



Rotary **ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS**



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Notes: Anne H **Photos:** Paul W August 14, 2024

Club Website: www.rossmoorrotary.org

District Website: www.rotary5160.org

MEETING NOTES: 08/24/2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David B. Our National Anthem was sung at the Olympics ceremony awarding Scottie Scheffler his golfing gold medal.

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Carol G from Danville Rotary, who now lives in Rossmoor; David H from NY, who came with her; John S, Ros C, a docent at the Blackhawk Museum, and Ted O from Alamo Rotary.

Thought for the Day: David B read several positive statements, such as “enjoy the little things in life, as, looking back, these may seem like big things” and, “memories sometimes sneak out of my eyes and onto my cheek.”

Happy Dollars: Norm A, for being a new member of the BOD; Sharon, for the speaker, and how lucky we are to be in this country; David B, remaining happy; Jim D, in a good mood; Sue, happy to be the PAST President; John K, celebrating Ellie’s 6th birthday; and John R, in honor of his age, 80+.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raffle: Irv F and Peter S both won a bottle of wine.

Anniversary: John R had a birthday on 8/19.

Norm A was appointed to fill out the remaining time of Norm J’s term on the BOD.

We are co-sponsoring with the Italian American Club a golf tournament and BBQ on Sept. 13, Friday. Sign up for golf at the golf shop by Sept. 6. \$40 for BBQ only. Sign up for the BBQ by Aug. 29. See the Rossmoor News for more information.

San Ramon Rotary is sponsoring a pet CPR clinic Friday, Sept. 7. If interested, see Carolyn.

Orinda Rotary is having a Dancing with the Cars event Friday Sept. 6. If interested, see Carolyn.

Jim O has volunteered to be our Polio Warrior again this year. This involves keeping up with Rotary information on polio and presenting this information to our club.

John R was asked to explain the meeting costs to our members: Members pay \$30 for each meeting. This covers lunch, the speaker's honorarium, room cost, and the printing of this Bulletin. The speaker's honorarium is presented as \$40 in honor of each speaker, and the total is donated to our President's chosen charity at the end of the year.

A member must still pay \$15 per meeting to help defray these costs even without lunch. Although there is optional dessert, if desired, for the \$15.

We are not having a meeting on October 16. Since we are dark, we have invited Safer Streets for Rossmoor to use the room for its organizational meeting.

Kathy S discussed the Silent Auction at our Gala. She would like donations from retailers, gift cards, whatever you can get.

PROGRAM

The Wheelchair Foundation, founded by David's father, Ken Behring, is a nonprofit organization that seeks to deliver a wheelchair to every child and adult who needs one but cannot afford to buy one. In 2001 his father, helping people worldwide with books and information and asking what needs were, was asked to deliver wheelchairs to those who needed them. As a result, his father brought, over time, 335,000 wheelchairs to 156 countries. And now, over 1.2 million wheelchairs have been delivered.

What causes people to lose limbs? Earthquakes are the biggest natural disasters. When a building collapses, it comes straight down, on a person. Limbs are lost. Diabetes is also big, and the number there is rising. Land mines. Then there is special pediatric care for neurological damage, such as cerebral palsy.

Wheelchairs are lifesavers to people who cannot get around without them. An organization on the ground, often local Rotary clubs, decides who need the chairs, and orders the chairs with the right sizing. There are 5 different widths, different sizes for men, women and children. The recipient must be permanently disabled and on a list. David is a long-time Rotarian, and uses his Rotary connections throughout the world. Local Rotaries and other service organizations help organize the people to be served and deliver the chairs.

Once there was fear of an attack in Kabul on the place where the chairs were being delivered. Ken went to a different location, and the recipients came by buses to get the chairs. Getting these people on and off buses was an impressive task, but they wanted the chairs.

Ken met all sorts of dignitaries in his work. He met Nelson Mandela, and felt the compassion in the man. Prince William once helped with the delivery in Ukraine. The delivery of the chairs is as expensive as the chairs themselves.

These chairs change lives recipients go from, "I don't want to live" to "Yes, I want to live." Having mobility changes their lives and also changes the lives of the caregivers. People who couldn't get out of their bed or room, now can get on with their lives. Their caregivers don't have to carry them everywhere they go. One time, Vietnam vets took wheelchairs to Vietnam and gave to friends and old foes, Viet Cong, as well. There was a healing bond. The organization has also arranged for young people to travel and give out the chairs.

The chairs have been manufactured in China for the last 12 to 15 years. China uses lots of robotics, and of course, pays cheaper wages. The chairs cost \$200, which includes shipping. Shipping is expensive and is half of the price of the chairs. Donations to the Wheelchair Foundation are matched. If you give \$100, the Foundation adds \$100, and one chair is paid for.

David then showed us heartwarming slides of people being given chairs.

Since Rotary has helped his organization do so much, David ended with “Rotarians, keep doing good stuff.”

The meet was adjourned at 1: 28 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 21	10:30 RRF Trustee Meeting
Aug 21	Christy Lyng – Sisterhood of Sobriety
Aug 28	Martha Van Orshoven, Janet Hoy – General Election Information League of Women Voters
Sept 4	Camp Royal Students Reporting

Correction: Last weeks bulletin reported that Rossmoor Rotary International Foundation is a 3-year rotation and they gave \$158,000 in grants last year.

Should read: John R reported that Rossmoor Rotary Foundation gave \$158,000 in grants last year.

PHOTOS

