



The Desertarian

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

MEETING NOTES
ROTARY CLUB OF PALM SPRINGS
7/20/11

President Mike Sellin gaveled the meeting to order and honored **Bob Allan** with leading the salute to our flag, **Denise Ellis** with the 4-Way Test, and **Rev Jim Griffes** for a beautifully recited spiritual moment. **Mike Brill** introduced our one visiting Rotarian from British Columbia, and the Hon Lee Weigel, Palm Springs City Councilman and past chief of the Palm Springs Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Chuck Cheeld** was just released from the Desert Regional Medical Center and is now home recovering. He hopes to return to Rotary meetings in the near future. He would love hearing from fellow Rotarians. His number is 760-567-1556.
- Don't forget Rotary Night at the Palm Springs Power baseball game - Friday, July 22. Just \$15 per person will get you admission, dinner, and a wonderful evening of fellowship and camaraderie. Please wear a Rotary shirt if you are planning to attend.
- Rotarian **Bill Lentz**, general manager of Knott's Soak City, has planned a wonderful afternoon and evening of fun and frivolity on August 20 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!
- Thank you's were received from **Gerry Moss** for fellow Rotarians' concern and visits during his recent hospitalization; and **Dick Hostrop's** delightful granddaughter, Emily Meyers, for her incredible RYLA experience.
- President Mike shared that as a result of **Tracy Powers'** exceptional financial presentation at a recent board meeting, we discovered that during **Christine Cross'** year our club accumulated a surplus of \$7,400. Mike has formed a finance committee to determine the best investment opportunities for this surplus.
- **Jim Dunn** recently returned from an extensive sojourn to view major tennis tournaments worldwide. While in Paris, Jim attended a Rotary Club meeting on the *Champs d'Elysee*. It was a breakfast meeting, and the cost exceeded USD\$45! So the next time one of our members complains about our \$18 charge...

President-Elect **Denise Ellis** introduced today's guest speaker, newly appointed Palm Springs Police Chief Alberto "Al" Franz. Chief Franz has over 26 years of law enforcement experience, the last 24 years with the Palm Springs Police Department. He graduated Cum Laude from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, obtaining his Bachelor of Science degree in Workforce Education and Development. He is an active member of several local and national organizations, all of which focus on enhancing his abilities as a police professional.

Chief Franz introduced newly promoted Lt. Bryan Reyes, who is in charge of the downtown police district, as well as the northern and southern parts of the city. He then gave a comprehensive update on the police department as it exists today, with its budgetary constraints. He shared the good news that crime in the city is down 3% from last year, and 14% from a few years ago - good news indeed. He then fielded several questions from the attendees. As is customary, Chief Franz signed a book that will be donated to our adopted school - Cahuilla Elementary School.

Finemaster **Bob Elsner** focused his questions on the history of the Palm Springs Police Department. Among those who "donated to the cause" were **Norm Brown, Don Aikens, JJ Bronstein, Frank Peabody, Jim Dunn, Thomas Smith, Mike Brill, John Glenn, Bill Lentz,** and **Mike Sellin**. Happy dollars were offered by **Bill Lentz** and **Mike Brill**.

Picking a marble that didn't resemble a black one was **Frank Peabody**.

Next week's speaker is Sylvia Signoret, wife of our own **Tony Signoret**. Sylvia's topic will be "For the Children", and it promises to be quite interesting. The speaker at our August 3 meeting will be John Wessman - come prepared with your questions!

Submitted by:

Mike Brill
Editor