



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL

An Award-Winning Newsletter

**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon
at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

Rotary Club of Altadena - #772

Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003
RI Pres: Gordon R. McInally, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael L. Soden



D.Vance Graphics

February 29, 2024

THIS WEEK: LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Test Your Knowledge of LA County Jail and Parole Systems

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon



In the first six months of 2023, there were 97,021 arrests in Los Angeles County and **30,609** of these were booked into county jail. This was a much lower arrest and jail incarceration rate than in pre-pandemic 2019, when, of 303,363 arrests during all of that year, 110,941 (37%) ended up booked into jail.

What happens to those placed in jail? How long do they serve and how does the Probation Department keep track of those inmates released back into society?

Our speaker today, LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger has spent more than 30 years involved in the jail and probation processes in our county. Her talk on Thursday will focus on the improvements that have been made over the last 3 years and what work still has to be done.

**FEBRUARY IS PEACE BUILDING AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH**

Officers

President: Dr Dawn Digrius Smith
Vice President: Doug Colliflower
President Elect: Maricela Viramontes

Treasurer: Mike Noll

Bus: 626-657-2287

Secretary: James Gorton

Bus: 626-793-6215

Directors

Craig Cox

Maria Perez-Arton

Mark Mariscal

Sarah O'Brien

Maricela Viramontes

Doug Colliflower

Dawn Digrius Smith

Chairs

Club Executive Secretary: Mark Mariscal

Membership: Maria Perez-Arton

& Brad Roeber

Foundation: Steve Kerekes

Projects: Mike Zoeller

Subcommittees

Community Service: Craig Cox

Vocational Service: Steve Kerekes

Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike

Zoeller

Youth Activities: Tony Hill

International Service: Sarah O'Brien

LAST WEEK: MR TIM C. SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS AND TRAINING

Review by Catalina Theodoros, Altadena Library District



Mr. Tim C provided a thorough overview of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. Part of a network of Search and Rescue Teams in California, the team is entirely volunteer-comprised. Mr. Tim overviewed the applicant selection process and vigorous training that volunteers must successfully complete before joining the team. Training takes around 18 months, and covers

navigation, maneuvering ropes and climbing, radio communications, EMT certification, and in-field drills. Volunteers desiring to be deployed on actual search and rescue calls must be between the ages of 25 – 55, and willing to commit at least 5 years of their time, and 500 service hours. With this level of training and the scale of work required, our audience was curious about success rates for those in training. The answer: somewhere from 30-50% of those who made it to the training phase completed. The audience also wanted to know about the composition of the Sierra Madre team, and if there were any women, given the physical demands of the role. Tim was pleased to say that out of the 35 members of the Sierra Madre Team, 10 are women. Their most current past president was additionally a woman.

As this mountain range is known to be one of the steepest in the United States, the work of the Search and Rescue Teams in this region can be demanding. The Sierra Madre Team, prior to the Bobcat Fire, had about 80-100 operations a year. The average currently is about half. Many operations involve rescue of individuals jumping off waterfalls, and those underestimating the weather, especially in cold months. Tim described an incredible rescue at Mt. Baldy a few Decembers past. A huge storm had passed through and helicopter aid was only able to drop one

Altadena Rotary Events CALENDAR

March 7- Four Way Speech Contest

March 13 & 14 - Families Forward
Reading Days

March 14- Dan Stover Music Contest

May 9 - PCC Vocational Scholarships

May 16 - PUSD Scholarships

June 27 - President Dawn's
Demotion Party



Please Register for Families Forward Reading Days on March 13 & 14

By Craig Cox

The Rotary Club of Altadena will be reading to the 3 and 4 year olds attending the Families Forward Learning Center.

We will have eight slots (AM - 9:30; 9:45; 10:00; 10:15 and PM - 2:00; 2:15; 2:30; 2:45) on March 13.

We will have four slots (PM - 2:00; 2:15; 2:30; 2:45) on March 14.

Members who wish to read should sign up for one of the available slots. You will be reading for about 10 - 12 minutes.

We will also be distributing bags of items to the children which will include books in English and Spanish, crayons, chalk, coloring books, and other educational items.

Please go to DacDB, Login, select the My Club tab, go the calendar icon and sign up for the available slots.

paramedic to the site. Upon Tim's arrival with his team up the mountain, an ice storm forced them to make it down the mountain with an injured individual on a stretcher through the night along a trail ominously named "Devil's Backbone". By the end of the rescue, several on the rescue team had faced hypothermia. The rescue was a success, and everyone made it safely down.

It was insightful and incredible to hear the level of dedication these volunteers put into their work, and how vital they are to saving those in impossible situations. Tim mentioned that there are other ways individuals can devote their time to volunteering without having to work in the field. There is a gentlemen on their team who, at 91, conducts radio navigation from the station. The group thanked Tim for his engaging talk, and were appreciative of all those who volunteer.



Our sincere condolences to Lisa Rickard on the loss of her husband, Scott.

MESSAGE FROM DAWN



75 years. That is how long the Altadena Rotary Club has been placing "Service Above Self" in our community! February is our anniversary month and for our last meeting of the month (which also happens to be a leap year day), I encourage you to do something to recognize our 75 years in the Altadena community. The 75th anniversary is a diamond anniversary, FYI Diamonds are the strongest substance on earth on the Mohs Scale (10) and are made from pure carbon. The most

expensive diamond in the world is the Cullinan diamond, a 3,106.75 ct found in South Africa in 1905. The most famous diamond of the world is the Koh-I-Noor diamond, first reported in 1304, at 105.60 ct. I hope that we all see ourselves as diamonds in the rough and use our strength and 'hardness against hardship' for good.

Thinking about our anniversary got me thinking about time. My time as your President is slowly coming to a close...

I have only four months left as your President. Wow...the time is really starting to fly by! March is the start of Daylight Savings time again (on Sunday, March 10th), is the month of Irish heritage (St. Patrick's Day), and this year, Easter (March 31). Tuesday, March 19th at 11:06PM EDT is the Spring Equinox, or the official start of

Message from Dawn cont'd:

Spring and the beginning of being able to wear white (if you are a fashionista that follows traditional rules). I love spring; it is a time of growth, renewal, rebirth. As a plant person, I start thinking about what I will grow in my garden and start planning out the cycle of planting and harvesting. My lavender and rosemary bushes are blooming with beautiful flowers of purple and pink and white. Spring brings much activity to our club, with preparations for our annual concert series, our teacher mini-grants, our scholarships, and our spring service projects. We have so much going on in the next few months! I hope you will attend our meetings and hear some of the amazing speakers we bring to the table. Looking forward to seeing you...

Dawn