

Rotary Club of South Pasadena

19 Mar 2019

DISTRICT 5300 CLUB 805



MEETING LEADERS

Flag - ChiefDan

Invocation: edDan

Song - "Irish Eyes Are Smiling" - ChiefBill & W².

Greeter - Sara

Guests: Craig Koehler, S.P. Finance Director; Tammy Binns, S.P. Exec. Assistant; Marc Donahue S.P. City Clerk; Anne Bagasao

UPCOMING

13 Apr - Corazon

16 Apr - **TASTE of South Pasadena**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pres.-elect **Reda** banged the bell for the first time! She gave a quick **TASTE** update; so far we have 25 restaurants and 15 wineries. ChiefDan claims 55 people have signed up for Corazon, including RC San Marino members. edDan, new chair of Community Service Grants, invited all to suggest worthy local charities. KulturDirektor Steve encouraged us to experience an actor's depiction of Ray Bradbury: "Ray Bradbury Live (Forever)" at the Library this Friday at 7:00.

HAPPY BUCKS: P-E Reda happily contributed for her first meeting as chair. ChiefBill apologized for wearing an orange jacket near St. Patrick's day, but happily anticipates good weather for the March 23 birthday shindig - 5:00 p.m. W² is happy for ChiefBill's 90th. RonGreg happily added \$20 in memory of conversations with his late father. ChiefDan is somehow happy to spend a day in Disneyland with grandchildren. KulturDirektor Steve tossed in several \$2 bills, hopeful for rain, although not for ChiefBill's party Saturday.

STEPHANIE DEWOLFE, South Pasadena City Manager, outlined ominous issues facing City budget-planners. She emphasized that our City is in far better financial shape than others in the area, but problems loom. Number one is the overwhelming California pensions issue - CalPERS is in trouble, and will demand higher contributions from California cities. CalPERS once enjoyed resources at 85% of expected demand; exemplary administration has reduced the reserves to 65%. Stephanie estimates that the City will need \$100 Million for capital improvements, only about half of that might be available. She emphasized organizational "sustainability", meaning she does not want City employees to suffer. The City offers lower salaries and benefits than other cities in the San Gabriel Valley (cities that are in worse financial shape!), and has problems attracting employees. Stephanie is working on a Strategic Plan. City Finance Director Craig Koehler added some figures; the City has \$12,330,000 in reserves, but faces a \$478,000 deficit for 2019. Stephanie offered some options, and circulated a questionnaire for Rotary members' opinions. Parking meters, improvement in the Arroyo facilities, and other land use options might raise \$245,000/year. Pot shops could raise \$48,000. Short-term rentals, such as "air bnb", could raise \$150,000. A small hotel is possible. User fees? The City might propose an increase in taxes to avoid cuts in Library services (we already heard this one in the utility users tax campaign!). Stay tuned!