



The Desertarian

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

The Rotary Club of Palm Springs
“*The Desertarian*” for October 19, 2011

Another beautiful blue-sky day in Palm Springs, with “*Indian Summer*” temperatures in the high 90s, more than 10 degrees above normal for mid-late October.

Meeting Convened: President **Mike Sellin** opened the meeting and called upon **Dan Keller** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. Bob Allan remembered the things Rotarians think, say and do, in leading members in the 4-Way Test. Rev. **Jim Griffes** delivered a relevant *invocation* (definition of which somehow is now described as a *spiritual moment*, presumably to appease those who prefer less ecumenical terminology).

Christine Cross introduced visiting Rotarians and guests, which included District Governor **Steve Wallace** and his wife **Viki**.

Announcements: **Bob Allan** reminded everyone that tickets are still available for the November 10th Palm Canyon Theatre presentation featuring “*The Fantasticks*.”

Christine Cross urged everyone to bring used DVDs to next week’s meeting, as part of the District’s DVD service project for military personnel abroad. She also distributed and asked Rotarians to sign and return special holiday cards, which will also be collected and distributed to Marines overseas. Christine expressed a need for volunteer “greeters” at the November 4-6 District Conference at the Doral Resort. And finally, she urged attendance at the October 25 Rotary Foundation Workshop, to be held at the Red Tomato/House of Lamb restaurant on E. Palm Canyon Drive.

This Week’s Program: **Mike Sellin** introduced District 5330 Governor **Steve Wallace**, who was making his official annual visit to our Club. DG Wallace opened with a message from RI President **Kalyan Banerjee**, who has urged all Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to focus on 3 key areas this year: They are :

Family (personal family members in particular and the need to get them exposed to and involved with Rotary); Continuity (basically continuing to do the good things that Rotary and Rotarians do, and to eliminate those things/programs that have not proven of value or effective); and, Change (and the importance of adapting to changing times, and make adjustments or modifications where indicated).

DG Wallace described how he and his wife initially became involved with Rotary, having joined the Lake Elsinore Club some years ago—and ultimately becoming bored after 2 years, as they considered resigning. But a life-changing event occurred when they went to Nigeria for a Polio Immunization Project, where they witnessed some tragic and horrible situations involving polio victims, which transformed them from being Rotary members to “Rotarians.” Upon returning to California, **Steve and Viki** “re-evaluated” their lives. He resigned his long-time job with Disney, and decided to spend his children’s future inheritances (with their concurrence) on humanitarian purposes.

“I hope every Rotarian experiences a similar life-changing experience,” **Wallace** said. “It’s never too late.”

He then discussed the role and duties of a Rotary District Governor, which basically is to help Rotary Clubs be successful, to help Clubs grow in membership, and to help the Rotary International Foundation be strong.

He challenged Rotarians to make whatever changes are necessary to achieve membership growth, involve new members, and the critical element of retaining new members. He discussed the District members’ fundraising goal of \$250 per capita this year. He also cited some upcoming (in 2013) RI rules changes which will increase the District grant shares and control of local grants to Districts and clubs, and no longer by RI national.

But he also pointed out that receipt of grant awards will go primarily to those club whose members donate to the RI Foundation. Those clubs whose members do not contribute will not receive grants.

Wallace reviewed several local changes in the District, prompted by “listening” to members concerns. A reorganization of District 5330 will “bring information” about the RI Foundation to each area, through a series of “Foundation Round Tables.” He also said that the District’s newsletter will be updated frequently (and even daily) to make it a “real time” information source to Rotarians.

He explained some of the major format and content changes in the District Conference (to be held at the Doral Resort in Cathedral City, November 4-6, 2011). Factors include a “tighter” time frame, reduced costs to make it more attractive and affordable, better speakers, and combining the annual Foundation Gala dinner as part of the District Conference.

He closed by emphasizing the “*Million Acts of Service*” concept, which will focus on recognizing Rotary’s many deeds, projects and services--and the direct impact that helps so many people.

Recognition: **Bob Elsner** was today’s finemaster. Only **Mark Davidson** was bright enough to know that a duck is the only animal whose noise (quack) does not create an echo. Those who provided incorrect or no answers were: **Bob Allan, Bob Barrett, Janie Bolitho, Ed Ellis, Marv Goldberg, Dan Keller and Mike Sellin.**

In the “opportunity drawing,” the black marble remained elusive, allowing the recently depleted “pot” to continue to rebuild itself.

-- *Bob Elsner, Guest Editor*