



Rotary Club of La Quinta

Service above self since 1985



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



On December 14, 2023, 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 a very special guest.



Lora Cathcart and daughter Katie Zapcart at the Greeting table.

Everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to celebrating the start of the "Holiday" Season on this cool December evening.



Upon their arrival, each member or guest was presented with a Holiday Shot Glass and custom made, Rotary Club of La Quinta 2023 Keepsake Rotary Ornament! In addition, Special Guest Paula Turner brought light up necklaces for everyone too!!!



The room was set with SIX tables of 6 all decked out in fine linens and each with holiday centerpieces donated by the presidential committee in preparation for our largest meeting of the year. The outdoor stage was set for something magical, with hopes that our special guests would arrive shortly and be pleased with our preparations.



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 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 embracing the Rotary spirit during the Holiday season! He expressed how we are truly grateful for the bonds of friendship that we share within our Rotary Family and how together we look forward to creating hope in the world through our kindness and generosity to those less fortunate than ourselves throughout the coming new year.

President Bruce made a special acknowledgement that tomorrow is the 8th and final day of Hanukkah or Zose Hanukkah, with tonight being a special night for

those of the Jewish faith. He then gave a heartfelt thank you to all those of the Jewish faith for choosing to attend our meeting on this very special occasion.



Lt. Frank Velasco



Simon Moore



Chrystal and Charley Kennedy

Next Bruce welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. Starting first with our visiting Rotarians of which we had only one this evening, Kimberly McKinney from the Newport Beach Sunrise Club. Dan Fissori introduced his lovely wife TC, and Doug Motz introduced his lovely wife Carole, President Bruce introduced soon to be new members Simon Moore and Lt. Frank Velasco. David Turner introduced his lovely wife Paula and also our Club and Foundation bookkeeper Chrystal Kennedy and her husband Charley and then he introduced his friends Mitch and Ruth Razook. Allan Levin introduced his lovely wife Barbara, Robert Wilkinson introduced his lovely wife Nancy, Brett Anderson introduced his lovely wife Colleen, Linda Evans introduced her lovely husband Tim, Deborah McGarrey introduced her lovely husband Michael, and Dr. Bruce Underwood introduced his lovely wife Janet. Lastly, Lora Cathcart introduced her son Jim Cathcart, daughter Katie Zapcart and her wife Casey... followed by President Bruce introducing his brother Jim Cathcart and his wife Maria. Sandra Lauer and Doug Hassett rounded out tonight's attendees and all together we made up quite a lovely bunch! Thank you all who attended and for making this evening so special.

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



It must be quite a challenge to create new, interesting and delicious buffets for us each month but somehow Chef Lulu masterfully accomplishes this task with this evening's meal being a fantastic combination of dishes that really hit the spot. For starters we enjoyed a Red Mustard and Arugula Salad with a Blood Orange Vinaigrette dressing along with several toppings to choose from that included candied pecans, sweet cranberries, sliced Persian cucumbers and red apple julienne. In addition, we had both meat lovers and grilled vegetable flatbreads to choose from. Our entrée sides included winter vegetable medley and Pomme's de terre gratin.



Our entrée was an incredible roasted Pork Loin with a habanero-bacon jam crust that was cooked perfectly and served both moist and tender. To top things off we were served two desserts, a pumpkin eggnog crème brûlée and double chocolate fudge brownies. Our highest praise and compliments to Chef Lulu for creating and serving us yet another veritable triumph of the culinary arts!

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 a special treat, our event coordinator Felicity Lira was in attendance this evening and we were able to personally thank her for all that she does!

Bruce then reminded us that our next dinner meeting would take place on **January 11, 2024**, at the GREG NORMAN Clubhouse starting at 6 PM where we will have a VERY SPECIAL GUEST! This meeting will be our annual District 5330 Governor's visit so please do your best to attend this one!!! 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 11th?” You can say, “YES! that’s my Rotary Club dinner meeting!!!”]

Our next SERVING night at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission will be 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.

Our next Lunch/Board meeting will be in the new year, at Burgers and Beer La Quinta at 12:00 Noon on a day to be determined. (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 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 20, 2024, at the Acrisure Arena. Provided that 200 Rotarians 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 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. They are still not yet accepting reservations or payment for tickets yet, but as soon as they do we’ll get a sign-up sheet together.



November "PUMPKIN PIE" DRIVE

60 Large Costco Pumpkin Pies
936 Dinner Rolls
9 Lbs. of Butter
18 cans of Whipped Cream



President Bruce then thanked everyone for participating in the "Pumpkin Pie" drive last month! Together we donated 60 Giant Costco Pies (minimum 960 slices), 936 dinner rolls, 9 lbs. of butter and 18 cans of whipped cream that were used at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving Feast. Once again, Good Job Rotarians!!! He then re-introduced Kimberly McKinney to tell us how the Thanksgiving dinner was, about our Toy Drive this month and next month's warm clothing drive!

Kimberly shared with us that this year the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission delivered and served over 3,000 meals to those less fortunate individuals in our community and gave a special thank you to the Rotary Club of La Quinta for their generous donation. She stated that getting the turkeys was not a problem this year, but thanks us for providing the often-overlooked items that help to round out the Thanksgiving meal.

DECEMBER "TOY" DRIVE



Kimberly then shared with us about the Annual CVRM Toy Drive where the valley children get to select their presents **WITHOUT** the aid (or veto) of their parents! [In an email, Kimberly shared with me that this year our club donated 160 toys to their drive].

Finally, Kimberly announced that next month is our "Winter Clothing" drive at the Mission and that new or lightly used articles of warm clothing are in big demand at this time of year (mostly for the homeless through their outreach program). This is a great opportunity to go through your closets and purge all those items of clothing that you no longer use and bring them to donate at the next meeting.

SERVING 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! If interested, contact President Bruce.



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Dominican Republic Sedona, Arizona



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 David Turner and his wife Paula traveled to the Dominican Republic and sent the above photos and Brett took his wife Colleen to Sedona Arizona and submitted the photo above. President Bruce then asked the group "And where do you think your President takes his wife for a good time?"



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BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA



THAT'S RIGHT! The exotically beautiful town of Blythe, California. Yep... Rotary is everywhere! We look forward to seeing more photos like these in the coming months. Thank you for sharing!!!

November Rotarian of the Month: LORA CATHCART

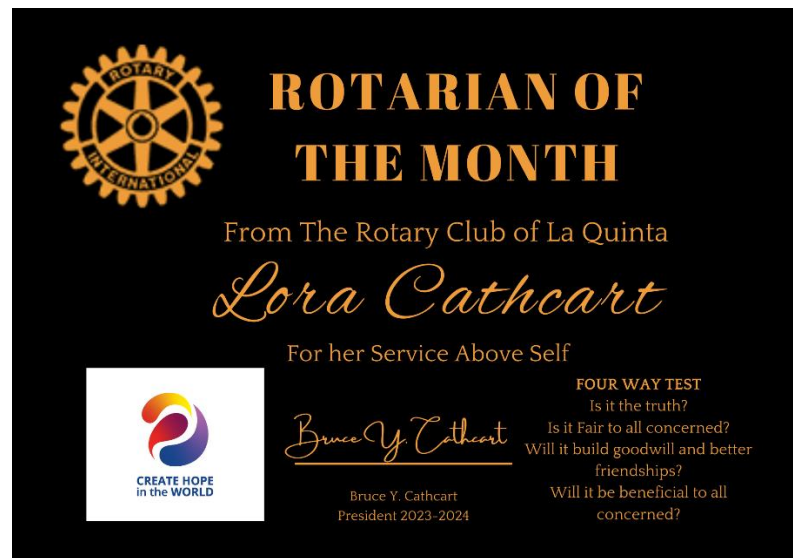


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Thank you for your Service Above Self!



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 just about as long as I have. This individual has volunteered and participated in every community service project, fundraiser and event that I have attended over the past 33 years. She is a Paul Harris Fellow and the current Secretary of our club. Over the past 17 months she has put together our amazing dinner sponsor Baskets and greeted everyone as the have arrived at our dinner meetings... and without her by my side, I could not do the job of President of our club. Our Congratulations to Lora Cathcart, our Rotarian of the Month for December!”

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



This month's Dinner Sponsor Package is the "HOLIDAY BASKET". It includes a bottle of Moet and Chandon Imperial Brut Champagne with two gold trimmed champagne flutes, a Premium Bamboo Charcuterie Cheese Board with cutlery set, 3 Holiday Decor Signs, 1 Large Holiday Plush Gnome, 2 Gnome Holiday Kitchen Towels, 1 Hickory Farms Farmhouse Summer Sausage, 1 Sweet and Savory snack nut tray, 1 Handcrafted hanging "Palm Springs" Reindeer, Starbucks Peppermint Mocha ground coffee and Holiday coffee mug, Trader Joe's Garlic and Jalapeno stuffed Olives, Spicy Snack Bar Mix, Pita Bite Crackers, Artichoke Hearts, Mini Gingerbread People Cookies, plus 1 Pack of "Drinking with my Gnomies" napkins, 1 box of See's Candies Fudge Assortment in a Plastic Red 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, Jim Cathcart and Janet Underwood... And our lucky winner this month was Jim Cathcart! But in a surprise move, Jim announced to everyone that since he had already won a basket this year, he wanted Janet to have the prize package. So congratulations to Janet for being this month's winner, and congratulations to Jim for truly representing the Rotary spirit (and making your Dad one proud papa!).

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 wife Lora’s December birthday... when all of sudden there was such a clatter and President quickly saw what was the matter! Our special guests had arrived!!!



Our special Guests apparently need no formal introduction... It was the BIG MAN himself accompanied by Mrs. Claus!!! After a quick greeting and a few Santa “Dad Jokes” Santa and Mrs. Claus shared with the club that their good deeds throughout the community had earned every one of us a spot on the “Nice List”.



Santa and Mrs. Claus then relocated to the Santa throne where they patiently posed for what will for sure be keepsake photos starting with a group photo that including everyone holding up toys that had been brought in for the CVRM. There were so many wonderful pictures taken with Santa, (mostly with everyone's own phone), that I can only share a few that I captured on my own phone.





Once again, our thanks to the staff at PGA West for all that they do each month to make our meetings so special! Happy Holidays to you all!

Our thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus for making the time to visit us during their VERY BUSY schedule at this time of year... and as quickly as they arrived, they were gone! (Like magic?)

There was just enough time to collect a few more Happy Dollars before it was time to end our meeting. Including the Dinner sponsor tickets our Rotarians and guests contributed over \$600 this evening. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity!!!

President Bruce Thanked the members, special guests and friends in attendance this evening for their help and support throughout the year and wished everyone

Happy Holidays, safe travels and a Happy New Year before the reciting of the “Four Way Test” and adjourning the meeting.

It was perhaps the most wonderful evening of the year 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 January 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 Bruce@LQPRE.com no later than Monday 01/08/23. 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.

[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!]