WELCOME VENTURA COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS!

Katy Porter presented plaques to local firefighters from Station 30 to thank them for service to our community. They also gave an informative talk about their duties.

The big news this week is the inroads that the new coronavirus is making in the US. We still had our meeting, but we were subdued in our interactions. The hearty handshakes have been replaced with elbows and ankles bumping. Our Ki-

IMPORTANT NOTICE—March 13, 2019
Fellow Kiwanians...I hope you and your families are well. Tonight myself and our board had an emergency meeting in regards to COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health guidelines states smaller events can proceed if organizers can implement social distancing of six feet per person. The board decided that would not be possible. As a result the following meetings will be cancelled, March 18th, March 25th, April 1st and the Friday night meeting on April 3rd. Your health and safety, as well, as our community is our number one priority. I will stay in touch. Stay safe, Be positive.

Steve
wanis spirit was still present 100%!

President Steve Weiss started the meeting by inviting our Kween Sherrill Hyink up to the front. She threatened us with a difficult song, only to fall back on “You are my sunshine”, appropriate on a rainy day.

We saluted the flag led by Vice President Aaron Kitzman, then Don Christie took the stage, and had us bow our heads. He made a short prayer, asking to keep us safe from the virus, and ended with the powerful words: Keep TO Strong, which resonates with the group.

Anniversary for Councilman Bob Engler this week, lucky 13, unless he’s just going to skip that and go right to 14.

**PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Steve thanked Doug Ryan for hosting our Friday meeting last week. He also asked us to be wearing green next week to celebrate St. Patty’s Day, and in honor of the magical leprechaun, Irish John Gore, who is with us in spirit.

**KIWANIS EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Doug Ryan took the mike and worked the room as only he can, as Craig Burns is out today. Jim Stephenson announced the MOW drivers for the weekend, Bud Larsen for Saturday and the combo team of Steve Kammerer and Mike Mathews for Sunday. The Kween told us that Meals on Wheels are set for Monday with new member Lori Olbrich driving with the Kween herself.

The next few Friday night meetings are: April 3 at the home of Mark Frankcom and May Day (5/1) at Mary Sepe’s residence.

March 28&29 is the Soccer Pot ‘O Gold which Chuck Huffer is asking us it help with. Remember that the club earns $10 for every hour we work. For some of us, that is the most we’ll earn all year!! Someone, Dr. Arnie Rudman I think, yelled out that we will be earning less than minimum wage. Chuck’s lightning fast answer – “for you, only $5 per hour!”

Steve Weiss mentioned the DCM, on Thursday, which was subsequently cancelled due to weather and other concerns.

Doug mentioned a mixer for the Chamber on March 18. This is fun to go to, if you have not been. Coordinate through President Steve. Also, on the list, the Margarita Mix off, on April 23. This is an opportunity to support our Soroptimists sister club, right here at Los Robles Greens.

Aaron Kitzman spoke up to remind us that the Aut2Run is creeping up on us. April 26, much of the club will pour onto the campus of Channel Islands, and create an astonishing 3,000 pancakes. This is a joint project with
Below, one of Stacie Marotta’s workers cleans the area in which the pancakes and sausages were cooked. The area looked great!
Camarillo Kiwanis Club, and their KiWins who are a critical help.

Wheel to the Sea is coming on May 2nd, with joint captains, René Solem and Arnie, I think. There was a bad joke about René walking away, which is an OLDIE song. Most of us caught the reference, I’m sure.

Mary Sepe closed by asking for a few more chaperones for March 28th.

For more goings on, check our website.

PLAY POOL!

Past President Chuck Huffer dug around in the bucket, but came up short, taking a dollar and a scratcher, after trying twice for the 8 ball. Next week’s attempt will be for $80! The ticket sales go up as the pot grows, helping the club.

Other winners, receiving a dollar and a scratcher, were Craig Manning, Don Christie and Arnie Rudman. Craig was ribbed about showing up once in a blue moon, then winning a draw.

HAPPY AND SAD DOLLARS

Kathy Smiley led off with a story about being on a plane ready to leave when the gentleman in her row removed his shoes. She shared that the resulting odor was so bad, that the stewardess thought that she smelled SMOKE. Everyone off the plane – after inspection, of course, no smoke, but she was delayed a headache inducing six hours. So sorry Kathy. Next time carry Lysol and douse the guy. Oh, no can do, since it is an AEROSOL.

Don submitted the dollar that he just won from Steve’s game. Thanks, Don!

Bob Engler paid to share that he’s recently back from Washington. He stated that we should spray down the mike. (Editor’s note: What seems like crazy talk one week, seems like not sufficient the next… ). He told us that he was in a “hands free” convention, with folks air high fiving and kicking each other in greeting. He also shared that there is an on-going project, taking two years so far to get the green light, and will be another couple of years to be done. Glacial pace, but moving forward. I believe it is to improve a flood zone – ask Bob if you want more info.

Randy Senzig had some wonderful news to share. His daughter, married about a year, called to ask him what he’d like to be called. Gramps? Granddad? Ah, great news. Also, there is a six week old in the family, doing well.

Dr. Dave Biedebach had two items – he was the secret greeter, so pay up (including me), and he was teasing Aaron Podell about being in Church on Sunday. Dave said, “wait, isn’t Aaron Jewish?”, the answer was, yes, but he was there on behalf of our beloved Manna Food Bank. Dave laughed, and invited Aaron back next
The Pres put in a dollar laughing. He said, “I picked the secret greeter, then forgot and didn’t greet him!”

Katy Porter put in a dollar to celebrate her second-place finish in a Toastmaster Humorous contest in Santa Barbara. Just for the record, being funny on command is HARD, except for Dawg Ryan.

Arnie whined that the weather report had us braced for the mother of all storms, then we just got a dusting of rain. (Editor’s note: it got worse…)

BIG RED TRUCKS ARE NOT ALL THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES TO US

Katy Porter came up ostensibly to introduce the four Firefighters who joined us for Breakfast. Three to four times a year, the team of Jack Talbot and Katy Porter recognize first responders, who make a difference in our community. The gentlemen dutifully came up and got a picture for the bulletin, taken by Mike Mathews. The club applauded: Chief Pete Jensen, Captain Jeff Golden, Engineer Mike Donabedian and Fire Fighter Josh Intlekofer. After an awkward moment, where Katy had three mugs for the four people, she called up President Steve. He did not budge. Why? They folks came prepared, and were the program for the day. (Editor: D’oh, was my face red.) After a moment, we got it back together, and introduced Captain Golden, who had slides and everything!!

The captain took us through the stations that serve our local area, including station 30 where all 4 of our guests work, which is near the Oaks Mall. He also educated us on the flow of command locally: Division Chief, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 27 Captains, 27 Engineers, 12 Fire Fighters some of whom are also paramedics and 2 Fire Prevention Officers.

The folks with us today respond to 911 calls. He said that generally, both the Sheriff’s office and the Fire Department are on sight for many calls. Captain Golden said that folks generally don’t call 911 first, but as a last resort. They see everything, and are often problem solvers. They respond to desperate situations, but sometimes a person is upset and really just needs a reassuring hug.

To give us some perspective, there are 655 personnel countywide, with a budget over $180 million. In exchange for this budget, the average time to respond to a call is a little more than just five minutes. Wow. He said they try to be on the truck and leaving in 90 seconds. Not even time enough to swallow, if you are eating! One newer tool that helps them on time is that many major intersections have a transponder, that sees a firetruck coming and turns the light green for it. Of course, Doug wanted to know if he could get one for his car. Maybe two!

He shared the difference between and EMT and a Paramedic. The first can do basic life support, while the Par-
amedics are able to do more advance medical procedures, such as starting an IV or opening an airway.

Over 70% of the call volume is for medical related calls. But 50% of the TIME is fighting fires, which can take days even weeks. We know that locally, all too well.

Currently Station 30 is undergoing renovations. Jeff made it clear that renovations are few and far between, with one station lasting from the 1960’s before being listed for either renovation or replacement.

He also discussed the county’s helicopters, which are located in Ventura. They can suck up 1,000 gallons of water in, using a snorkel into a fresh water source, in just 45 seconds. Takes your breath away!! The captain called the helicopters, “flying Ubers”, which was cool.

Dr. B asked about billing for folks who have to be helicoptered out of a difficult location, such as up in the hills. No charge, in our county. It is all paid by our taxes. Aaron Podell has been the beneficiary of the helicopters when a friend broke her leg while on a trail, and both she and the other biker were helicoptered out.

Aaron K thanked the Fire Fighters for coming, and Steve invited everyone to continue asking questions and to see the large engine that was parked in front of our breakfast location. We were lucky they were not required to go on a call before finishing with us.

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

THE POPSICLE STICK DRAW

Steve Weiss pulled Al Vollmer as the potential winner of the $20. Nope. Even though we see Al regularly, he was not with us today. No Sale! We can all hope we win next time.

Have a lovely week, stay safe, and don’t cough on anyone (ever!).

Katy

Written by Katy Porter, edited by John Prescott, photos and production by Mike Mathews and distribution by Jim Stephenson.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 2, Sat</td>
<td>Wheel to the Sea. René Solem in our event leader.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, Sat</td>
<td>Special Olympics Track Meet at NPHS. Katy Porter is the lead.</td>
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<td>May 17, Sun</td>
<td>Cooking for Relay for Life with Cristy Warner.</td>
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<td>June 5, Fri</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Donna Orraj, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.</td>
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<td>June 6, Sat</td>
<td>Cancer Support Lunch with Bud Larson.</td>
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<td>June 7, Sun</td>
<td>Love Run with Mary Sepe.</td>
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<td>June 17-20,</td>
<td>International Convention in Indianapolis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 1, Sat</td>
<td>Fishing Frenzy at Conejo Creek North.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9, Sun</td>
<td>Charity Karaoke at the Canyon Club at 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 13, Fri</td>
<td>Game/Bingo Night at the Goebel Adult Center</td>
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