov 11th**. Our club, along with our Interact clubs will be working the Support and Gear (SAG) Stop at 856 Sierra Madre Ave. in Glendora from 8am to 11am. Come out and be of service. It's fun handing out treats to bicyclists and perhaps we'll see a Bill's Bikes for Kids recipient from a decade ago or more!



INSPIRATION FOR THE DAY

Submitted by Jim Marchant

Jim prefaced the thought with the acknowledgement that there is a lot going on in the world today.

Peace does not rest in charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people.....So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper; let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace, in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the UN General Assembly, 1963



Registration is open for the **January 27 Peace Conference**. [Click here](#) if you know your login, otherwise use the link in the cover memo. See attached flier for more information.

NEW ROTARACT CLUB FORMING!

Students at Pomona College are establishing a Rotaract Club for the Claremont Colleges! Claremont Rotary is the sponsoring the Club, and **Jim Marchant** will be the Club liaison.

Rotaract Clubs are official Rotary Clubs for young Rotarians in colleges or communities. Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18–30 to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service.

In communities worldwide, Rotary and Rotaract members work side by side to take action through service. From big cities to rural villages, Rotaract is changing communities like ours.

Rotaract members decide how to organize and run their clubs, manage their own funds, and plan and carry out activities and service projects. Rotary club sponsors offer guidance and support and work with the Rotaract club as partners in service.

Fine Time with Sergeant Steve Juliar

With PE Susie Ilsley on pig duty

It's 12:35, Sergeant Time! (I told you he started early)

Ron introduced the sergeant with: "Hey Steve, what do you call it when a prisoner takes his own mug shot? A cell-fie!"

Sylvia Whitlock was fined for receiving a recognition from The University Club of Claremont. **Harry Sparrow** was in attendance as well and mentioned that the Piyali School in India received a grant.

Ron Coleman was fined for being optimistic about the stock market now that the Fed isn't raising interest rates. Read the disclaimers on Facebook....

"Fun" Fact for November: Why do they (who?) call it "Bloody November?" **Mike DeWees** was way off as it referenced the timing of slaughtering of cows. "Fun"?

Marla Lefler was fined for selling a big bag of avocados for just \$10 each. Mike's had 17 avocados in it!

Jim Marchant was fined for not knowing that we "fall back" with time change this Saturday. Closer to fun.

Harry Sparrow was asked "what happens in November that is the cornerstone of our democracy?" Veteran's Day? Well yes, but Steve was looking for "elections."

Jerry Tambe (not to be confused with Gerry Coleman or Ron Goldman) was asked "What is Nov 1st in Mexico" Jerry, who goes down to Mexico so often he may be a dual citizen at this point, obviously knew the answer and Steve gave him a free pass.

For **John Howland**: Two of the most popular toys were released in November. What are they?" John guessed Barbie and American Girl but the answer was Monopoly and Easy Bake Oven.

Arman Ariane was recognized for a wig that was a large orange afro. He pointed out that if it matches the Sergeants hair- no fine!

Don't forget to feed the Pig Online!

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=GRD58BXHBYQMJ&source=url

And leading up to the program about the CPD, Ron quipped: "Did you hear about the criminal who stole a lamp? He got a light sentence!" (Bet Chief Aaron had never heard that one!)

Good job Ron! We almost missed these.



Aaron Fate, continued from page 1

Changes in technology like video cameras have been a challenge for the “old-timers”. And new officers are often being met with older officers asking why they’d want to be an officer these days. But the department and still has and is still getting, good, proactive people who want to serve and are proud to be out there. It’s not fun working with people who just put in time. These have been challenging times, but letting officers ride it out to retirement isn’t good. Fortunately that isn’t the culture of the Claremont Police Department.

Planning for the future is critical. He has been trying to give challenging workload to people who need to be energized and they step up! This has held on to good people. He wants people to feel supported and recognized.

Q&A

How do you hire quality officers? Background checks are important. Some departments are less discriminate and hire people who have left their current department under a cloud. Systems are being put in place to decertify officers at the state level so it is easier to do due diligence.

A couple of years ago, when being an officer wasn’t fun and apparently wasn’t appreciated by the public, some folks did some introspection and decided being on the force wasn’t worth it and took early retirement or just left.

How do you deal with helping officers through the changes coming about with higher density, drug dealing, homelessness? Current strategy is having extra people to slot in when someone retires. As things change, it takes time to catch up. There’s no easy answer, but we’re fortunate because we have good relationships with surrounding law enforcement. DA office investigators, and others have helped us with our prostitution issues. Other departments have asked to be able to work with our undercover teams to get experience. It’s good for everyone.

We see a lot of minor crimes in the police blotter. How many of the commercial burglaries and such are solved? For example, we’re coming up with ways to track known burglars with technology (tracers on cars). It isn’t easy.

Is the police department PAC Team still working with mental health issues? Yes, though it is difficult to recruit for the program. But it’s working. There is follow up on the cases, which is more satisfying for officers than moving from case to case. For example, in one family call, the officer noticed that the troubled daughter with mental health challenges kept a journal with heartbreaking

pictures she had drawn. The officer was able to get her into substantial mental health programs, and she’s doing well now. It made a difference.

Rotary is putting emphasis on mental health this year. Aaron says that the department is trying to destigmatize mental health problems, even for police officers who are unwilling to ask for help. About a year ago the CPD developed a peer support team of trained officers to help their colleagues and others.

What is the department’s need for expanded or new facilities? We haven’t given up on it, but a new facility isn’t moving ahead. The facilities weren’t well maintained when the department thought it would get a new building—over many years. With the more recent realization that it’s unlikely, they’ve painted, gotten new flooring and done some other easy projects. The sergeant’s office was in a broom closet. Various renovations done by police department employees have helped. The CUSD gave the department modular buildings they didn’t need. The department is creating a museum, including old documents, many written by hand in cursive, old radios and such. Other fixtures have been donated. So there’s been headway. What is really lacking is female locker rooms since there weren’t women when the facility was built. There’s a trailer out back. Montclair and Pomona let us use their shooting ranges.

To thank him for coming, a check for \$500 was donated to the Center for Restorative Justice Works in Aaron’s honor.

And Ron’s grand finale: Did you hear about the celery that was arrested? They charged him with stalking.





Nona Tirre Miranda
Claremont Rotary
President
2023-2024

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Nov 10	Dark for Veteran's Day
Nov 17	District Governor's visit — and a chance for us to show what we're about!
Nov 24	Dark for Thanksgiving
Dec 1	Recycling, Kristin Mikula, City of Claremont



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!

Help Rotary fight disease! Feed the pig at the meeting, send fines and donations for Polio Plus [here](#), or mail your check to:
Claremont Rotary
Foundation
PO Box 357
Claremont 91711



Photo by Debbie Heyer (taken from Facebook.) This is the moon rising over Mt. Ranier on October 29.

Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are available on [DACdb](#) and claremontrotary.com

Visit: [Taste of Claremont 2023](#)

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont

Club [Bylaws](#) and [Policies](#) are posted for member access on DACdb

November Birthdays

Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo 11/3
Marla Lefler 11/6
Blanca Aguiar 11/10
Mike Pearlman 11/15
Jim Marchant 11/22



**Sergeants committee
gathers before each
meeting .**

**Anyone is welcome to
share information!!**

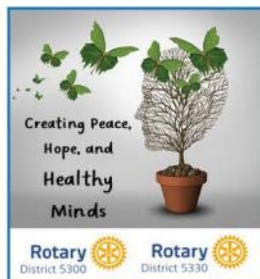
Steve Juliar, chair

Clarifier Committee

Mike DeWees
Evan Freund
Chris Hayes Shaner
Harry Sparrow
Alan Jack (ph)
Beatrice Casagran (ph)
Buff Wright, *editor*

YOU?

*Submitted by Buff Wright and Mike DeWees; photos by Alan Jack & Ron Coleman selfie
Claremont Rotary Club meets on Friday at 12:10 at the Hughes Center and on zoom*



Garbis Der-Yeghian 34th Annual Peace Conference

THEME: Creating Peace, Hope, and Healthy Minds

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Registration Check-in/Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Conference Begins Promptly at 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum



Keynote Speaker:

Brian Rusch

CEO—Out for Equality

Founding Member of RI DEI Task Force

Vice Chair- RI Joint Advisory Council of DEI

Past President and Founder of Rotary eClub for Global Action



Engaging Panel on Mental Health, covering:

Destigmatizing Conversations, Raising Awareness, and Advancing Access



Jenn Freeman

Autistic American
choreographer, dance
performer, and educator



Lora Illig

Former Executive
Director for NAMI
Pomona Valley



Chris Florendo

Team Support Leader
CalHOPE & NAMI Greater
Los Angeles County



Sally Sagario

Operations Manager for
NAMI Long Beach/
Whittier

Registration/Admission

(includes continental breakfast and tour of the museum)

\$40.00: early registration by January 26, 2024

\$45.00: at the door if seats are available

**Students/Interact Clubs/Rotaract Clubs free
registration**

To **REGISTER** and for more information, visit the event website at:

<http://district5300.org/peace-conference/>



Scan for Event Page and
Registration



Rotary District 5300
District Governor
Michael Soden



Rotary District 5330
District Governor and
Panelist Moderator
Jamie Zinn



Conference Chair and
Emcee
Rotary District 5300
Mary Ann Lutz