Full House Today

Every chair was filled, requiring an additional table – wonderful to see so many members this morning. President Steve Weiss started by inviting Sherrill up to the front. She asked us how many would like to sing one of her Indian songs – three hands went up, including our two invited guest speakers. Somehow, that was taken as a majority “yes”. I think we need a lesson in parliamentary procedures. Or counting. There is a tribe somewhere whose number system consists of “0, 1, 2, many”. Maybe we are using that system!

So, chanting began in earnest with aba abyla, or whatever, rocking the full room. It does seem that we are able to replicate some of Sherrill’s words more closely over time, though it would be good to know if we are chanting for rain or for good fortune, or just saying “have a nice day”.

We saluted the flag, then Dave Biedebach led the prayer. He covered a lot of ground, referencing the end of 2019 and wished us all well for the start of 2020. He thanked René Solem (AKA Zellweger?) and new member Kathy Smiley for co-chairing BrewFest this year.

Birthdays to celebrate include the always cheerful Rod LeGate and the always serving Bob Engler. Both 39 again, I’m sure. Anniversaries included Theresa Protter, Nick Cigan and Dave Biedebach, who has given 35 years of smiles and service to our club. Or 36. Might be a correction, if Dave is correct.

Guest today was Denise Cortes, a friend of Robin Britt. Denise liked what she saw, and stated that she’d be interested in joining our little but growing band.

President Steve recognized those who attended the Board Meeting, including the whole Board. He said that there was a rumor that San Lee had somehow teleported from Texas to be there, but squashed that rumor. Don’t be surprised if the rumor nevertheless persists.

Presidential Pronouncements

Katie McFly (aka McElroy) has been granted a shift to “leave of absence” as she tends to the future Kiwanian she is
Leading the song was Sherrill Hyink, the pledge was led by Kiffen Taylor, and the invocation was given by Dave Biedebach.

creating. Stacie Marotta is shifting from a Friday night member to a Wednesday member.

The Board voted to give $300 to My Stuff Bags, the company who gives Back Packs overflowing with goodies to kids entering Foster Care. Side note, the company donated two huge boxes of toys to our Neighborhood for Learning families, and other kids in the NFL schools, which we pass along through the social worker, Adriana. In all, we gave many gifts to our children in the eight families we helped, along with 22 extra stuffed animals and games. Thank you MSB’s!

After a fierce back and forth, and a rather confused auctioneer (Steve!), Arnie Rudman won the fine free badge (in absentia) at the bargain basement price of $43.

**Happenings**

Jim Stephenson and the Kween told us that Meals on Wheels are set for this weekend and Monday. Good to hear that Haze Arnold is still contributing time on Mondays.

Craig Burns started right in using “the scroll of future fun”, provided by our President, to let us know the following:

Future Friday night meetings, hosted by generous Kiwanians, include February 7 at Craig and Denise Burns’ home, March 6 at Doug Ryan’s. Put a circle around April 3 as well, and consider hosting that one. May 1, May Day, we will visit with Mary Sepe, taking her baking apron off for few minutes to invite us to her house.

Celebrate the Super Bowl on February 2nd at Randy Senzig’s house. He’ll be passing a sheet next week to sign up. I believe we’ll be also “selling” benefits such as 6” more leg room, and caviar with your chili.

Per Chuck Huffer, Soccer stuff is starting up on March 28-29. Be ready to provide people power to help the kids from near and far have fun on the fields.

Midyear Cal-Nev-Ha District conference is in San Gabriel, some 75 miles away (a lot closer than San Diego!!) on February 8. Super fun Gala that night, with Karaoke, that was a huge hit last year. The Club pays your registration. Let Gloria know if you can go for the education and fun. Deadline for early registration is January 24, so don’t delay.

Brewfest planning is getting rolling (meeting Wednesday night). Expect a date to be announced soon.

DCM on Thursday, hosted by our sister club, Conejo Valley Kiwanis. (Editor’s note, we had five club members there: Katy, Gloria, Annette, Al and new member Melissa Cam).

Mary Sepe shared that she has
already baked her way $880 toward one of two $1,000 scholarships. She reminded us of several calendar dates to encourage us to eat more banana bread, including Hot Toddy Day, Beer Can Appreciation Day and a favorite with today’s crowd, January 25: National Irish Coffee Day. “Buy More Bread”. She’ll be passing the MSBB signup sheet on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more goings on, check our website.

**Digging Around for Gold**

Steve Kammerer picked up a dollar and a scratcher, after trying twice for the 8 ball. The crowd loves the tension!!

Other winners, receiving a dollar and a scratcher, were Jack Talbot, Dave Freeman and Mike Mathews.

**Happy and Sad Dollars**

Dr. Dave B started off our pay-to-play section, with a tale of a lost pocketbook (his daughter’s), with all forms of identification, money, makeup, etc. on the way to Cancun. Miraculously, it was turned in with everything still inside. Love when the goodness of people shines thru!

Randy Senzig has kept us up on the ins and outs, the ups and downs, the Alpha and Betas of his loan software. The most recent adventure involved a potentially large customer. He was showing the company President how it worked, and he saw the benefits and signed up to be the first customer. Hopefully will write a nice “OMG, THIS IS SO GREAT” review, and thus will be the first of many and lead to a successful product to reward Randy’s hard work and genius.

Gloria said something nice, to which Larry Levine yelled, “Mushy!”

Don Christie went to the Rose Parade, and reported back that he loved it so much he ended up hoarse. Afterward, he said they went and played in the snow. How fun!

René reminded us that it is mentoring month, along with all the days that Mary listed. I guess you could eat more sweet bread as you consider donating time as a mentor! She also gave a shout out to the Big Brothers Big Sisters, who are celebrating 50 strong years helping kids. She said she was making a $50 donation, putting her money where her mouth is. Also, after 37 years, she’s an empty nester. Apparently, the final daughter moved out at 27 years old. Our guest, Tim Hagel, jumped into the fray and said in a fairly high-pitched voice, “37 years! When I grew up there were five boys, and each was told to “get out” at age 18!”. Laughter and chuckles followed from many a parent in the room.

Bob Engler in his Council member role visited Naval Base Ventura
County, and reminded everyone that the Base is the County’s largest employer and brings in $2 Billion each year to our community. Wow!

Lots of clipboards today being passed, with chances to sign up.

Dave B decided to pop for another $30, to celebrate his oldest getting her Masters, and his youngest taking almost a year abroad, in Southeast Asia.

Arnie posted a thank you dollar for all that René does.

Buffalo Bob let us know that he is 83 years young, and that he was recently baptized.

**Tim Hagel and Safe Passage – Two Community Treasures!**

Vice-President Aaron Kitzman introduced Tim Hagel, Thousand Oaks’ recently-retired Police Chief, and champion of the Safe Passage Program. With Tim was his right-hand person, Rochelle Callis, Recreation and Community Services Administrator of the Conejo Recreation and Park District. Together they manage a program in Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park that provides children a positive alternative to the support and structure that is provided by the gang lifestyle.

Tim showed us a few graphs to indicate the costs of NOT providing an alternative. Prosecuting and incarcerating kids for crimes costs a heck of a lot more than it costs to provide snacks and homework help, to put it simply.

There are two main housing areas, where the gangs have a stranglehold on kids, one in central Thousand Oaks, the other in Newbury Park. Hagel indicated that while corporations come and go, the gangs live on and on.

During the raffle Steve Kammerer went for broke and came up with only a dollar and scratcher.

Newly retired Police Chief Tim Hagel spoke about the Safe Passage Program with an assist by Rochelle Callis, Recreation and Community Services Administrator for CRPD.

He said that they learned that gang members “retire” at about 28 years old, so each year you can keep kids out of gangs is one year less that they will be
destructive, and draining community resources.

Two Harvard graduates got interested in our issues and studied current programs, such as DARE and incarcerating the leaders. Result: Don’t work. They did a close study of what the gangs provide—physical and emotional support, including food, a sense of belonging, and a peer group. Safe Passage attempts to emulate some of the same support, with an after-school program embedded in the community. The bus even stops just a few FEET away from the front door where Safe Passage meets. It seems to be working, with the number of kids entering the gangs dropping precipitously.

“How can we help?”, asked Mike Mathews. Many in the audience understood the connection of this program to our mission, to help children. First step, we voted to match today’s fine pot, up to $200, with a donation to Safe Passage. Next, there are opportunities for volunteers to help kids with homework, or even just read with them. Rochelle provided a pamphlet of information for us on the tables, so info is all in there.

Aaron provided a nice plaque to Chief Hagel for 30 years of work in the community, in particular his leadership when we had the twin tragedies of the Borderline mass shooting followed by a massive fire in 2018. Had me tearing up, and I don’t think I was alone. Both Tim and Rochelle were given a coveted Kiwanis mug to keep them caffeinated.

We moved on to the draw that we all wait for...

The Popsicle Stick Draw

Steve Weiss pulled Don Shewmon’s stick as the potential winner of the $20 for staying to the end of the meeting. He’s on leave of absence and lives, what 500 miles away? Perhaps it is just to give us the chance to say “Hey, Donny, we miss you!!!”

May all your own 2020 resolutions be fulfilled.

Katy

Written by Katy Porter, edited by John Prescott, photos and production by Mike Mathews, and distribution by Jim Stephenson.
YOU'RE INVITED!

2020 Kickoff
Relay For Life of Conejo Valley

When: Tuesday, January 21, 2020
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Where: Dave and Buster’s Thousand Oaks
Function Room 1
Address: 145 W Hillcrest Dr Ste 130 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Come join us to kickoff our event season and learn how to join in the fight against cancer!
Come Hungry - Appetizers Will be Provided

RSVP Here
through Facebook at bit.ly/relaykickoff2020
or by emailing relay4lifecv@gmail.com

Sign up for Relay For Life of Conejo Valley today at www.RelayForLife.org/ConejoValleyCA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21, Tuesday</td>
<td>Kickoff for Relay for Live at 6:30-8 at Dave and Buster’s. Cristy Warner is in charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2, Sunday</td>
<td>Super Bowl party at the home of the Senzigs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7, Friday</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Craig Burns, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, Saturday</td>
<td>Mid year Kiwanis Convention in San Gabriel. Let Gloria know if you’d like to attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 29, Saturday</td>
<td>Little League Pancake Breakfast. Don Cristie in charge. Likely meeting time is 6:00am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, Sunday</td>
<td>Crop Walk. Sherrill Hyink is coordinating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6, Friday</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Doug &amp; Jackie Ryan, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28&amp;29</td>
<td>Pot O’ Gold Soccer Tournament. Chuck Huffer is in charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23, Thursday</td>
<td>Margarita Mixoff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Aut2Run at Cal State Channel Islands with Aaron Kitzman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, Friday</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Mary Sepe, 6:00 with a short meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, Sunday</td>
<td>Cooking for Relay for Life with Cristy Warner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7, Sunday</td>
<td>Love Run with Mary Sepe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6, Saturday</td>
<td>Cancer Support Lunch with Bud Larson.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>