



Events

No Events found

Birthdays

David Miller
August 1st
John B. Kaminski
August 2nd
Ronald E. Leone
August 17th
Anthony A. Akins
August 26th
Luther Daniel
August 28th

8-25-23 Concord Rotary newsletter

By Rick Ernst on Sunday, August 27, 2023

Right on the mark, President **Wanda Waltman** convened our final August meeting at 12:30pm with the customary pledge to our flag followed by a flawless recitation of the 4-Way Test by **Luis Alkon** (who has excellent reading skills, even from the back of the room!)



I can't recall a meeting during this Rotary year that had as much information packed into it as this week's. It's evident President Wanda places a great deal of effort into preparing well-orchestrated and informative meetings. And, kudos to 'First Dude' Chuck Waltman, who has become quite proficient with PowerPoint these past couple of months, providing us with attractive and informative visuals throughout the weekly meetings. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Recognizing Happy Bucks, Anniversaries & Birthdays

Nick Virgallito's granddaughter, Isabel, made a successful transition from home base to her dorm at Chico State. Ah, yet another family rite of passage!

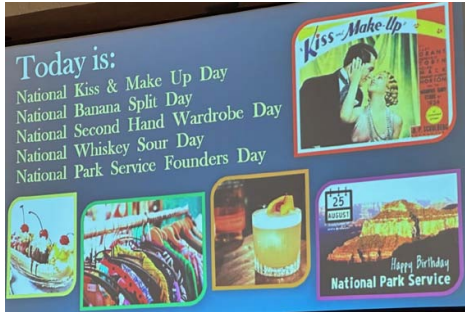
Luis Alkon's family member also had a rite of passage: Luis announced his brother-in-law's marriage in Peru and recognized that with a \$100 contribution to his Paul Harris.

Next up with the mic was **Scott Singley** who made a donation to the pot acknowledging the advancements in eyesight technology - - thanks to successful cataract surgery, Scott is most likely now a safer driver on our highways.

Past president **Ron Leone** contributed \$100 to his Paul Harris Fellowship as he shared recent family travels that included a getaway cruise to Alaska, a visit from his Taiwan-based son and Maria's visit to their granddaughter in Seattle. Definitely a family on the go.!

And although they were not at today's meeting, Rotary wedding anniversaries this month include the Pereira's, the Bobetsky's and **Guy & Denise Bjerke**, who are celebrating their 39th anniversary this week and have donated \$100 to our club's Endowment.





In the "Trivia" segment of today's meeting, president Wanda enlightened us that there are 63 National Parks in our country, the first one being Yellowstone. (Scott "forever young at heart" Singley chimed in that he was there when that first park was named!) A bit more trivia. Nine of those national parks are right here in California, the two oldest being Yosemite and Sequoia National parks, both being named in the fall of 1890. And one final bit of trivia - 22 states have NO national parks.

Announcements

President Wanda reported on our club's participation in the East Bay Softball Special Olympics held this past weekend at Heather Farms Sports fields, and coordinated by our fellow Rotarian, **Ron Melvin**.



Next up was Ladybug Team leader **Stephanie Prescott** reporting on Wednesday evening's "Assembly Party" at their Lafayette home, with 15 to 20 attending, including a few Rotarians from Lafayette Rotary. By the end of the work party, nearly 400 packages had been assembled, many of which will be delivered to the Monument Crisis Center. The next assembly gathering will be August 29th. The attractive "Ladybug T-shirts" made a fashion statement for the event and a great way to publicize this successful community service project that continues to grow - now in its third year.

Rick Ernst provided a recap of our iconic "Friday Folders" program where we partner with Cambridge Elementary School's 700 students.



These folders - bi-lingual in Spanish and English - are given to students at the beginning of the school year; they provide a transport mechanism for school work to be delivered to parents each Friday, and returned to the classroom on Monday.

Last Sunday's RotaCare Volunteer Appreciation event, held at **Melissa Allen** and **Elisabeth's** lovely Walnut Creek home, served as a

special occasion to present a Concord Rotary Endowment check in the amount of \$20,000. There to receive the check, on behalf of RotaCare, was Sandy Wolfe, widow of Dr. Steve Wolfe, past president of Concord Rotary and the founder of RotaCare.



Next up on today's agenda was a fervent plea by President Wanda that we all - 100% of us - make a personal contribution to survivors in Lahaina, many of whom have lost everything, as we've witnessed during these past weeks.



Today's Speaker Program - Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa

Our enthusiastic speaker was Janette Kennedy, Development Director for this successful non-profit that has served over 5 million meals to thousands of hungry county residents since 1983.

Their hearty team of volunteers serve nutritious meals prepared by their staff and distributed to anyone in need. The organization also conducts a culinary arts curriculum and welcomes those who would like to launch a career in this field. Ms. Kennedy concluded today's presentation by sharing a number of creative ways our club can partner with Loaves & Fishes. One of those proposed ways is to field a cadre of about six volunteers who would 'work the kitchen' one day each month.



Calendar Reminders this week:

- Tues., Aug. 29: Ladybug bag assembly with Diablo Rotary club; RE/MAX office at 3390 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste 100, Lafayette 5:30-7pm
- Thurs., Aug. 30: 'Rotary Means Business': Todos Santos Park from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm; Featuring Zepparella Music
- Friday, Aug. 31: No Rotary meeting today

Ladybug Program

Tuesday, August 29th
6:00 - 7:00 PM

In conjunction
with Diablo View
Rotary Club



ReMax Real Estate Office, 3390 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

No Rotary meeting would conclude without the weekly drawing. Today's winning ticket belonged to past president Ron Leone who drew a white marble, leaving the elusive black marble for another day. Enjoy your Starbucks Gift Card, Ron. And with that, and a friendly reminder from our president to recycle your water bottles as you depart today's meeting, we adjourned promptly at 1:30pm.



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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



[Michael Joseph
Barrington](#)
International Service



[Dave Litty](#)
Vocational Service



[Leslie Chapman](#)
Youth Service -
Interact



[Memory A. Woodard](#)
iPast President



[Cathy Durfee](#)
Assistant Governor