

# Rotary



## Club of Concord

### Events

???????

### Birthdays

William Bobetsky  
October 23rd  
Jorge A Cordova  
November 7th  
Monica Holland  
November 15th

## 10/22/2024 Concord Rotary Newsletter



Meeting Notes: **Rick Ernst**

Newsletter Editor: **Ron Leone**

Read below to learn what's going on at your club! Do you know how to add to this newsletter, our Concord Rotary Website or Facebook? Send articles and photos to **Guy Bjerke** <[guybjerke@gmail.com](mailto:guybjerke@gmail.com)>.

## Rotary Meeting Notes for 10/18/24

### WELCOME ROTARIANS AND GUEST, TO CONCORD ROTARY

On this “summer-like day” in mid-October, forty Rotarians and their guests convened at the CMEC (aka Concord Museum & Event Center) to enjoy the fellowship that accompanies active membership in Rotary. Welcome, everyone!

Following the pledge to our flag, led by **Jerry Hoobler**, and a recitation of Rotary’s 4-Way Test by **Chris Moulis**, our guests were introduced and welcomed. Among them was Teresa. **Bill McQueen’s** sweetheart, and Dennis Woodard, filling-in for **Memory** today. And a special welcome to our League of Women Voters representatives, Martha Van Orshoven and Carole Woods, our program speakers today. Also attending is Mike McConnell, managing director of the Gambia Rising project and in collaboration with our local Rotary clubs.



Polio-Plus Chair, **Nick Virgallito**, presented an update on our club’s assigned goal to contribute \$1,500 (or greater) to support this world-wide Rotary program. Big thanks to Golden State Lumber’s **Kevin Matteri** who ‘filled the gap’, enabling us to reach our club’s assigned goal. Additional generous donors today, each sharing a personal note, included **Chris Moulis**, **Tony Akins**, **Dennis & Memory Woodard**, **Michael Barrington**, **Guy**

**Bjerke, Elisabeth Andreason, and Susan Cohen-Grossman.** A bit of levity presented itself as we listened to what could only be termed “a fiasco” for **Michael Barrington** and **George Calhoun** on their return trip from Mexico, the challenges they faced maneuvering through San Francisco’s customs and how they wound-up getting separated and traveling back to Concord on individual BART trains. What a hoot!

Birthdays and club anniversaries of our fellow Rotarians were enthusiastically announced. **Marilyn McClaskey**, thank you for 25 years of Rotary service, including your year as club president. Thank you, **Beth Willer** for becoming such an active new Rotarian in the 2 years you’ve been a member, including your new role as International Service chair on our board of directors. **Bill Bobetsky** was recognized for his 44 years as a Rotarian, many of those heading-up our community service projects. Bill has jokingly been nicknamed “Houdini” as he’s managed to escape serving as club president through all those years.



Next on today’s agenda was a wonderful career talk by red badger **Niko Anagnostopoulos** sharing highlights of his quarter-century in the field of health care. A native of Concord and graduate of Ygnacio Valley High, Niko has earned a number of certifications in his chosen field and is proud of the many roles in which he has served over the years. He thanks former YV state teacher-of-the-year, registered nurse Janet Gower, for launching his career in health care. The majority of those years were with Kaiser Permanente, from which Niko recently retired. We look forward to

becoming better acquainted with our newest Rotarian. And thank you for the personal ‘phonics’ instruction last week, helping your newly-found friends to correctly pronounce your 15-letter surname of Greek heritage. Bear with us if we occasionally mispronounce your name. Some of us are slow learners!

### **Today’s Speakers**

**Carol Woods and Martha Van Orshoven**

**League of Women Voters**



The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. They empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy**, **education**, and **litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

The League was formed in 1920 after the passage of women's suffrage and has kept the name even though men are welcome. Their goal is to have an informed citizenry. On the 2024 ballot there are 10 initiatives. The last five of (32, 33, 34, 35, 36) are what is referred to as 'initiative statutes.' They are put on the ballot by collecting signatures. In California, about 600,000 signatures are needed to have these measures qualify to be placed on the ballot. These are the most complicated and controversial measures and are being proposed by people who have special interests and/or who want something to change. The League recommends that voters read the voter information pamphlet that is far more informative than the screen images you'll see on your home TV. These guides provide all that is needed to make an informed vote after considering the following:

- what is it that wants to be changed?
- what is the current situation?
- what is the fiscal effect?
- what do supporters say?
- what do the opponents say?

Note: Our limited meeting time, in addition to having experienced technical issues with their data file, did not enable us to review all the initiative statutes. This also restricted time made available for Q&A. The speaker informed us that further information about the proposed initiatives may be found on the League's website.

### **Presentation of District Grant:**





Our ongoing commitment to Rotary's International Service projects was clearly demonstrated as Gambia Rising's managing trustee, Mike McConnell, was presented a \$25,000 District Grant check. Funds will be utilized for much-needed renovation of buildings and apartments in the upcountry area of the Gambia to be occupied by the teachers at their schools. Thanks to the DV-8 clubs who collaborated to make this district grant become reality.




**Ah, the magic of Rotary!!**

Before concluding our meeting today, **Elisabeth Andreason** was handed the mic to share this brief, but a amazing Rotary experience during her recent visit to the British Isles. Seems that, on arriving at the gorgeous Scottish border town of Peebles, Elisabeth discovered the local **Rotary** club had their weekly dinner meeting on the very day she was in town. So, she certainly knew where she would be having dinner that evening. (Turns out there were four lady Rotarians in the club, all named Elisabeth). She also learned that one of the Rotary families is the largest potato grower in Scotland, and the second-largest potato farmer in Ukraine. So, everyone in Scotland knows who he is. Their Rotary club is also known for its sizable donation of restored vehicles that are driven by volunteers, and as convoys, into Ukraine. These vehicles are then available for rescue by residents throughout the beleaguered country. No small project for the Scots, they have just delivered their 500th vehicle! The vehicles are filled with vital supplies when driven into Ukraine. Equally amazing, while at that Rotary dinner meeting, Elisabeth texted Alan Ichikawa, of the MAP organization, which ships large quantities of medical supplies to countries in need. And so..... Thanks to the Rotary connection and Elisabeth's intervention last week, here is yet another real-time experience in which Rotary provides vital support for where it's needed around the world. Wow!



Elisabeth concluded her amazing story with these three words. **I LOVE ROTARY.**

### Upcoming Meetings

***El Talpense Mexican Restaurant***

***3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd. - Lafayette***

**Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM**

Thurs, Oct 24 RMB social at El Talpense restaurant 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Friday, Oct 25, we are dark. No club meeting today

Friday, Nov. 1 club meeting: our speaker is Danielle Aubin, patient navigator at BAART (Combating opioid addiction (Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment Center))



### Drawing

Carolyn Anderson drew the winning ticket today, but had to settle for a Starbucks coffee after drawing a white marble. Pot is now just past the \$200 mark.

### Our thought for the day

*The more you can have control over your ego, rather than let it run amock, the more successful you'll be in all areas of your life.* Roy T. Bennett, author

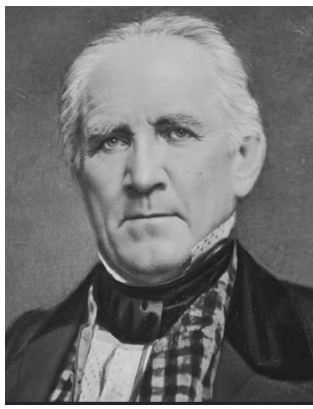
Our meeting concluded at 1:35pm with the traditional ringing of the bell on this beautiful fall day.

---- \*\* ----

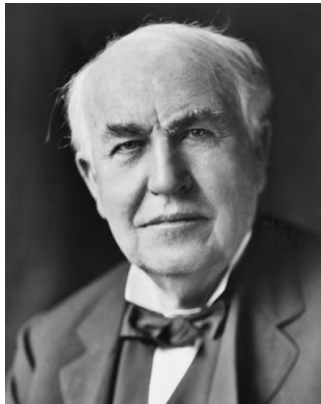
## What Happened on October 22



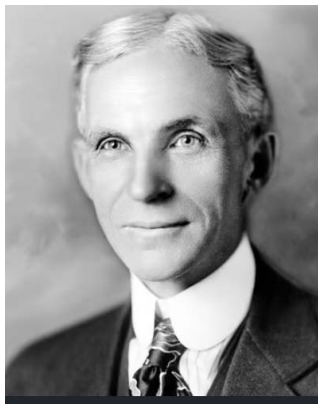
- *1721 Tsar Peter the Great titles himself "Emperor of All Russia"*



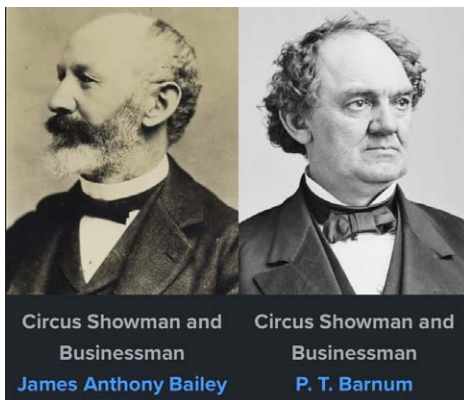
- *1836 Sam Houston inaugurated as 1st elected President of the Republic of Texas*



- *1879 Thomas Edison perfects carbonized cotton filament light bulb*



- *1906 Henry Ford becomes President of Ford Motor Company*



- *1907 Ringling Brothers Greatest Show on Earth buys Barnum & Bailey circus*



- *1926 Boxer J. Gordon Whitehead sucker punches magician Harry Houdini in the stomach in his dressing room at the Princess Theater in Montreal. The attack started or helped cause the appendicitis that would take Houdini's life 9 days later.*



- *1934 Notorious bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd is shot and killed by FBI agents in East Liverpool, Ohio*



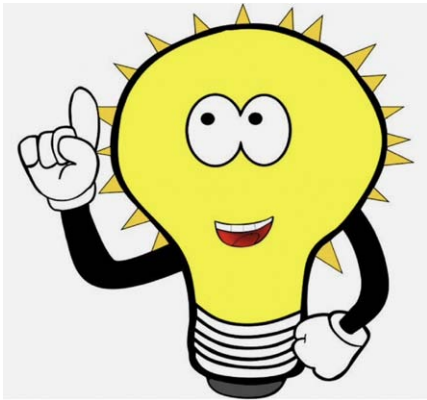
***October 22nd National Nut Day***



## ***Joke of the Day***

*What did one nut say to the other nut while he was chasing him?*

*I'm a cashew*



## ***Thought of the Day***

*"I'm a nut case, but that is what I believe."*

*-Mike Tyson*

## ***Cartoon of the Day***





## Upcoming Speakers

## Club Leaders



[Jim Kohl](#)  
President



[Sandra J Newman](#)  
Secretary



[William P. McQueen Jr](#)  
Treasurer



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



[Celia Veronica Valencia](#)  
Fundraising



[Anthony A. Akins](#)  
Rotary  
Foundation



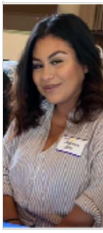
[Sean Duffey](#)  
Membership Chair



[Rick Ernst](#)  
Membership  
Service



[Bryan E. Keding](#)  
Community  
Service



[Josephine Leiva](#)  
Club Service  
Chair



[Elizabeth E. Willer](#)  
International  
Service Chair



[Dave Litty](#)  
Vocational Service



[Memory A. Woodard](#)  
Youth Services  
Chair



[Wanda D. Waltman](#)  
iPast President