



The Desertarian

**Newsletter of the
Rotary Club of Palm Springs, California**



2010-2011 Year November 17th 2010

Issue 9 vol 6 .89

Greeters this week were Mr. M Levinson, Milt L, and Dr IQ all vying for attention at the gate as people walked through the door. Collecting money from the entrants was The greeter's longtime partner in crime Ms Sandra. Nancy Palmer was busy secretarializing, feverishly writing information down for further distribution. Bob Allan was the man selling tickets today - as always one bought one in the mistaken hope that we could actually win something!

Duluth dweller Charlie House led the flag salute, however there being no flag, heads rotated (in exorcist style) in search of the stars and stripes. Mike Brill flawlessly led all in the Four Way test, what a shame he had to finish at Four - he could easily have gone on for 10 or more ways. The Rev Griffes bought minds back to reality with a thought provoking invocation of the day.

Frank "the man" Peabody introduced a solitary visiting Rotarian from Alberta with Mike Brill introducing special guest Bill Leanz who is a past Rotarian with a day job at Knotts Water Park.

Christine introduced a m  le of messages and announcements starting with the circulation of a get well card for Ed Ellis's better half Manny Rodriguez who is under the weather at the moment. Christine also gave a quick rundown on the District Gala event with a preponderance of black ties (as that ALL they wore?).

On January 12 2011 the "Head Honcho" of Rotary International Ray Klinginsmith will be visiting District 5330. Christine reminded all that we could attend the viewing - please contact her for details. There was a sheet circulating to ring the bell for the Salvation Army outside Trader Joes at Christmas. Christine also reminded us about the "Coins for Kids" bowls and the important role they play in making donations to our charities.

Bob Allan reminded all that it was Rotary Foundation Month and proudly preached his rally cry "Every Rotarian Every Year". Our donations help to fund important Rotary projects world wide (more later) saving many lives. Christine complemented Mike Sellin on the Veterans Day ceremony, mentioning that she has some pictures (hopefully by now on the website).

John Regan announced that the Thanksgiving Dinner preparations were in full swing and everybody had been allocated their various victuals to bring along. There followed some discussions about the White Elephant game, even MORE discussions circulated in the Internet after the meeting. John - I think that it would be easier just to bring a real white elephant to the gathering and invent a game on the spot!

Jim Dowler languidly reminded all that there was a Spaghetti dinner on January 9th and said that all we needed to do was to "sell and promote tickets" - easy ! Gary Luce followed on by distributing a flyer "the membership minute" shedding light on a recent study by focus groups that Rotarians were "Old, Male, Inflexible, Elitist, Exclusive and Secretive". We need young bodies in our club to dispel these rumors!

This delicately followed on to Mike Sellin's introduction of our Speaker for the day Dr. Helene Kalfuss (Past District Governor) who was to talk about Rotary Foundations activities.

Helene started by showing a short video about the Foundation's work with a charity that made simple, functional artificial limbs for victims of civil strife in Africa. The remarkable story about how people's lives had been changed by simple prosthetics was extremely poignant in today's vain belief in personal appearance. These replacement forearms cost around \$150.00, a far cry from the bionic prostheses that we use in the Western World, yet these simple appendages enable victim to carry on their lives with much more independence than before.

As we approach the end of the year Helene reminded us that of the 1.2 Million Rotarians worldwide, only 26% donate every year, 74% do not donate. These 300,000 plus individuals are the sustaining people that makes Rotary International one of the top worldwide charities every year.

At the end of her talk Christine invited her to autograph a book for the Cahuilla School which added to the scores of books we have donated this year.

And so, drifting in from the shadows came Dr. IQ, resplendent in his white sacrificial robe. His aim was to quiz unsuspecting members on the content of this month's Rotarian Magazine. Although everyone had studied hard for the test, Dr. IQ somehow managed to find some obscure questions that were not in our memory banks! He managed to fine, Judy, Ray, Scott, Bob Elsner, Dick Hostrop, Helene (and her husband Len), Karl (plus a phone fine) Frank, Jim, John Reagan, Christine Cross, Mike Brill, Bob Allan and Jerry Moss. Who knew there were so many hidden questions.

There followed a smattering of Happy Dollars from; Jacquie (Bowling for Polio checks); Ray Corvan (Helene's talk), Mike Brill, JJ who gave her last dollar. Charlie House, Jim Dowler, Karl Kruger and Milt Levinson all had sports related happy dollars (details of which were unintelligible).

The lucky ticket was number 964282, found in the hands of Dr. IQ; however due to his eagerness at fining could not place his nimble fingers around the little black ball. He only went home with \$48.00 instead of the \$1,165.00 which he could have won if he had been less energetic!

Mark Stanley