



Rotary Club of La Quinta

Service above self since 1985



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



On January 11, 2024, at 6 PM, La Quinta Rotarians, along with their spouses, guests, visitors, and friends gathered together at the PGA West GREG NORMAN Clubhouse and enjoyed an evening filled with laughter, fun and the induction of three new members!



Lora Cathcart and daughter Katie Zapcart at the Greeting table (hey, they were here a minute ago!).

Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating the start of the New Year with the District Governor's visit to our club. Unfortunately, the Governor had an emergency family situation that required her full attention and she had to postpone her visit for another meeting.



The room was set with three tables of 12-14 all decked out in fine linens and each with floral centerpieces.



After about 30 minutes of socializing and availing themselves of the libations available at the bar, those in attendance stood as President Bruce Cathcart called the meeting to order and had Deborah McGarrey lead us in the salute to our flag.



President Bruce gave the invocation expressing special thanks for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us while embracing the Rotary spirit in the New Year! He sent out prayers and positive thoughts for both our club member Dave Hart and DG Jamie's husband Dwight.

Next president Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our visiting Rotarians, of which we had several this evening. He began with Kimberly McKinney from the Newport Beach Sunrise Club, then onto our visiting Rotary Royalty with Assistant District Governor Bill Chase from Palm Springs Sunrise and Executive to the District Governor Carol Winston from the Palm Desert Noon Club (who introduced her husband Renner). Next was our returning visiting Rotarian (and good friend) from Kent, Washington, Dave Wilson followed by Doug and Nora Maclellan, both Rotarians with Doug being a member of our sister club, the La Quinta Rotary Club of the Desert, and Nora being a member of the Rotary Club of Playa Venice. Next Bruce introduced our guests (for the last time... as they were to be inducted as members on this very evening!) Captain Andy Martinez, who introduced his lovely wife Reonna, Lieutenant Frank Velasco who introduced his lovely wife Christy, and finally Simon Moore, who introduced his lovely wife Edith and their son Greyson. Doug Motz introduced his lovely wife Carole, David Turner introduced his lovely wife Paula, Robert Wilkinson introduced his lovely wife Nancy (who still makes his heart race after 42 years of marriage... to which Linda Evans noted that love and fear both have that effect on the heart!), Brett Anderson introduced his lovely wife Colleen, Linda Evans introduced her lovely husband Tim, and Dr. Bruce Underwood introduced his lovely wife Janet. Lastly, Lora Cathcart introduced her daughter Katie Zapcart

and her lovely wife Casey. Sandra Lauer, Dan Fissori, Kevin Pickett, Deborah McGarrey and Lee Osborne rounded out tonight's attendees for the largest meeting of the year (so far)! Thank you all who attended and for making this evening so special.

Following the new format, Dinner was served with the announcements and meeting fun to follow.



Our meals are served “Buffet Style” (which makes seconds easy to obtain!) but on this evening there was a nice addition to our menu in the form of an appetizer that tantalizingly smiled up at us from our dining tables. It was a mushroom ragu sitting atop a seared polenta cake... and it was a GREAT way to start our meal proving to be the perfect complement to whatever beverage was acquired at the private bar! The buffet itself started with a mixed green salad with a large selection of toppings including an olive relish and artichoke hearts all just waiting to be smothered in a Blood Orange Vinaigrette or Ranch Dressing (or both which I preferred!). Toasted garlic bread also accompanied the salad.





Our entrée was a delicious Lemon Chicken Confit with sides that included Spaghetti with Aglio e olio sauce and mixed vegetables. To top things off the staff delivered heated individual ramekins of bread pudding with fresh blueberries and cream to us at our table. I apologize for the poor photos of the appetizers and the bread pudding... by the time I got around to taking the shot of the appetizers they were almost all gone and as for the bread pudding, well, I was halfway through eating it before I remembered to take the photo. Another GREAT meal and testament to the culinary skills of our Chef Lulu! Once again, our highest praise and compliments to you, Chef Lulu.



About the time when everyone was just finishing up their desserts, president Bruce stepped back up to the microphone and took the opportunity to welcome everyone again and thank Carly, Felicity, Chef Lulu, and tonight's serving staff for the magnificent meal we enjoyed and for all that they do to make our dinner

events so special here each month at the Greg Norman Clubhouse. As an unexpected special treat, our favorite Food and Beverage manager Araceli Mejorado IS BACK!!! (Pictured center above) We were all able to personally thank her for all that she does for us!

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **February 8, 2024**, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where our Guest Speaker will be Belinda Zaparinuk from S.O.A.R. (Society's Outcasts Animal Rescue)! More on this in upcoming flyers. **[Please save the date now so when you are asked "Are you doing anything on the evening of the 8th?" You can say, "YES! that's my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!"]**

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

CVRM Partnership

SERVING AT THE MISSION



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Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission was (time conundrum here) Thursday evening, January 18, 2024, from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. Bruce and Lora will be there and would love some company. If interested in helping out, contact President Bruce for more information on how you can participate (or just show up at 4:15 at the mission). Serving the evening meal at the mission is really a fun and gratifying thing to do. Our reserved night to serve is the 3rd Thursday of each month... but if there are more folks who would like to serve on a regular basis we can always add days to our schedule. It only takes

about an hour and a half, but the good feeling lasts all month! Again, if interested, contact President Bruce.

Our next Lunch/Board meeting will be on January 26, 2024, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).


ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA


ANNOUNCEMENTS


Wednesday, March 20, 2024


Rotary Night at the Firebirds Hockey Game at the Acrisure Arena

Valleywide Rotary Clubs Pre-Game Mixer









Bruce reminded everyone that there is a Firebirds Hockey Game and valley wide Rotary Club Mixer being scheduled for March 20, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. Provided that 200 Rotarians/Friends sign up, an hour and a half before the gates open to the Hockey Game Rotarians from all the clubs in the valley will gather in a private room with one free drink (each). The cost is to be \$65 per ticket for Defense Zone seats. The price does not include parking. To purchase Tickets for this event, scan the QR Code above or log onto the link above and order them direct. Be aware that there is an unavoidable service fee of approximately \$10 per ticket. I am recommending that our club choose seats in section 110. Let me know if anyone has any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



SIMON MOORE CAPTAIN ANDY MARTINEZ LIEUTENANT FRANK VELASCO



It was then time to induct **THREE** new members into the Rotary Club of La Quinta! President Bruce invited Simon Moore, Captain Andy Martinez and Lieutenant Frank Lopez to join him at the podium.



After a not so brief induction speech the newest members of the Rotary Club of La Quinta were “pinned” and welcomed into our club. Doing the honors above are EDG Carol Winston with Simon, Mayor Linda Evans with Cpt. Andy and City Council member Deborah McGarrey with Lt. Frank.



It was truly a GREAT NIGHT for our club as we welcomed not only three awesome new members, but each of their wives were included in the ceremony and presented with their RCLQ "Special Guest" name badges. We welcome you all with open arms into our Rotary Family!!!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

CVRM Partnership



**Our club donated
160 toys to the
CVRM TOY DRIVE
in December!!!**

December "TOY" DRIVE



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President Bruce then thanked everyone for participating in the annual "TOY" drive for the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission last month! Together we donated 160 toys that were used at the CVRM for their annual Toy Give-away to the less fortunate children of all ages in the Coachella Valley. Once again, Good Job Rotarians!!!

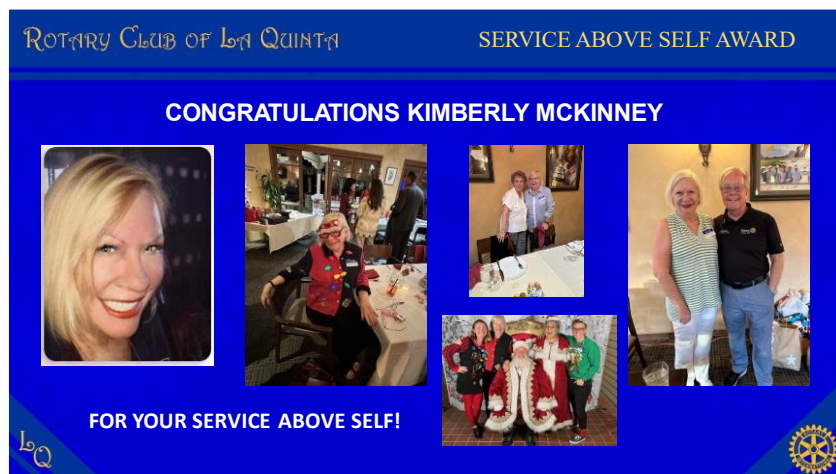
President Bruce then re-introduced Kimberly McKinney who told us how the big Toy Give-away went and about our “Winter Wear” Drive this month and next month’s “Bare Necessities” drive!

Kimberly shared with us that this year the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission delivered over 3,000 toys to those less fortunate children in our community and even had enough toys to donate some to a few local churches as well. She shared that the children were allowed to select the toys that THEY wanted in the absence of their parent’s aid/veto, and she gave a special thank you to the Rotary Club of La Quinta for their generous donation.

Kimberly then shared with us about the annual “Winter Wear” Drive in January and thanked everyone for their generous donations brought in this evening. [In a follow up email Kimberly shared with me that our Winter Wear Drive brought in 119 items of warm clothing this year!].

Finally, Kimberly announced that next month (February) is our “Bare Essentials” drive at the Mission and that NEW undergarments (underwear, T-shirts, etc.) of all shapes and sizes are being requested. We did a GREAT JOB on this one last year bringing in over 200 items of underwear! This year we hope to do even better!!! As always, we want to THANK Kimberly for her extraordinary efforts in conjunction with our club and the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

President Bruce then began, “As many of you know, The District Governor had asked me to single out a Rotarian for a special award which she wanted to present at this meeting. Coincidentally I had already selected an individual for this very special “Service Above Self Award” which (in the governor’s absence) I will be presenting tonight to this very special Rotarian. Tonight, I have the honor to present the Rotary Club of La Quinta’s “Service Above Self Award” to an individual whose unwavering commitment to the principle of "Service Above Self" has truly set her apart in our Rotary community. It recognizes the exceptional dedication and the positive impact that she has made on the lives of others through her affiliation with the Rotary Club of La Quinta.”



President Bruce continued, “Kimberly McKinney is a past president and current member of the Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club, but she is officially an “unofficial member” of the Rotary Club of La Quinta. Kimberly works with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission as a Grant Writer/Grant Program Administrator.

Each month for the past 16 months Kimberly has attended the Rotary Club of La Quinta’s dinner meetings and has coordinated a monthly “Drive”, in conjunction with the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, in which members and guests of this club have participated and have made a real difference in the lives of those less fortunate right here in the Coachella Valley. From canned goods, socks and underwear, toys, school supplies, and pumpkin pies... each and every month Kimberly has inspired and facilitated the Rotary Club of La Quinta’s commitment to serving others with selflessness and compassion. Thanks to Kimberly’s leadership and extraordinary efforts the Rotary Club of La Quinta is directly involved in not just one or two, but 12 significant community service projects each year.

Please join me in congratulating and expressing our deepest gratitude to Kimberly McKinney for her support of the Rotary Club of La Quinta and for her outstanding commitment to “Service Above Self.” And with that said, he presented her with a “Service Above Self” plaque and the club members gave her a standing ovation!



President Bruce then asked, “How did our Rotarians spend the Holiday?” Clearly with family and friends and in some cases, in matching pajamas!



“Clean Water is the Music of Life”

For those who slept in and missed the Rose Parade on January 1st, President Bruce captured a couple of photos of this year’s Rotary International float that won the

Leishman Public Spirit Award. Much of the work done on this float was done by Rotary members who volunteer prior to the parade each year. If this is something that our club members might be interested in, just let Bruce know and he will get more information on how our club can participate on the 2025 RI float.

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD

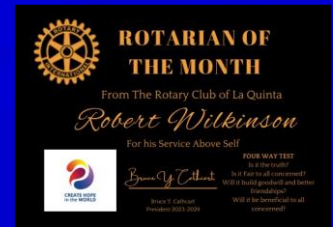


The Charleston Rotary Club, South Carolina



President Bruce then shared that Rotary is EVERYWHERE! He asked that whenever and wherever we travel, and we see examples of Rotary in service around the world, that we snap a few photos and send them to him so they can be shared with our members and guests. This month Robert Wilkinson and his wife Nancy traveled to Charleston, South Carolina and sent the above photos of the Marion Square Fountain where the Four Way Test is inscribed into the concrete benches surrounding the fountain. We look forward to seeing where our members will travel to this month! Don't forget to send in your photos!

January Rotarian of the Month: Robert Wilkinson



Thank you for your Service Above Self!



It was then time for President Bruce to name this month's Rotarian of the Month. Each ROM receives a special pin, certificate, and 100 Paul Harris Points.



President Bruce began, "This month's Rotarian of the month has been actively involved with our club for almost 20 years now. This individual has been the president of our club not once, not twice, but 2 ½ times as he took over for a failed presidency. This individual was our club's youth services chair for many years in charge of our Interact Club and attending both RYLA and PRYDE camps while

coordinating our High School Senior Scholarship Program. He is always one of the first members to volunteer for workdays, fundraisers or wherever is needed to help the club and support Rotary. Our Congratulations to Robert Wilkinson, our Rotarian of the Month for January!" Robert expressed his appreciation for the award and how much he appreciated the members of our club and the friendships that he had made through Rotary over the past 20 years.

Finally, Bruce asked, "Who's ready to get this party started?"



This month's Dinner Sponsor Package is the "WINTER BASKET". It includes a 2020 bottle of Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon from Stag's Leap Cellars and 2 beautiful poolside wine glasses, a white wicker snowman serving caddy and 2-tier serving stand, Himalayan Salt/Grinder, a large assortment of cookies, crackers, Tapas, Tapenades, dressing, and snacks, a "Be Good, Do Good, Feel Good" coffee mug with package of both Tim Horton's and Moose Munch Gourmet ground coffee, Life is Good "Mint Frost" hand soap, a 2024 "Kittens" Calendar and a \$50 Gift Card to Sullivan's Steak House plus a large, lined, Bamboo Basket!



After a single card (half) was drawn from the top hat, all the “Dinner Sponsor Card” holders were asked to stand up, they were once again painfully and ever so slowly asked to be seated for not holding the right color, suit, or number (or face card) until only one card holder remained standing... It came down to two participants, two of our newest members in fact... And our lucky winner this month was the Simon Moore Family, with smiling Greyson holding the card!!! Congratulations to Simon, Edith and Greyson for being this month’s winner!

Next it was time for “Happy Dollars”. Happy Dollars gives everyone in attendance the opportunity to make a voluntary donation to the club and announce to the group something that they are happy about, knowing that all donations go to further the Rotary causes. Doug Motz carried the hat in place of our Sargent-at-arms Allan Levin who was braving the sub-zero temps in the great white north this week. Happy Dollars were collected around the room with best wishes for the District Governor and her husband, for a Happy New Year, for a favorite professional and college team, and for the great comradery within our club. Including the Dinner sponsor tickets our Rotarians and guests contributed over \$600 this evening. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity!!!

Guest Speaker: ADG William “Bill” Chase

January 11, 2024



Thank You Bill for your “Service Above Self”



Finally, it was time for our program. Our District Governor Jamie Zinn was to be the program this evening but since she was unable to attend, our magnificent Assistant District Governor William “Bill” Chase volunteered at the last minute to fill in. In fact, after his visit to our club earlier this year, several members of our club specifically requested that he be a speaker at one of our meetings! But as you can see from the length of this newsletter, we did not really leave Bill enough time to present his program to us this evening... and yes, I am still working on that time management thing! But being the awesome gentleman that Bill is, and much to the delight of our members and guests, he has consented to return to our club and make his presentation at a future meeting, something that we are all looking forward to! Our THANKS to you Bill for being an AMAZING ROTARIAN and our favorite Assistant District Governor, and most of all, for being such a good friend to our club!

President Bruce then thanked the members, special guests, visiting Rotarians, and friends in attendance this evening for their help and support throughout the year and wished everyone safe travels and a Happy New Year before the reciting of the “Four Way Test” and adjourning the meeting.

It was another wonderful evening spent with fellow Rotarians, spouses, guests, and both new and old friends in the spirit of Rotary.

As Rotarians, our main goal is Peace on Earth. Together, approximately 1.4 million Rotarians are working daily toward this goal by helping to improve the lives of those less fortunate in our own communities and around the world. For us, this year that includes our monthly contributions to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, our East Coachella Valley Clean Water project, Polio Plus, the Guatemala Literacy Program, Shelter Box and in so many other ways that we can all be proud of our association with the Rotary Club of La Quinta.

As a reminder, our club will be meeting the 2nd Thursday evening of every month. Our next meeting is on February 8, 2024, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at Bycathcart63@Gmail.com no later than Monday 02/05/24. The club is responsible for all dinners canceled after that date. There will be a flyer or two coming your way with more details. Make sure to save the date and let us know that you will be joining us... the fun is really happening now!!!

YIRS,

Bruce Cathcart

President 2023-2024

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. You can reach me at Bycathcart63@Gmail.com.

[Editor's note: Thank you all for your attendance and making our meetings a priority in your schedule. Please share this newsletter with your spouses and friends that could not attend this past meeting and let them know that THEY WERE MISSED!]