



Rotary Club of La Quinta
Service Above Self since 1985



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY MEETING!!!



On February 8, 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 Valentine's treats for all of the "Sweethearts" in attendance!



Lora Cathcart, son Jim Cathcart, and daughter Katie Zapcart at the Greeting table

Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating an early Valentine's Day. Many of the women arrived looking radiant in their "red" outfits and following the "Hallmark Rules" for Valentines, all "Sweethearts" in attendance were presented with Jewelry (red heart shaped bead necklaces), a heart shaped box of chocolate, and a single rose in a keepsake vase.



Rotarians and guests arrived to find the room was set with three tables of 12-14 all decked out in fine linens highlighted by red cloth napkins and each with festive balloon centerpieces.



Belinda, Ken, Maureen & Rick



David and Sandy



John and Gail



The Room

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 Linda Evans 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 celebrating the "Spirit of Love", both romantic and universal and rejoicing in the knowledge that as Rotarians we are making a positive impact in our own community and around the world!



Next president Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our visiting Rotarians, of which we had only two this evening, both from the La Quinta Rotary Club of the Desert, their current President Tim Morgan and his lovely wife Veronica. He no longer included Kimberly McKinney from the Newport Beach Sunrise Club, as she will be inducted next month at the District Governor's visit!



Sandy Lauer and our dear friend, RCLQ Past President Bonnie Cloer

Next Bruce introduced a very special guest, a Rotary Club of La Quinta Past President who we had not seen in 20 years... our dear friend Bonnie Cloer!

David Turner introduced his lovely wife Paula and their special guests Rick and Maureen Kasubaski, Robert Wilkinson introduced his lovely wife Nancy, Dr. Bruce Underwood introduced his lovely wife Janet, Allan Levin introduced his lovely wife Barbara and their special guests John and Gail Nottberg, Dan Fissori introduced his BEAUTIFUL wife TC, Doug Hassett introduced his lovely wife Cindy, and Deborah McGarrey introduced her HANDSOME husband Michael. Finally, Lora Cathcart introduced her daughter Katie Zapcart and her lovely wife Casey, and her son (and our tech guru this evening) Jim Cathcart, and lastly, President Bruce introduced our speaker for this evening, his lovely in-laws (Casey's parents) Ken and Belinda Zaporinuk. Sandra Lauer, Lee Osborne, Kimberly McKinney, and Linda Evans rounded out tonight's attendees for another GREAT turnout for our dinner meeting. 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!). The buffet itself started with a Chinese Salad with Sesame Ginger dressing, Egg Drop Soup, Vegetable Fried Egg Rolls with sweet chili and Nougat dipping sauces.



Our entrée was a delicious Chicken stir fry Noodle and Pork Fried Rice with a side of grilled Miso Egg Plant with sesame seeds. For dessert we had a tray of traditional Almond Cookies. It was 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. Araceli went out of her way to locate red linen napkins to adorn the tables and make our celebration of our early Valentine's Day Dinner just a little bit more special. Thank you Araceli for your extra effort... we really appreciate all that you do for us!

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **March 14, 2024, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where the Guest Speaker will be our rescheduled District 5330 District Governor Jamie Zinn's visit to our club. 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 14th?" You can say, "YES! that's my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!"]****

SERVING AT THE MISSION



Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission was (time conundrum here) Thursday evening, February 15, 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 February 23, 2024, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).

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 (only tickets left in Section 118). 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. Let me know if anyone has any questions.

City of La Quinta Birthday Party and Picnic April 27, 2024 set up 8 AM, Serving 9 AM til Noon



ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY, SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024



It's almost time again for the City of La Quinta's Birthday Celebration and annual Picnic event! Our club will be continuing 30+ years of providing, cooking and serving almost 1,000 Hot Dogs to the hungry citizens of La Quinta at this event. This coincides with our Rotarians at Work weekend and is a great opportunity to meet and greet the public and share with them all the great "Service above Self" our club and Rotary International do in our community and around the world!

COACHELLA VALLEY DERBY GIRLS



Palm Springs Air Museum



Next month will be the first home bout for our very own Coachella Valley Derby Girls! President Bruce handed of the microphone to the “Voice of the Coachella Valley Derby Girls... Jim Crashcart!” In his booming announcer’s voice Jim shared with us about the upcoming season and all the excitement that the bouts bring to the Palm Springs Air Museum. President Bruce then shared that several members attended bouts last year and all agreed it was a great time. Our club is still exploring the possibility of a Rotary Night at the Roller Derby and even a joint fund-raiser with the Derby Girls!

2024-2025 CLUB OFFICERS



President Secretary Treasurer Foundation Youth Services International Sargent-at-arms

2024-2025 FOUNDATION BOARD



3 Year Term



1 Year Term



President Bruce then took the opportunity to do a little Club (and Club Foundation) business by having the Club ratify by vote the 2024-2025 Officers and Board Members. Please see above.

JANUARY WAS "WINTER WEAR" DRIVE MONTH AT THE CVRM!!!

Last month we were asked to bring in NEW or lightly used warm articles of clothing for adults and children of all ages and sizes.

Our club brought in 119 items of warm clothing primarily to be used for the Mission's Outreach program to help the homeless in our community!



President Bruce then thanked everyone for participating in the annual "Winter Wear" Drive in January for their generous donations! Kimberly McKinney shared

with us that together we brought in 119 items, all of good quality, to be used both at the mission and with the Outreach program to help keep those less fortunate and homeless warm this winter!



February was our “Bare Essentials” Drive for the Rescue Mission in which our members and guests were asked to bring in new undergarments. We did a GREAT JOB on this one last year bringing in over 200 items of underwear... but this year, are you ready for this? We MORE THAN DOUBLED our donations with 377 pairs of underwear, 36 T-shirts, 3 bras, and 17 pairs of socks for a total of 433 items!!! By a conservative count, that is well over \$1,000.00 in much needed and greatly appreciated items to make a truly positive impact on those less fortunate individuals right here in our own community! Way to go Rotary Club of La Quinta, your President is so proud of you!!!



MARCH IS OUR “MAC ATTACK” DRIVE

This is one of our best drives that we do twice a year and it is definitely a Fan Favorite at the Mission!!!



Last August our club members and guests brought in 396 packages of Mac and Cheese, this year we are hoping to exceed 400 packages!!!



Next month (March) is our semi-annual “Mac Attack Drive” for the CVRM and we are being asked to bring in Mac and Cheese items to donate. We are really good at this one and hoping to exceed 400 packages this year. Serving in the Mission’s kitchen we have learned that this is one of the residents and visitor’s favorite meals.

RCLQ Rotarians
supporting Old Town
Artisan Studios "Color
My World" Gala!



President Bruce then shared with the group that La Quinta Rotarians practice "Sevice Above Self" throughout our commuity by their participation in other charitable events. Recently, several RCLQ members were seen very colorfully adorned in support of the Old Town Artisans Studio's "Color My World Gala".

Birthdays

David Turner	2/1
Edith Moore	2/1
Andy Martinez	2/7
Robert Wilkinson	2/10
Simon Moore	2/19

Anniversaries

Doug and Carole Motz	2/14
Lee and Nancy Osborne	2/23



February Birthdays and Anniversaries were announced and since no one's birthday happened to be the same day as the meeting, there was no singing on this night (although Andy Martinez was pretty close and had he been in attendance we may have made an exception to our rule). You see, this is the only occasion on which our club sings. In the past, each time we attempted singing, well, it was a good reminder as to why we do not sing... however, this past year, with the attendance of many spouses and at least 4 professional singer song writers in our group, our rare attempts at "Happy Birthday" have been really good! Anyone have a Birthday on March 14th? And does anyone recognize the young couple above celebrating their anniversary this month? Our best wishes and congratulations to you all!!!

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

2024-2025 PETS



#1 Take-away:

"If life made sense, men would ride side saddle"



President Bruce (and Secretary Lora) then gave a quick report regarding this year's PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar). They started by thanking the club for sending them to the 3-day event that took place over the weekend of Feb. 2nd- 4th. They assured the club that much was learned and that it was a testament to the amazing people that call themselves Rotarians and who are all united by the desire to make the world a better place!

February Rotarian of the Month: Lee Osborne



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 is a past president of our club. This individual has monitored our club's finances and bookkeeping and filed both the Club and Foundation's Tax Returns for every year

that he has been a member (at a discounted rate, I might add!). In addition, he has served as a City Councilman for the City of La Quinta, and he has always been there to support our club, and Rotary, both financially, and with his “Service Above Self”. Our Congratulations to Lee Osborne, our Rotarian of the Month for February!

Finally, Bruce asked, “Who’s ready to get this party started?”



This month’s Dinner Sponsor Package is the “Valentine’s Day Basket”. It includes a 2018 bottle of BV Tapestry Reserve Red Wine and a set of 6 Gold Rimmed wine glasses, a Valentines holiday serving platter and Décor sign, 2 boxes of Knotts Apricot and Strawberry short bread cookies, a heart shaped box of Lindt/Lindor strawberry and cream white chocolate truffles, 1 bag of Cupid Crunch, 1 Valentines animated talking dog, 2 “Be Mine” Kitchen towels and one Seasoned w/Love oven mitt, 1 “I Love You” coffee mug and Starbucks ground coffee, a \$50 Gift Card to Sullivan’s Steak House plus a large wicker Basket and MORE!

In addition, Ken and Belinda Zaparinuk, (our speaker), generously donated a second basket this evening that would go to the runner-up card holder.



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, Robert Wilkinson and Linda Evans. Now Robert had come in second place for the last two dinners in a row and was all set for a third disappointment when it was announced that HE was this month’s winner! Linda did not seem to be disappointed at all as she was the winner of a wonderful basket full of pet toys and supplies (the cat stuff she shared with other members and guests!). Our congratulations to you both as well as our thanks for your generous support of the Dinner Sponsor Card program.

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. Our Sargent-at-Arms Allan Levin was back from his recent trip to Oregon to visit his and Barbara’s newly arrived grandbaby and resumed his duty carrying (not passing) the hat! Happy Dollars were collected around the room with best wishes for birthdays and anniversaries for a favorite professional and college teams (it appeared that there were more

Chief's fans than 49er fans in our group for the upcoming Super Bowl), and for the great comradery within our club. Including the Dinner sponsor tickets our Rotarians and guests contributed over \$700 this evening. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity!!!

Guest Speaker: BELINDA ZAPARINUK

February 8, 2024



Thank You Belinda for your "Service Above Self"



Finally, it was time for our program. President Bruce introduced our speaker, Belinda Zaparinuk and her presentation about SOAR (Society's Outcasts Animal Rescue). President Bruce began, "Belinda was born in a small town in Southeastern Kansas called Weir. She received her education at Labette Community College Radiology Program in Parsons Kansas, and her training at Mt. Carmel Medical Center, Pittsburg KS and St. Francis Hospital, Wichita KS. before heading west to California in 1994 where, for the next 24 years she was involved in the start-up and operations of 6 breast centers within the Coachella valley.

In 2018 she retired and took a 6-month break, then started her own consulting business as well as became a Certified Naturalist with Red Jeep Desert Adventures.

She has almost 41 years of Breast Imaging experience and is currently the owner and consultant of Comprehensive Breast Center Solutions, and she is a Senior Consultant for Mammography Educators. She is a true expert in all things

mammography and state of the art breast imaging technology. Belinda has traveled the world presenting at International Conferences and training mammography technologists and medical personnel in the US, China, Nicaragua, Africa, Jamaica, New Zealand, Italy, Mexico, Italy and Trinidad.

But her passion has always been for animals. And so in 2014 Belinda co-founded Society's Outkasts Animal Rescue in memory of her best friend Tina. I am so honored and proud to introduce Casey's Mom and my favorite in-law Belinda Zaparinuk who is here to speak to us tonight about Society's Outkasts Animal Rescue."

Now President Bruce had been telling everyone what a great speaker Belinda was and what a great program she was sharing with us at our meeting... and Belinda did not disappoint us!

Society's OutKasts Animal Rescue Molly's Miracle



Belinda shared with us that in the beginning she realized that the local animal shelters were overpopulated and so a plan was put in place to sponsor Spay and Neuter clinics.

In 2017 SOAR's dream of owning our own mobile spay and neuter bus became a reality with a generous donation and Molly's Miracle began providing low cost spay and neuter services, vaccines and microchipping throughout the valley including Banning all the way out to Niland. Molly's Miracle is the only mobile

spay and neuter bus currently in the Valley. In addition, they aligned their organization with a veterinarian team from Joshua Tree known as the Animal Action League.

SOAR has also provided pet food to the homeless pet owners at Indio Hills and Slab City, blankets and beds for the local shelter pets, free adoption events for veterans and L&H funds to help with emergency vet expenses for the elderly or low income.

Society's OutKasts Animal Rescue Canine Officers RCSD



Perhaps one of the most impressive things that SOAR does is that they provide bullet/stab proof vests for all the canine units with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department!

This is an amazing organization, and they too make a positive difference right here in our own community. Each year they host their annual Mutts and Margaritas fundraising event which is a great way for us to help support their efforts. Look forward to receiving a flyer in the future prior to this great event.

Our Thanks to Belinda for your most excellent presentation at our meeting... and especially for your "Service Above Self".

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 Valentine's Day 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 donations 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 March 14, 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 03/11/24. 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!]