

# Rotary



# Club of Concord

## Events

No Events found

## Birthdays

Nicole Holody  
Sullivan  
July 4th

Alfred (Paul)  
King Jr.  
July 7th

Memory A.  
Woodard  
July 9th

Susan Cohen  
Grossman  
July 13th

Dave Litty  
July 14th

Ronald Melvin  
July 15th

Silvio Garaventa  
July 18th

Rich E. Timmons  
July 21st

Sean Duffey  
July 27th

Michael Joseph  
Barrington  
July 28th

David Miller  
August 1st

## 07-07-23 Concord Rotary Newsletter

By Rick Ernst on Monday, July 10, 2023

07-07- 23 CONCORD ROTARY NEWS LETTER

Upon arriving at the Concord Museum and Event Center on Friday morning, our newly minted high-energy president - to her delight - saw placemats on all the tables that read "**Wanda Waltman, president 2023-24**". So she knew that it was the right location on the right day. And with the traditional ringing of the brass bell, our new Rotary year was off and running at 12:30pm with about 35 members and guests in attendance. Immediate past president **Memory Woodard** led the pledge to our flag, and past president **Rick Ernst** gave an enthusiastic rendition of The 4-Way Test. Guests included former First Dude Dennis Woodard, Dianne Ernst, and Wanda's "hi-tech-hubby" and new First Dude, Chuck Waltman.



We learned R.I. president Gordon R. McNally's theme for 2023-24 is for Rotary "**To Create Hope in the World**" by working for peace and mental well-being. He urges members to engage in tough conversations and earn the trust that's necessary to realize these values. We also learned that our District Governor this year is Claire Roberts who will be our program speaker on October 6th. President Wanda introduced those board

members who will serve under her leadership, including president-elect Jim Kohl (no, he does not own the department store of that name).

Happy Bucks were reported by **Celeste Graham** and **Inge Yarborough**, who had traveled to exotic overseas destinations during the past month. **Greg Grassi**, also on family vacation to Sand Pointe, Idaho, informed us that it was a great place to escape the intense heat here in the Bay Area. Thanks to all for your 'Happy Bucks' contributions.

PP **Memory** donated \$100 to the Concord Rotary Endowment in recognition of her upcoming birthday this weekend. Your investigating reporter will attempt to learn if this one is a "significant" birthday, since her 60th wedding anniversary is coming up in October.

Also, kudos to **Sil Garaventa** for his 49 years of outstanding Rotary service, including past president. And thanks to John Kaminski (15 years) and his family members and fellow Rotarians, **Brad and Stephanie Prescott**.



CAMP VENTURE: Past president **David Litty** gave a most informative recap of Camp Venture, held June 21-25 at the Maritime Academy in Vallejo with 7 teams of students formulating business plans that were presented at closing ceremonies. This is also a confidence-building opportunity; Dave shared examples of how students who may have felt intimidated or not qualified to pursue this intense learning seminar gained confidence through teamwork and mentoring by the staff. What a great growth opportunity for these 21 students!

#### BACKPACKS TO SALVATION ARMY

Our board had previously approved awarding \$1,500 for student backpacks during a year when other funding had fallen through. Rotary to the rescue!! **Memory Woodard** and **Rick Ernst** journeyed out to The Salvation Army Community Center to ensure that our contribution was received in time for buying those packs. How appreciative **Major Gwyn Jones** is!!

#### DEMOTION PARTY

Past president Rick Ernst shared a recap - with photos - of Memory's demotion party, attended by more than 60 Rotarians and guests. Biggest surprise of the evening? The arrival of former Youth exchange student Isabel Grietzke who travelled all the way from Germany. We thank the Calhoun's for, once again, being our party hosts. The program honoring Memory included remarks and tributes by visiting District Governor Suzanne Bragdon, **Stephanie Prescott**, **Michael Barrington** and emcee **Rick Ernst**. The evening concluded with an official ringing of the bell by incoming president **Wanda Waltman**.

#### 4TH OF JULY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

What a success with more than 375 breakfasts sold in our Rotary kitchen in Todos Santos Park! Lots of volunteers made quick work of the set-up and ready to serve by 8:00am. Fellowship Chair **Rita Corbinook** shared highlights of the event. Special recognition goes to **George "Beater Batter" Calhoun** who made sure the pancake batter was always ready for the next wave of clients and "Super Pancake Flippers", **Richard Andrus**, **Tony Akins** and Concord Diablo Club President, **Lee Koellermeier**, expertly tossed more than 700 pancakes that morning. This is our second year as the official pancake breakfast vendor. We'll be growing this event in both capacity and in sponsorships year-after-year.

Consider being on the work team and working on this fun annual project.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS: / UPCOMING PROJECTS

Lady Bug Assembly session will be at 11:00am on Monday, July 10th. Work site will be **Stephanie Prescott's** home. All are welcome and, as we all know, "many hands lighten the load" so please join us on Monday. (max of 2 hour project).



OUR PROGRAM SPEAKER Fellow Rotarian **Monica Holland**, District Executive for the Golden Gate Area Council of Scouts USA was our program speaker. We could immediately sense how enthusiastic Monica is about her role in Scouts USA. We learned about the updated organization of Scouting – which for some time now has been all inclusive, accepting girls & LGBTQ youth". The opportunities for achievement and personal growth that come with scouting are impressive.

Monica has taken on the role of what 3 other scouting executives were responsible for; so, if we don't see our Monica at many of our Friday club meetings, you can be assured she is working on her Scouting responsibilities. We learned about all the diverse development programs in scouting, many leading to the rank of Eagle Scout. Among our Rotarians, **Gene Voelkel, Al**

**Kappadahl** and **Brad Prescott** have all achieved that high rank of achievement. Thank you, Monica, for a most interesting insight into what Scouting is about in these challenging times.

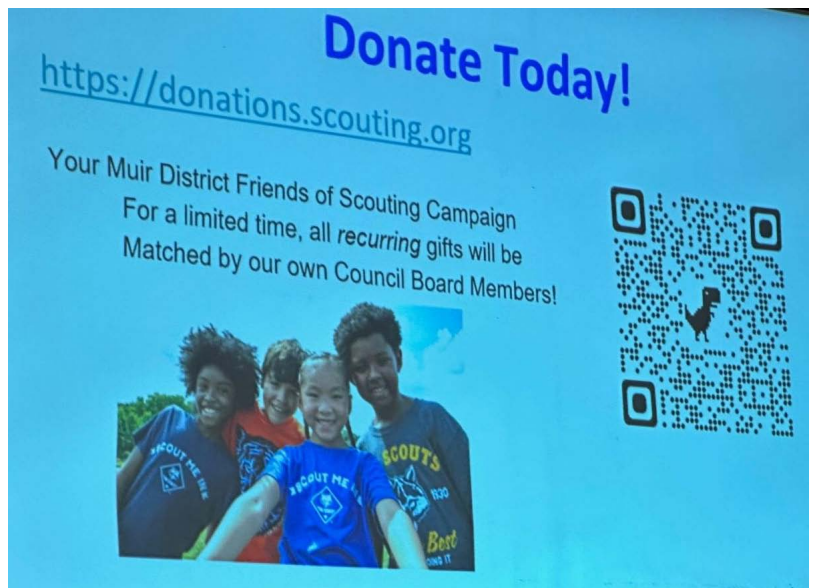
Use the QR Code on the right to donate in support of our regional Scouts.

For our traditional drawing, **Kevin Matteri** had the right number, but not the elusive black marble and took home a Starbucks Gift card.

#### OUR NEXT MEETING:

Friday, July14, Dr. Jeff Clark, D.C., topic: health issues relating to the upper cervical spine. Ed note; considering





many of us have back-related pain, this should be a popular topic next week.

Right on time, president Wanda adjourned our first meeting of the new year at 1:35 pm, reminding us that *"We are a great club that does good things; so, let's continue to celebrate that throughout the year."*

## Upcoming Speakers

### Club Leaders



[Wanda D. Waltman](#)  
President



[James Kohl](#)  
President-Elect



[Sandra J. Newman](#)  
Secretary



[Nickolas Peterson](#)  
Treasurer Club



[Gregory M. Grassi](#)  
Treasurer  
Endowment (T)



[Anthony A. Akins](#)  
Rotary  
Foundation



[Sean Duffey](#)  
Membership Chair



[Rick Ernst](#)  
Membership  
Service



[Bryan E. Keding](#)  
Community  
Service



[Elizabeth E. Willer](#)  
Club Programs  
Chair - Fellowship



[Michael Joseph Barrington](#)  
International  
Service



[Dave Litty](#)  
Vocational Service



[Leslie Chapman](#)  
Youth Service -  
Interact



[Memory A. Woodard](#)  
iPast President



[Cathy Durfee](#)  
Assistant  
Governor