

## Rotary Club of La Quinta

Service Above Self since 1985



## Happy St. Pat's and Easter Meeting!



On March 14, 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 FUN, Laughter and Good Times!



Lora Cathcart, and daughters Katie and Casey Zapcart at the Greeting table

Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating an early St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Many members and guests arrived looking a wee bit "Irish" in their "Green" outfits and everyone in attendance received a green beaded necklace just I case they forgot to be wearing the green!







Rotarians and guests arrived to find the room was set with three tables of 12-14 all decked out in fine linens highlighted by black tablecloths with green napkins each with Irish Gnomes and festive balloon centerpieces. Our District Governor Jamie Zinn was greeted with 2 dozen assorted roses, a "Do Good, Be Good, Feel Good" coffee mug and RCLQ Keepsake. She was also presented with a special "Women in Rotary" pin!







Bruce, Ebba and Rick



Gil and Frank



**Andy and Reonna** 



**Brett and Colleen** 

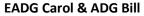
After about 20 minutes of socializing and availing themselves of the libations available at the bar, those in attendance stood as President Bruce Cathcart called the meeting to order and Linda Evans lead us in the salute to our flag.

President Bruce gave the invocation expressing special thanks for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us while celebrating the "Luck of the Irish", 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 Rotarian Royalty in the house this evening, of which we had our Executive Assistant District Governor Carol Winston, our (favorite) Assistant District Governor William "Bill the Basket Winner" Chase, and of course our District 5330 Governor herself, Jamie Zinn. Jamie in turn introduced her daughter Katie and Stephan who had chosen to join us this evening.







Still my favorite picture of DG Jamie & President Bruce



Stephan and Katie

Captain Andy introduced his lovely wife Reonna, visiting Rotarians Doug and Nora MacLellan (from the La Quinta Rotary Club of the Desert and Rotary Club of Playa Venice respectively) who introduced their guest Glen Madrigrano, President Bruce introduced his special guest Gil Villalpando a director at the City Manager's office for the City of La Quinta, David Turner introduced his guests Mitch and Ruth Razook, Allan Levin introduced his lovely wife Barbara, visiting Rotarian Dr. Rick Gross (from Germany) introduced his lovely wife Ebba, Dan Fissori introduced his BEAUTIFUL wife TC, Simon Moore introduced his lovely wife Edith and their son Greyson, Doug Motz introduced his lovely wife Carole,

Brett Anderson introduced his lovely wife Colleen and Linda Evans introduced her special Guest Lisa Caronna.



On this night we were so fortunate to have our La Quinta High School Interact Club Faculty Advisor Frank Ceja (Coachella Valley Rotary Club) in attendance who introduced his lovely wife Lorelie and also our Interact Club President Javier Gonzalez and Club Secretary Viviana Arellano. Finally, Lora Cathcart introduced her daughter Katie Zapcart and her lovely wife Casey. Kimberly McKinney, Doug Hassett, Kevin Pickett, Frank Velasco, and David Turner 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!). Tonight's Mexican buffet started with a Mexican Corn Salad that included chopped Romaine lettuce, grilled cobbed corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, avocado, Jicama, black beans, topped with a Coriander dressing. Next came the delicious

(and not too spicy) Tortilla soup with tortilla strips and all the toppings including chopped cilantro, grated cotija cheese, sour cream, guacamole and Pico de Gallo.







Our entrée included Chicken Fajitas and Cheese Enchiladas which were both delicious and sides of Mexican Rice and Refried Beans (also delicious)! For dessert we had Churros with a caramel dipping sauce which took the Churros to the next level... one bite was worth the risk of getting a cavity! This was definitely not the traditional "Corned Beef and Cabbage" so often associated with St. Pat's Day and many in attendance appreciated the chef's choice this evening. 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 the black tablecloths and green linen napkins to adorn the tables and make our celebration of our early St. Patrick'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!

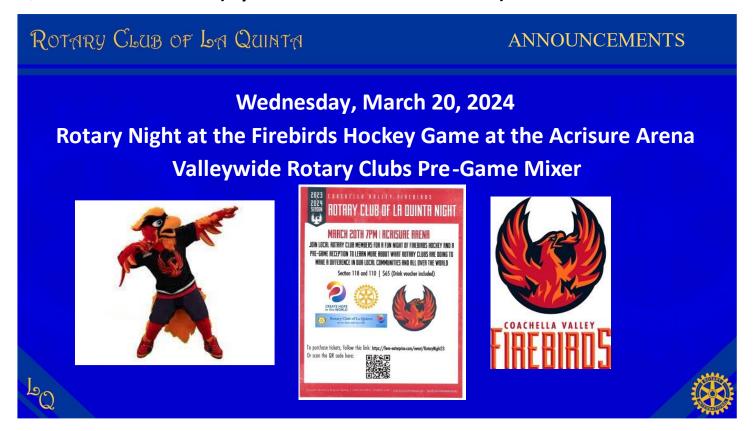
Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on April 11, 2024, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where the Guest Speaker will be Past District Governor Dr. Helene Kalfuss to speak on Rotary International. More on this in upcoming flyers. [Please save the date now so when you are asked "Are you doing anything on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup>?" You can say, "YES! that's my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!"]



Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission was (time conundrum here) Thursday evening, March 21, 2024, from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. Bruce and Lora will be (and were) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 March 29, 2024, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).



Bruce reminded everyone that there is/was a Firebirds Hockey Game and valley wide Rotary Club Mixer on March 20, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. As you read this, the event has already taken place and it was a great success. A full report will be made at our next dinner meeting!

# 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 (March 30, 2024, at 7:30 PM) for our very own Coachella Valley Derby Girls! President Bruce handed the microphone to Katie Zapcart (Lil ZAP) the DJ for the Derby Bouts!" Katie 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 (only \$10 and bring your own lawn chair/seat). 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!

#### LA QUINTA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK INTERVIEWS

Spring Semester Interview Workshops at La Quinta H.S.:

#1—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 PUBLIC SERV ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

#2—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 PUBLIC SERV ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

#3—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 CULINARY ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

#4—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 MEDICAL ACADEMY 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

#5-- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 <u>MEDICAL ACADEMY</u> 1:15 P.M.--3:40 P.M

PLEASE REPLY TO <u>mrosen831@gmail.com</u> WITH YOUR <u>PREFERENCE</u> OF ONE <u>OR MORE</u> WORKSHOP(S) #1, # 2, #3, #4, #5.

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Next President Bruce shared with everyone that the "Mock Interviews" at the La Quinta High School were taking place and that interested Rotarians (or guests) should contact Marc Rosen to schedule participating. This is a tremendous opportunity to work with the students in our community and to help them prepare for their job interviews in the future.

# DEMOTION PARTY DEVOTION PARTY JUNE 13, 2024

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President Bruce then spoke about bringing back some of the traditions that our club had to forego due to COVID. One tradition that President Bruce REALLY WISHED he could bring back this year was the "Demotion Party"... you know, the one where the club celebrates the departure of the president from office? This year there will be no departure from office to celebrate as President Bruce will once again be our club's president for RY 2024-2025. So instead of a Demotion Party, this year we will have a DEVOTION PARTY which will coincide with our June Dinner Meeting. More details to follow in the months to come!







Next President Bruce re-introduced Frank Ceja, our LQHS Interact Club Faculty Advisor who shared with us that the club is now up to 30 members and still growing! Then club president Javier and Club secretary Viviana each took a turn addressing the club and sharing their enthusiasm for Rotary and their excitement to attend RYLA this coming weekend! They invited any club members that might have the time and interest to be a guest speaker at any of their meetings which occur every Tuesday on campus at around 1 PM. If interested, please contact President Bruce or Dan Fissori to make arrangements. It was apparent to all that Frank has done a marvelous job with these students and the restoration of the Interact Club.

#### ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

**CVRM Partnership** 

#### FEBRUARY WAS "BARE ESSENTIALS" DRIVE MONTH AT THE CVRM!!!

Last year our club members and guests brought in over 200 items to be used by the mission!!!

This year 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!!!



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President Bruce thanked everyone for participating in the annual "Bare Essentials" Drive in February and for their generous donations! This year, together, we more than doubled last year's donations bringing in 433 items to be used both at the mission and with the Outreach program to help clothe those less fortunate and homeless this spring!



March was our semi-annual "Mac Attack" Drive for the Rescue Mission in which our members and guests were asked to bring Macaroni and Cheese items. We did a GREAT JOB on this one last August bringing in 396 items. Our goal this month was to exceed 400 items! A final tally showed that this month we met our goal bringing in 402 Mac and Cheese items!!! This is really a fan favorite both at the mission and through their Outreach programs as these items are not only used at the mission itself, but they are also distributed to families in need across our valley and really make a 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!!!



This is one of our most important drives that furnish Hygiene Packets to both the mission and the homeless throughout our Valley!

#### **APRIL IS OUR "TOILETRY" DRIVE**



Last April our club members and guests brought in a total of 405 items including everything from toothbrushes and toothpaste to razors, shampoos and so much more!



Next month (April) is our annual "Toiletry Drive" at the CVRM. We are being asked to bring in Toiletry Items that will be used both at the mission and perhaps more importantly, to be assembled in "Hygiene Packs" and distributed to the homeless from Banning to Blythe through the Mission's Outreach Program.

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA

**RCLQ Members in Service to others!** 











RCLQ Rotarians supporting other causes in our community!



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. He then gave high praise to Linda Evans who he referred to as a "Super Rotarian" who attends multiple events each month in support of other causes all with the goal of making the world a better place. Above center she is shown accepting the award of "Hunger Hero" for her work with the FIND Food Bank. The desire to make the world a better place is what unites us all as Rotarians and through Rotary and other charitable organizations we Rotarians are "People of Action" rising to meet the different challenges everyday in every way.

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA	March Birthdays and Anniversaries
Birthdays Colleen Anderson Nancy Wilkinson  Anniversaries Dan and TC Fissori	3/3 3/30 3/19

March 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! Happy belated birthday to Colleen and Happy Upcoming Birthday Nancy! Dan was thankful for the reminder in advance of his anniversary with TC... We hope it was a great celebration for the two of them!

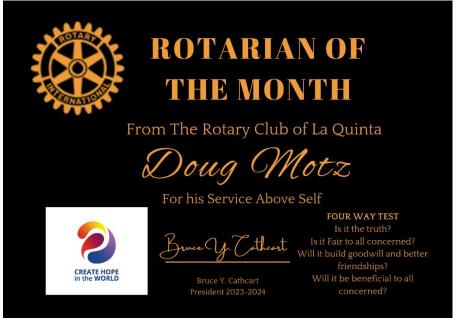


Next it was time to induct our newest member Kimberly McKinney into our club. Kimberly is a transferring Rotarian from the Newport Mesa Sunrise Club and so President Bruce gave her the abbreviated induction speech which culminated in Kimberly being "pinned" by our District Governor who then offered a few words about Rotary and welcmed her into our club.



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, well, as long as we have been a club as he is the only Founding Member still active. This individual is a past president of our club and here's a little-known fact... this individual has procured the Insurance Certificate for every public event that our club has ever hosted!!! In addition, this individual has participated in nearly every event our club has ever had from parking cars, to serving beer and cocktails, golf tournaments, charitable events and fundraisers... this individual has always been there to support our club, and Rotary both financially, and with his "Service Above Self". Our Congratulations to Doug Motz, our Rotarian of the Month for March!

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



This month's Dinner Sponsor Package is the "ST. PAT'S EASTER BASKET". It includes a 1.75 L bottle of Jamison Triple Distilled Irish Whiskey and a 5 piece Casa Eleganza Decanter set, 2 Easter Ballerina Bunny Art Décor Figurines, 2 Pr. Lucky Irish Socks, 2 Easter Kitchen Towels, 1 Easter Serving Platter, 1 Happy Easter hanging Décor sign, 1 Irish saying Tabletop Décor Sign, 1 Hand Painted Irish Gnome Coffee Mug with Lid and a bag of Starbucks "Spring Day Blend" ground coffee, 1 box Girl Scout "Thin Mint" Cookies, 2 boxes (1 each) Knotts Berry Farms Blueberry and Boysenberry Shortbread Cookies, Assorted Easter Favorite Candies and Peeps, 1 \$25.00 Gift Card to See's Candies and a Green, Woven Fabric 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 then, 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, our district governor Jamie Zinn and our special guest Mitch Razook. It turns out that this night Mitch Razook had the luck of the Irish with him as he was our basket winner. Our congratulations to you Mitch 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 resumed his duty carrying (not passing) the hat! Happy Dollars were collected around the room with best wishes for birthdays (Linda Evans Dad turning 89, Jim Cathcart turning 39 on St. Pat's Day) and anniversaries (Doug and Carole Motz and Dan and TC), for our District Governor's visit as well as for the Rotary Royalty in the room and for the great comradery within our club. There were two very special acknowledgements for Araceli Mejorado, the Food and Beverage manager for the Greg Norman Clubhouse... first from David Turner for Araceli returning (to their home) Paula's wallet which she had left at the last meeting, and second from Brett Anderson for Araceli's return of Colleen's diamond and

ruby bracelet which she had left behind at the December meeting. Thank you Araceli! We appreciate you and all that you do for us!!!

Including the Dinner sponsor tickets our Rotarians and guests contributed almost \$700 this evening. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity!!!



Finally, it was time for our program. President Bruce introduced our speaker, District 5330 Governor Jamie Zinn. President Bruce began, "Jamie Zinn is the Chief Operating Officer of a major Western U.S. distribution firm and a proud Rotarian for over 17 years. She served on the RI Designated 5330 World Peace Conference as Treasurer and is a Co-Founder and Director for the Solutions for Peace Foundation. She has served as a Club President, as well as Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair for Foundation, Membership, Public Relations, Vocational, Community Service and Club Administration. She has been Treasurer and a Director for District 5330 since 2013. Jamie has been recognized as the California Businesswoman of the Year in 2005 and 2006 as well as recipient of the Congressional Medal of Distinction in 2006 and 2008 for her work with the Business Advisory Council on taxation. She is currently a proud member of the Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club and has been recognized as the Rotary International Four Avenues of Service Award Recipient in 2008, Rotarian of the

Year in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012, Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club Presidents Award Recipient in 2009/2010 and District 5330 Rotary Award of Excellence Recipient for 2013/2014. Jamie is an RLI Graduate, Paul Harris Fellow, Bequest Society Member, Benefactor and Major Donor. It is my great honor to introduce our 2023-2024 District 5330 Governor Jamie Zinn". Jamie then received a standing ovation as she approached the podium.

Prior to her visit to our club, DG Jamie asked President Bruce to nominate two outstanding Rotarians for her to present her "Service Above Self" awards to at this meeting. This was a particularly difficult choice for the president as we have so many outstanding members in our club who deserve such an award. For our Rotary Club of La Quinta one of our primary emphasis and areas of focus has always been on our Youth Services. This year there have been two Rotarians that have really distinguished themselves by their amazing efforts and deeds in service to the Youth in our Community and President Bruce submitted their names to DG Jamie for this very special award.

After her brief introductory remarks and thank yous, DG Jamie introduced her first recipient of her Service Above Self Award.







DG Jamie began "The first recipient of my Service Above Self award is Frank Ceja. He is a current member of the Rotary Club of Coachella, he is a past president, and has been involved in Rotary for nearly 20 years. He teaches the Information Technology Academy at La Quinta High School where he is the Faculty Advisor for our newly re-established Interact Club. Frank has done a truly amazing job recruiting students and teaching the students about Rotary, Service Above Self, and the 4-way test. It is due to Frank's dedication and hard

work that LQHS once again has an Interact Club. He is doing a GREAT JOB mentoring these students and most certainly deserves this great honor."







DG Jamie continued, "The second reipient of my Service Above Self award is Simon Moore. Simon is a recent transfer Rotarian who is now a member of the Rotary Club of La Quinta. He has been involved in Rotary for over 10 years and is a Past President from both the Victorville and Palm Desert Sunset Clubs and is a past member of the Palm Springs Rotary Club. He teaches the Health Academy at the Coachella Valley High School. Simon is responsible for putting together the Town Hall Meeting that took place on March 7, 2024, at the Annenberg Center regarding Fentanyl Awareness and Risk Reduction Strategies where over 250 students from 5 Coachella Valley High Schools attended and learned more about this deadly drug and epidemic. The Rotary Club of La Quinta is extremely proud of your efforts and feel that you truly deserve to be recognized and to receive this great honor."

DG Jamie then shared with the audience about all the improvements and changes that were taking place at the district to improve the district's ability to better support the clubs (and their members) at the district level. The District Governor Line has been working together with approximately 30 individual Rotarians from different clubs throughout the district to improve their website and educational opportunities as well as support groups and mechanisms to assist club's officers and members to be the best Rotarians that they can be.

DG Jamie then shared her AH-HA moment in helping a disabled young woman to experience skiing again with her friends in our local mountains. An AH-HA moment is something which all Rotarians experience at one point or another and

in different ways that galvanizes their belief in Rotary and the knowledge that through Rotary they are making a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate, whether it be in their own community or around the world. She invited members of the audience to share their AH-HA moment and Frank Ceja volunteered his regarding the 4-way test.



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **IGNITE FESTIVAL 2024**



#### **CLUB BOOTHS**

Invitation To Showcase Your Club at The Festival with A Club Booth.

To make things interesting, we will have a contest with cash prizes for the best booths, which will be judged on décor, originality, and enthusiasm.

1st Place \$300

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$200

3rd Place \$100

All this fun for just \$100 to register and participate. Please contact DMC Al Rubio for more detailed information.

alrubiotemrotary@gmail.com or (909) 730-0447



Jamie ended her presentation sharing with everyone all about the upcoming IGNITE FESTIVAL which takes place this year on June 15, 2024, at Lake Skinner. This is a new way for Rotary District 5330 to celebrate the end of the Rotary year and EVERYONE is invited as this event will be open to the public as way of sharing Rotary with folks beyond just Rotarians. With a Kansas City BBQ sanctioned competition, live entertainment and guest speakers plus overnight camping for those interested... this promises to be an amazing event that you won't want to miss.



Another standing ovation for DG Jamie erupted and before she could return to her seat President Bruce presented her with our Club's Plaque of Appreciation for her "Service Above Self" and commemorating her year (2023-2024) and our appreciation for all that she does as our District Governor. Our THANKS to you DG Jamie for an excellent presentation and a wonderful visit to our club.



Before adjourning the meeting President Bruce made one more presentation to Carol Winston, this year's Executive Assistant to our District Governor. Our club

wanted Carol to know that we appreciate her Service Above Self and all that she does for Rotary.

Finally, President Bruce 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 St. Patrick's Day and a Happy Easter 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of every month. Our next meeting is on April 11, 2024, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at <a href="mailto:Bycathcart63@Gmail.com">Bycathcart63@Gmail.com</a> no later than Monday 04/08/24. 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 2023-2025** 

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!]