



Valle Verde
Rotary
Green Valley



CACTUS CHRONICLES

Birthdays

Nicole Raymond
March 2nd
Roxana D Rico
March 16th
Carol Pfister
March 18th

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard Buckman
March 9th
Martin Gomez
March 10th
JoAnne Sapp
March 22nd

Years of Service

Thomas E. Cooke
02-02-2006
18 Years
James E. Rusk
02-16-2006
18 Years
Sharon Gaipman
02-08-2016
8 Years
Deborah McGhie Wright
02-16-2017
7 Years

Judy Lindsey
02-13-2020
4 Years

Sarah C. Sheehan
02-01-2022
2 Years
Maureen Kelly Raso
01-26-2023
1 Year
Joyce A. Edelson
01-26-2023
1 Year
Flavia Nakayima Miuro
01-26-2023
1 Year

Cactus Chronicles February 22 2024

Meeting Notes February 22, 2024 - By Martha Parsons

At our Thursday February 22 meeting, there were 45 active/honorary members in person and 1 on ZOOM; plus guests Laura Milner, Joyce Finkelstein, and RYLA participants Mia Wilson, Stephanie Gonzalez and Hannah Bellé plus Kona!

President Ron opened the meeting with the Pledge, and Lupita Bishop gave a wonderful reflection about two sisters. The sisters were talking about how we all have ups and downs in our lives, but we can decide on how we react to those ups and downs, giving us the opportunity to reflect on each occurrence. And we should always look at each situation and how it can enrich our lives.



President Ron announced that Food Fight is Back, April 1-30, between our club, the Green Valley & Sahuarita clubs (and our own beloved Sojourners). It will coincide with Arizona Rotary Days of Service, April 13-20. We won't be throwing food, just money! Also in the works are plans to assist the Green Valley club in its Cardboard Collection campaign. Details on how this all comes together for you will be forthcoming after we get Jazz in the desert 2024 in the rear-view mirror!

There's a new Action Group in District 5500 on Mental Health. It's starting slow because the topic of Mental Health is so broad. President Ron asked those present to take a minute and jot down 2 or 3 items on the paper provided of what we thought was the most prevalent mental health issue in our community. Every club will come up with different ones; some will be the same. If you were not at the meeting and want to voice a mental health issue close to your heart, whether it's facing somebody in your family or whether it's your neighbor or even you personally, please email President Ron! (rgdarrah9@gmail.com) Visit www.211.org to learn more about how to link individuals and families to vital community services in their time of need, and also partner with communities to identify gaps and provide solutions through data. 211 on your phone is a direct link to those services when in immediate need.

Jazz in the Desert is this Saturday, with setup work on Friday! There's still lots of stuff out there to do, this coming week's meeting will be working on that, so be sure to be here! If you don't make it, we'll make sure you get an assignment (grin!)

President Ron gave an update on some of the things at the President's Zoom meeting. 10 years ago, Arizona Rotary started a campaign to have an Arizona Rotary license plate. It appears it is proceeding, and it may happen within the next year. So, at some point, we can get a Rotary license plate! There has been an effort to put a peace pole at the AZ Capitol, but unfortunately, the Senator who runs one of the Senate committees to move it through wouldn't put it on the docket! President Ron will get us contact information next week so we can inundate him with letters!

Sandy Wahl has set Thursday March 7th for a tour around La Posada, things that you don't normally see. There may still be a chance to sign up.

Me's 50-50 ticket was drawn and she didn't win. There is over \$2,700 in the pot for next week!

PROGRAM:

Students Hannah Bell, Stephanie Gonzalez and Mia Wilton, and Chaperone Gracie attended this RYLA year. RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is an intensive leadership experience that's organized by Rotary districts where youth can develop their leadership skills as well as have a good time and make connections with others.



Stephanie let us know that everyone learned many valuable lessons they will take throughout their life. This year she had the opportunity to be a Senior counselor to lead the leaders that led the delegates. Mia was a Junior Counselor, and Hannah was there to learn about the modules being taught. The camp started Friday night, with all the attendees splitting up into different cabins. They unpacked, got to know all of their cabin roommates and socialized with everybody and tried to connect without PHONES! Saturday's activities included a challenge course plus modules on differ topics including ethics and public speaking. On Sunday the participants composed whole presentation and made the presentation to their team and ton Monday presented to the entire group. The day ended with the talent show! It snowed and Gracie had never seen snow and made snow angels. They thank us for allowing them to have such a great learning experience! RYLA really is a tremendous program!

What's Next - February 29: Greeter: Sue Horton Reflection: Michele Lewis

- **Program:** Jazz in the Desert duties and updates.
- **Jazz t-shirts:** The t-shirt you ordered will be distributed at this Thursday's meeting. The price is \$15 each.
- **The next Microcredit Program** bus tour is scheduled for April 26-28 with only two seats remaining. All expenses are paid for the tour, including transportation, hotel and meals. Please let Gary Friedman know of your interest in going.
- **Club Grants** applications are now available. Club grants are small (up to \$500) for which members may apply. The use of the grant must be for specific areas of education/literacy, water sanitation, economic and community development, family economic stability and childhood health in local areas. It is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in an area of service for which you may have a passion. The use of the grant should involve some members of the club implementing the grant. You may obtain the grant application form by going to the Home Page of our site on Dacdb.
- **RLI** - The Rotary Leadership Institute will offer online training on April 27, from 9:00 to noon

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Continental School** - monthly cleaning of outdoor musical instruments - contact Bill Grantham
- **Books for Classrooms** is seeking volunteers to help sort and prepare books on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm. They are also seeking drivers to deliver the books. If you can help, please contact Linda Laird at lindalaird@booksforclassroom.ms.org.
- **Food Fight to alleviate hunger will be** during the month of April with the Green Valley Club and Sahuarita Club.
- **Warmth from the Heart Coat Drive** will occur in early fall. Save your winter outerwear for the collection.

Watch for announcements of other activities coming up in which you can participate.

"Telling My Story" with Ed Farver



On Friday, February 16, I had the pleasure of meeting with long-time Rotarian Ed Farver and spending an hour with him as he "told his story." I learned so much about

this man, his love for machines and Marlene, his wife of 55 years.

Ed was born in Rochelle, Illinois and grew up nearby in Ashton, Illinois. He was the oldest of four children. His favorite memory of growing up was playing with his B-B gun.

At 14 years old, Ed began working after school and in the summers for his father, who owned a repair store for all electrical and mechanical equipment. It was then that his love affair with all machinery began.

Ed graduated from Bradley University in Illinois with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He started his career with Allen-Bradley Corp. and honed his expertise in all HVAC systems. Ed eventually worked for more than 30 years with a school system in Illinois, maintaining all of their HVAC systems. With seven schools distributed throughout the school district, Ed traveled from school to school keeping all systems working and in good order. It was not unusual for him to be called in the middle of the night and, without hesitancy, went to make the urgent repairs.

His career in electrical engineering gave him great satisfaction and to this day he can still disassemble and repair any washer, refrigerator, furnace and hot water heater. As a matter of fact, during our conversation he diagnosed the problem with my water heater, told me it was on borrowed time, and even offered to come to my house to look at the tank. (I declined.)

Ed commented on a skill he learned in high school and to this day it serves him well in our world of technology and keyboards - typing.

Sales is a job he felt in which he would be terrible. When I asked why, he responded he was "best with machines."

An inspirational quote which he values is "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country."

If he could only eat one meal for the rest of his life, it would be anything with salmon. On the other hand, even if he was starving, he would not eat avocado.

Ed loves to read mysteries and does not like audio recordings of books. He reminded me he is very visual and likes to see everything.

Ed and Marlene married in 1969. During their marriage, Marlene pursued her Master's degree and spent her career teaching math. Upon both their retirement, they moved to Green Valley in 2003. With a marriage of 55 years, Ed described Marlene as his greatest joy.

Upon moving to a Green Valley new housing development, Ed served as the HOA President. Not to take his role lightly, Ed personally climbed onto every roof of the new homes constructed to inspect the quality of the roofing. He was not satisfied with the roofing and won a \$400,000 legal judgment against the roofing company. The proceeds were deposited in the HOA coffers.

In 2019, Ed and Marlene moved to La Posada where they are both very happy. No longer is he wakened to make a repair. And salmon is on the menu every day!

Ed described a period in his life in which he felt he made a difference in other lives. It was a shelter for homeless women entitled Home of the Sparrow.

He volunteered to maintain all the heating, water and electrical systems of this homeless shelter. Once again, as it was with the school system, he responded to middle of the night calls for an emergency repair.

Ed joined Rotary in 1987 in Richmond, Illinois and held all the leadership roles in the club. He was motivated to join Rotary by the good works Rotary did and wanted to be a part of this organization. He joined the Valle Verde Rotary club in 2003. Most valued and important to him about his membership in Rotary is the good work done for those in need and the good people in the club.

When not engaged in Rotary's works, you will find Ed singing at the Presbyterian church as a member of the choir. His deep voice resonates with power and is a favorite of all who hear him.

At the closure of our meeting, I asked Ed the following question: "what characteristics do you like most about yourself". His response was very modest and required a lot of prompting from me. I asked Ed to use six words to describe himself and those words were "helpful, available, caring, knowledgeable, loves machines."

After leaving Ed, I was struck with his kindness, modesty, caring devotion to Marlene and his love of all things mechanical. It is no wonder that Rotary has accomplished so much with members like Ed Farver.

Prepared by: Michele Lewis Cooke

Valle Verde Rotary Club Information

Valle Verde Rotary Club meets:

Thursdays, 6:45 AM

La Posada Rec Center

[Click Here for map](#)

ZOOM Information

Meeting ID: 968 0975 7847

Passcode: 832338