



**Rotary Club of La Quinta**

Service above self since 1985



## The “HELLO AUTUMN” Meeting



**Our September Dinner Meeting was held at the PGA West GREG NORMAN Clubhouse and was a GREAT way for our members, spouses, visitors, and friends to get out of the house and enjoy an evening out! Everyone was in good spirits and looking forward to celebrating the start of the Fall Season.**



**Lora Cathcart and Daughter Katie and Zapcart at the Greeting table.**

**On September 14, 2023, at 6 PM, La Quinta Rotarians, along with their spouses, guests, visitors, and friends gathered together and enjoyed an evening filled with awards, giving and good fun.**





**The dining room was set up with 2 tables for 8 and one table for 10 with the buffet tables set to the side of the room.**



**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 had Robert Wilkinson lead us in the salute to our flag.**



President Bruce gave the invocation expressing special thanks for Kimberly McKinney, who each month provides our club the opportunity to support the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission to help those less fortunate than ourselves... and for our Assistant District Governor Bill Chase's attendance this evening, whose efforts to assist all of us in our Rotarian endeavors all year long is so greatly appreciated.



Next Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our good friend Kimberly McKinney from the Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club (who also is our connection to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission). Lora Cathcart introduced her "daughters" Katie and Casey Zapcart. David Turner introduced his LOVELY wife Paula, Brett Anderson introduced his LOVELY wife Colleen, Robert Wilkinson introduced his LOVELY wife Nancy, Dan Fissori introduced his LOVELY wife TC, and Linda Evans introduced her LOVELY husband Tim! and then President Bruce introduced two very special guests, our District 5330 Assistant District Governor Bill Chase and Bruce's brother Jim Cathcart. Lee Osborne, Allan Levin, Deborah McGarrey, Doug Hassett, and Cat Makino rounded out our attendees for this evening's event. It is always exciting to see so many new and old friends gathered together to share in the spirit of Rotary.

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **October 12, 2023**, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where our speaker will be Carol Pipitone from the Rotary Shelter Box program. 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 12<sup>th</sup>?" You can say, "YES! that's my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!"]**



Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission will be next Thursday evening, September 21, 2023, from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. If interested in helping out, contact President Bruce.

Our next Lunch/Board meeting will be on Friday, **September 29, 2023**, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon. (Flyers to follow on this as well!).

Bruce then shared that Grant applications were submitted last month ahead of the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to the City of La Quinta for two years of RYLA funds (\$4,950.00) and for our District 5330 Funds in the amount of \$1,509.00 with \$1,000.00 pledged to the GLP and \$509.00 to the Polio Plus program.

ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Saturday, March 9, 2024,  
Rotary Night at the Firebirds Hockey Game at the Acrisure Arena  
Valleywide Rotary Clubs Pre-Game Mixer**



The image block contains four photographs: the Firebirds mascot, a crowd at Acrisure Arena, the 2023 Pacific Division Champions trophy, and the Firebirds logo. The logo features a stylized phoenix and the text 'COACHELLA VALLEY FIREBIRDS'.

Bruce announced that at the recent Coachella Valley Rotary President's Council meeting he was informed that there is a Firebirds Hockey Game and Valleywide Rotary Club Mixer being scheduled for March 9, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. An hour and a half before the gates open to the Hockey Game Rotarians from all clubs in the valley will gather in a private room with one drink (each) and light hors d'oeuvres plus a few extra surprises! The cost is to be \$65 per ticket for Center Ice seats. The price does not include parking. More information will be coming in the months ahead.

President Bruce acknowledged two "Thank You" notes received this month, one from Susan Denning for the Club's attendance and sympathy wreath at Denn's services and one from this year's Senior Scholarship recipient Isabel Zuniga who is

attending UCI and rooming with another RCLQ scholarship recipient Takiea Kampanart!

**ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

COACHELLA VALLEY DERBY GIRLS  
LAST HOME GAME FOR THE SEASON WAS LAST SATURDAY  
THANK YOU, ROTARY CLUB OF LA QUINTA FOR YOUR SUPPORT!











The only other announcement was made collectively by Katie and Casey Zapcart about the Coachella Valley Derby Girls letting everyone know that the last home bout took place on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the PS Air Museum. So far, several Rotarians have attended these “bouts”, and all have agreed that they are **GREAT FUN!** The Girls thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to the possibility of a combined fundraising event next year!

And finally, we hit the buffet!

Our dinners are served “Buffet Style” and this month’s dinner was not your typical “Italian Night” but instead offered some very unique Italian dishes.



**Tonight's starters included two salads: a Market Salad with Sun Dried Tomatoes, Shredded Mozzarella Cheese, Dill-Garlic, Croutons, Peas, Italian Dressing and White Balsamic Dressing; and a Rice Salad with Tuna that included Grilled Zucchini, Garbanzo Beans, Chopped Hard Boiled Eggs, Lemon Thyme, and Herb Dressing. There were also two entrées: a Braised Pork Stew with Wild Mushrooms, Quinoa, and a Barolo Wine Sauce; and a Whole Chicken Rotisserie, Mixed Vegetables, Peppercorn and White Anchovies in a Pomodoro Sauce. And additional side dish (not pictured) of Roasted Whole Cauliflower with an Herbs Parmesan Crust and Remoulade Sauce. For dessert there was Tiramisu and Biscotti, Frangelico-Hazelnut Cream and Orange Marmalade and Pecan Pie Tarts.**



**Once again, the Chef outdid himself with this menu! The two salads alone were a meal in themselves, but the entrées were amazing, perfectly prepared and both with an exquisite blend of flavors that sent most folks back for seconds! The Tiramisu was like eating a delicious, chocolatey, coffee cloud and the Pecan Pie Tarts would be a stand-out at any southern Sunday family potluck!**

**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 and again thank Carly, Felicity, Chef Herve, and especially Araceli and Noe of the serving staff that together make the room available, set the room, plan, prepare and serve the meal, and make this evening happen for us each month! He also thanked our club's sponsoring members here at PGA West David and Paula Turner.**





## AUGUST "MAC ATTACK" MONTH



Bruce then thanked all the members for their participation in last month's CVRM "Mac Attack" drive where our club members and guests brought in 394 packages of Mac and Cheese items. Bruce then re-introduced Kimberly McKinney who each month coordinates our club's drives and giving to the CVRM.



Kimberly thanked everyone for their generous donations last month for the "Mac Attack" drive and shared with everyone how much the monthly donations from the club are appreciated and looked forward to on the Fridays following our monthly meetings!



President Bruce, Kimberly McKinney and ADG Bill Chase with New Sock donations.

This month was “Socktember”, and our club was asked to bring in new socks to help support the Mission and their outreach programs to the homeless in our Valley (actually, the CVRM Outreach program helps those in need from Banning to Blythe!). Our club had set a goal to exceed last year’s donation of 195 pairs of socks. [In a follow up email from Kimberly we learned that this year our club smashed our old record and brought in **528 pairs of new socks!** “The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is in awe of the love and friendship the La Quinta Rotary Club shows to the underserved in our valley and the homeless in our care.” Said Kimberly].

Kimberly then announced that next month will be our annual Canned Food Drive and we are being asked to bring in unexpired or new canned goods of all kinds for use at the Mission and their outreach programs. **THANK YOU KIMBERLY** for making it possible for us to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate here in our own community each month.

Before announcing his month’s Rotarian of the Month, President Bruce took the opportunity to reintroduce our 2023-2024 Assistant District Governor William “Bill” Chase to all those in attendance this evening. Bruce began by explaining some of the duties of the ADG and emphasized what an important, time-consuming, and challenging job it is. He then shared the following information from Bill’s Bio about his amazing career with Rotary: “While still a practicing Dentist Bill joined the Adrian (MI) Noon Rotary Club in 1973 and is a Past President and Past District Governor. He moved to CA in 2005 where he joined the Palm



Springs Sunup Rotary Club and is a Past President and currently serves as their Secretary and Bulletin Editor. He has Co-Chaired the District's Rotary Leadership Academy, was a representative on the Council on Legislation, and was the Chair of the Rotary World Peace Conference. He has been a Rotary Leadership Institute Facilitator, since 2012, a P.E.T.S. Facilitator since 2016, Served on multiple District Conference Committees, **and has completed 13 international dental service missions as a Rotary Alumnus in both the Philippines and Brazil from 1992-2010,** and has served as District Trainer. He is currently our Assistant District 5330 Governor... and not just an amazing Rotarian, but a remarkable humanitarian.” Bruce also confided with everyone that Bill has become a personal friend and mentor to him.



Next Bruce invited Bill to the podium where he expressed to Bill how much our club appreciates his support and leadership and all that he does for us and for Rotary International. He then presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his “Service Above Self”. Bill took a few moments to address the club to say, “thank you” and to encourage us to keep up the good work. He shared with us how rewarding his experience with Rotary has been and that he knew the first time he met Jennifer Jones that someday she would be a Rotary International President. As it turned out, last year, Jennifer became the first ever woman president of Rotary International (2022-2023). THANK YOU BILL, for all that you have done and continue to do for Rotary.

**SEPTEMBER Rotarian of the Month: Mayor Linda Evans**



**Thank you for your Service Above Self!**



It was now 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 is someone who I believe best embodies the Rotary spirit and leads by example wherever she goes by following the Four Way Test and in the performance of Service Above Self on a daily basis. Somehow, despite her incredibly busy schedule, she manages to attend almost every club meeting. She volunteers at every event; and she is very generous with her happy dollars and monthly donations to the CVRM. One of the things that I admire most about her is that she is openly proud to be a Rotarian and a member of our club wherever she goes. Congratulations to Linda Evans, our Rotarian of the Month for September!"



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



This month’s Dinner Sponsor basket is titled “HELLO FALL”. It includes 1.75 L bottle of Ketel One Vodka along with bottles of Ocean Spray Cranberry and Grapefruit juice plus a bottle of Zing Zang Bloody Mary mix, a “Hello Autumn” Gnome, 2 Fall Holiday Décor signs, 1 set of 4 Fall Highball Glasses, a bag of Starbucks Fall Blend Ground Coffee and a Fall Coffee Mug, 2 Fall Design Kitchen Towels, a “Touch of Country Magic” Cinnamon Broom, 1 Fall Flower Bouquet, 1 box of Caramel Apple Cinnamon KIND “Thins”, a \$25 gift card to Cinemark Movies plus a \$25 Gift Card to the Cheesecake Factory all in a Faux Wicker 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... And our lucky winner this month was our ADG Bill Chase! While purchasing his sponsor dinner cards Bill mentioned that he never wins anything... well, he can't say that anymore... Congratulations Bill!!!

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 carried the hat and had Bruce start things off with a donation in honor of his mother who celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Other highlights included Katie Zapcart contributing a few dollars for Patriot's Day in hopes that the people of our Country could somehow find a way to unite again as we did after 9/11, Lee Osborne made a donation for the privilege of announcing the Boys and Girls club car raffle, Robert shared his joy of celebrating his 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary to his LOVELY wife Nancy on 9/11, Doug Hassett shared a few bucks for the honor of playing and singing "Amazing Grace" at the City of La Quinta's 9/11 tribute ceremony, and Bill Chase chipped in for being tonight's big winner of the dinner sponsor basket. Several others added to the collection with Dr. Bruce Underwood celebrating his Kansas Jayhawks, David Turner for his South Dakota State Jackrabbits, Linda Evans for Tim's birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Brett Anderson and Jim Cathcart who were just happy to be out celebrating the evening with the group. Including the Dinner sponsor tickets over \$500.00 was collected this evening which will be used to support the club's annual charitable giving. Our thanks to you all!

Guest Speaker: Mayor Linda Evans

September 14, 2023



Linda Evans is Mayor for the City of La Quinta and has served as Mayor since 2014. Prior to that, she served on La Quinta's City Council beginning in 2009.

Linda is also the Chief Strategy Officer of Community Advocacy for the Desert Care Network, which comprises Desert Regional Medical Center (Palm Springs), JFK Memorial Hospital (Indio), and Desert Medical Center (Joshua Tree). She has worked for the hospitals' parent company, Tenet Healthcare for 28 years.

Linda received a Bachelor's Degree in Communications/Public Relations from California State University, Fullerton. She holds two Master's Degrees: one in Health Administration and the other in Gerontology, both obtained from the University of La Verne, California.

Linda serves on the following Boards:  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments – Executive Committee; Energy and Sustainability Committee; and Conservation Commission  
Joint Powers Authority for Visit Greater Palm Springs (Convention & Visitors Bureau)  
Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine  
Coachella Valley Energy Commission  
Impact Through Golf Foundation (AMEX Golf Tournament, LQ)  
Palm Springs Air Museum  
La Quinta Rotary Club

In 2022, she was recognized with the following awards: Woman of Impact from American Heart & Stroke Association; Humanitarian of the Year from LifeStream Blood Bank; and Community Member of the Year from Desert Sands Education Foundation.

Her role with the Desert Care Network and Mayor provides for extensive networking across a large spectrum of agencies, organizations and community groups – all of which have a common goal of ensuring access to care, healthy eating, and active living.

Quality of life is a key driver in how Linda measures success in her hospital outreach and her civic duty.

Linda and her husband, Tim, have been married for nearly 28 years and love their 14-year young dog, Rufus.





**Our speaker this evening just happened to be our Rotarian of the Month, City of La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans. President Bruce began Linda's introduction, "I reviewed 3 bios to introduce Linda to you tonight that were so impressive you would think she walked on water! She has two master's degrees, she has been on the city council and/or mayor for the City of La Quinta for 14 years, she has garnered more awards for her outstanding achievements than she has wall space to hang them and either chairs or belongs to more committees and boards than would seem humanly possible. But she somehow seems to find time to be an active and important member of our club. But when I asked her to provide me with her Bio, she gave me this to introduce her with tonight.**

**Linda is a California native.**

**Middle of 3 girls and a Gemini.**

**Tom Boy at heart.**

**She's smart, funny, and service-oriented.**

**She loves chocolate and tequila.**

**She's been married to her husband Tim for almost 28 years. He puts up with her and her social life.**

**They love to go off-roading and camp with their 14-year-old dog, Rufus."**

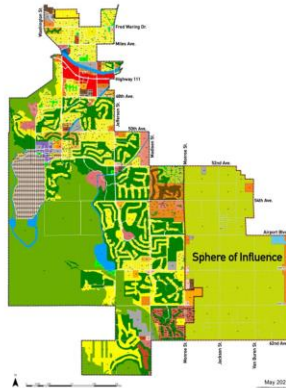
**Bruce then added, "And She's the BEST Mayor La Quinta has EVER had!" Linda then came to the podium and accompanied by her power point presentation proceeded to entertain, educate, and inform us about all things La Quinta. For those of you who have never heard Linda speak, she is an amazing speaker. She is articulate, knowledgeable and has a way of communicating facts, figures and statistics while keeping her audience engaged and inviting participation. David Turner remarked that at a recent gathering of the Coachella Valley's Mayors that Linda was a standout and that all the other Mayors in attendance paled in comparison.**

GENERAL FUND FY 2023/24 ADOPTED BUDGET SUMMARY	
Revenues	\$ 78,478,100
Less Operating/CIP Expenses	(72,828,750)
Preliminary Budget Surplus	5,649,350
Less Measure G Reserves	(4,000,000)
<b>BUDGET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 1,649,350</b>

MEASURE G SALES TAX SUMMARY	
Measure G Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 15,700,000
Police Services	(5,100,000)
Capital Improvements	(6,600,000)
<b>Available for Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>

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Linda began her presentation by updating us on the City's financial status and it was comforting to know that the City's finances are in very good shape and in addition, they are one of the very few Cities that have their pension plans fully funded!



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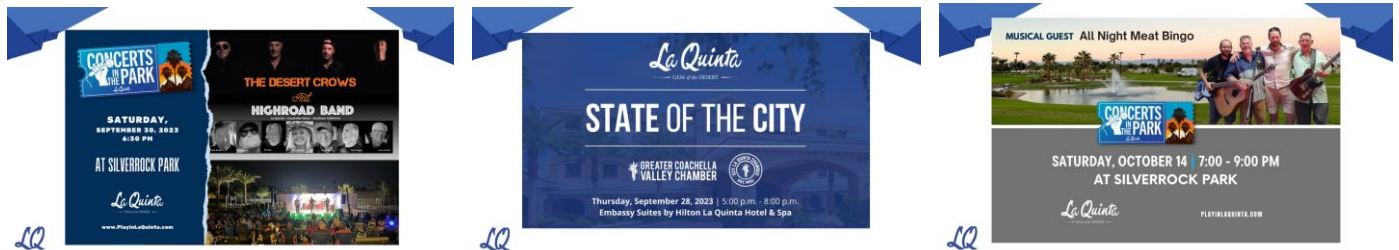
She talked about the City's Strategic Plan, undergrounding utilities in the Cove, the City's Sphere of Influence and the reasons for and against further expansion of the City's boundaries to the east.



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With the recent tropical storm event that was still fresh in everyone's mind she shared with us that the City's aggressive efforts to mitigate flooding after the last 700-year storm disaster were a terrific success. She also updated us on the planned City Park upgrades and the Highway 111 corridor.



Before concluding her presentation and taking questions from the audience she shared with us several upcoming events that will take place in the city.

We are so fortunate to have Linda as our Mayor and as a member of our club. She is an inspiration to all who meet her and a true example of the Rotary spirit and Service Above Self. Thank you Linda for your most excellent presentation.

President Bruce led the group in the reciting of the "Four Way Test" before 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of every month. Our next meeting is on October 12, 2023, to be held at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 6 PM. Please make sure you confirm your reservation at [Bruce@LQPRE.com](mailto:Bruce@LQPRE.com) no later than Monday 10/09/23. 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 just getting started!!!**

**YIRS,**

**Bruce Cathcart**

**President 2023-2024**

**Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. You can reach me at [Bruce@LQPRE.com](mailto:Bruce@LQPRE.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!]**