

NORTHWINDS



PLEASANTON NORTH ROTARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOODY'S WITTICISMS

or "Wee-Woody's Warped Wheezey, Weary Worthless Writings".....

I'm sitting in front of the computer terminal thinking that for the next 52 weeks, the Northwinds editor is going to be expecting some scintillating article about what happened last week, what will be coming up over the next few days, interspersed with a few bits of "Rotrivia" and several "atta-boys" (technically "atta-persons") to motivate the whole PNR team. But on second thought, I realize that PNR doesn't need motivation. We have got to be one of the most "just-do-it" clubs around. In just the first week of the new rotary year PNR had it's first service project and did a "fellowship" meeting at the Fairgrounds, (I say fellowship because if I called it an actual Rotary meeting, I'm sure at least one of our members would try and declare themselves fine-free because they lost \$160 in the fifth race on a horse named Paul Harris).

But back to our service project.... It was fantastic that on a potential 4-day holiday weekend, 15 of our members and their families took the time to give of themselves for the 100+ Special Olympics athletes and coaches.



Hats-off to **Mike McDeavitt** for organizing the tug-of-war, 3-legged race, water-balloon toss, soccer and other fun games. Thank you to **Pat Kernan** for getting participant "medals" for all the kids...Kudos to the face-painting artists including Dave Cherry's own daughter **Adrienne**. The BBQ food was cooked to perfection by **Ron Hyde** and **Mike Cloutier**. And of course, the whole staff of Camp Arroyo, as well as Barry and Elaine Taylor, gave thanks to PNR for making the day special for the kids...(but if the truth be told-, the kids made the day special for all of us).

With any luck, that day will be just the first of many "feel-good" service project days this year. Some will involve more sweat, some more time. But I hope all will cause our membership to know that they make a difference to many people in many ways and in many communities locally and abroad. In a nut shell (or would that be a "wood-chip") that is my goal for this Rotary year, to have the entire club membership know that what they do with PNR is meaningful to many people. To quote Rotary International's President, Bhichai Rattakul "When service comes from our heart and is inspired by our own experiences, we do not simply write a check, we write Rotary into our lives."

WOODY

INSIDE

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ON THE WEB WITH SGT STINGER

Okay not much on the web stuff this week other than to remind you that our website content (PNR-ROTARY.ORG) is dependent upon you as far as personal information is concerned. Please contact Mike Cloutier about how to access your information via clubmate on our site. This is also a requirement for all of you Red Badgers....so hup hup...get to it!

As is probably the theme of this newsletter ..."Woody #1", I'll go ahead and mention that my new role is that of Sargeant at Arms this year.... Carol Ott is now your Club Service Director and I can only hope you'll give her the same kind of support you gave me last year...which was outstanding! I'd like to address something here that is of some importance.... Our COG's are doing a wonderful job on the desk each week but this year I'm asking our regular members to step up and do a little club service as well....you don't have to volunteer each week but I'd like to see at least one Blue Badge per week assisting....let's put it this way....it's a volunteer issue until the Woodster has to make it a mandatory one....and I'll betcha he will if he has too.....but to be honest with you, it really isn't fair to ask the 10 newest members to go it alone each and every week at the desk...really.

Okay and now my take on the "Under God" issue with the "Pledge of Allegiance". Most of you know I served in the USMC and there's a fair share of ex-grunts running around this club with a few other former members of the Armed Services including Navy guys...I am personally insulted by the 9th Court of Appeals but will let Senator McCain words express my feelings....

"As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country

and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt. Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag.

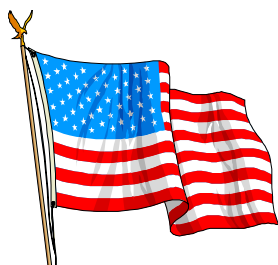
He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world.

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country."

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." nuff said,

Sgt Stinger -USMC



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

THE YEAR OF "WOODY" BEGINS

JULY "Literacy Month"

FRIDAY* 7/12/02
Lawrence Livermore National Lab's 50th
Anniversary-Welcome Eileen Vergino

***Also a visit from our Tulancingo
Sister City Students

FRIDAY 7/19/02
WOODY will present his vision for the
year-be there and avoid surprises.

FRIDAY 7/26/02
Gail Gilpin, Pleasanton's Economic
Development Manager.

AUGUST "Membership Extension Month"

FRIDAY 8/2/02
OPEN

FRIDAY 8/9/02
Elaine Taylor of Camp Arroyo and the
Taylor Family Foundation.

FRIDAY 8/16/02
OPEN

FRIDAY 8/23/02
OPEN

FRIDAY 8/23/02
HOT ROD HEAVEN- The club's first
fundraiser. Everyone should plan to
spend some time here. All of THIS
money is to support club events. Bring
your spouse or SO- this IS a great party

SATURDAY 8/24/02
Our 2nd community service project- we
will be helping to set up the Camp
Arroyo, "Day in the Park" program which
will be held on the 24th-plan to be there

FRIDAY 8/30/02
OPEN

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"The most important friend you make is
yourself. Then all others can follow"

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

Well the ol' Fuddster went south on a
nostalgia trip and thanked everyone but
Dick Cheney at the White Horse. He even
managed to pull in a few last minute
"I've-been-on-vacation" gifts, to add to
his collection
One highlight was to give Father
Time a new past-president's pin to
replace the one he "forgot" somewhere.
Our program, by Dean Link, on
Huntington's Disease, was sobering and
thought provoking. What a miracle it is
to be healthy.



“When I say a little gift, I mean ‘little’”



This man with milk is like the Pope with Chorus girls



“Hey I never said this Poet Laureate stuff was easy”



“What I take one lousy vacation and you fine me?”



“The Board voted to get this for you Time, try not to lose this one



The out-going program chair-nice job Dave



Dean Link describes Huntington’s Disease



Welcome Visiting Rotarians at our last meeting:

??????????????



Special Guests at our last meeting:

Dean Link



BE A FRIEND -BRING A FRIEND TO A MEETING

JULY'S JOLLIES

MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

- Mike Christy 8/10/02
- Pat Mayfield 8/13/02
- Vince McNamara 8/14/02
- Bruce Baseman 8/18/02
- Art Mundis 8/25/02
- Ron Rel 8/28/02
- Eli Kozanian 8/29/02
- Mike Darby 8/30/02

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

- Marcia Kernan 8/14/02
- Jean Nettleton (nee Wilson) 8/26/02

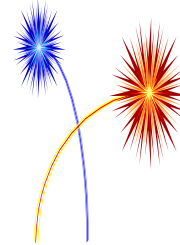
WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Wayne & Pam Yeaw 8/10 (22)
- Bette & Francois Daoust 8/19 (7)
- Bill & Jennifer Wheeler 8/28 (20)

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

- Galen Smith 8/03/02 (1)
- Sherry Wilson 8/10/02 (1)
- Janet Ferraro 8/24/02 (1)
- Bruce Basemann 8/24/02 (1)

CONGRATULATIONS



NEED TO MAKE UP A MEETING?

Visit one of the local Valley clubs Tuesday:

- Livermore Valley Club 7 a.m. @ Beeb's
- Dublin Club 12:15 p.m. @ Dublin Park Hotel

Wednesday:

- Livermore Club 12:15 @ Holiday Inn

Thursday

- Tri-Valley Rotary Club 6 p.m. at Girasole
- Pleasanton Club 12:15 @ the Pleasanton hotel



MIA's - We miss you!!!!!! MIA's PNR Members that have missed the past two or more Club Meetings:

Skip Hinsley @ 925-227-8811;Rebekah Lindsey @ 925-462-2114; Vince McNamara @ 925-833-0995
Galen Smith @925-734-9999;Toby Brink @ 925-352-8786; Sergio Carvacho @ 925-968-0622;Gene Finch @ 925-462-5900;Frank Hanna @ 925-556-2321; Seyda Harding @ 925-890-3169;Skip Hinsley @ 925-200-5820
Jim Polis @ 925-399-6124;Maurice Turner @ 925-462-4802;Bill Wheeler @ 925-989-0661

GIVE THEM A CALL AND TELL THEM THAT THEY ARE MISSED.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT #1 - CAMP ARROYO –SPECIAL OLYMPIC KIDS

"Can we do that again?" asked the young man after time was called, bringing an end to an unexpectedly close and exciting soccer game. Although exhausted from an afternoon of games and sports, his face beamed with enthusiasm. He wanted the game to continue. Like any athlete, he loved to compete and it showed. His eagerness was reflected on the faces of about 80 of his closest friends who swarmed about me urging me to continue with the soccer match. "I'm sorry, but we can't." I explained, "You have to get ready for dinner." The look of disappointment on their faces left me grasping for a way to make it up to them. Then it hit me: "It's gonna be a barbeque, and you're going to eat ice cream for dessert!" In a heart beat, their faces lit up with that same enthusiasm I had seen just moments ago, and off they ran to get ready for chow. What a day!

If your 4th of July fizzled out over the same old BBQ and KKIQ simulcast, you need to join us next year at Camp Arroyo. Everyone who spent the afternoon amongst their fellow Rotarians and these amazing athletes left that day feeling truly blessed. Their love and enthusiasm were overwhelming.

About 10 miles south of Livermore, Camp Arroyo is temporarily home to 120 athletes who are in training for the Special Olympics. Make no mistake about it, these are athletes who love the game - any game!

We set-up five separate events for the athletes. First, a fierce tug-of-war station where the two sides battled it out three times before a champion was declared. Second, a two-partner sack race that was a blast to watch. Third, a water balloon toss that got completely out of hand. Note to self: keep water balloons out of the hands of athletes prior to the contest! Fourth, a potato on a spoon race that proved to me just how uncoordinated I am. Finally, a soccer match that had all of the drama of a World Cup final. Mind you, these athletes had just finished swimming laps prior to starting our events. At the conclusion of the events, we had a medals ceremony where we handed each of the athletes a "gold" medal for their outstanding efforts. (Thank you Roger for your great work on the medals.)

As I handed the "gold" to each of the athletes, shook their hand and congratulated them on their amazing talent, I could literally feel the warmth of their love and appreciation for the day we had given them. You get too few moments like that in life.

After our ceremony, dinner was served. Chef Ron performed his customary culinary magic, and the kids went crazy for the ice cream dessert (with hot chocolate & sprinkles & whipped cream...). Everyone went home a winner. At the end of the day, the expressions of gratitude on the faces of each of the children couldn't help but touch your heart. I left Camp Arroyo that afternoon truly grateful for having been able to spend my day with such wonderful athletes - and with such wonderful people.

As I left the camp, I couldn't help but pause and ask myself, "Can we do that again?"

**Submitted with pleasure and joy
Mike Mc Deavitt –event chair**

**R.I President, Bhichai Rattakul has introduced his THEME for 2002-2003.....
"SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE"**

To promote the new President's theme, your Northwinds' staff decided to explore the real definition of "love".....

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." - Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." - Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." - Chrissy - age 6

"Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell them because you know it would hurt their feelings." - Samantha - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." - Terri - age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." - Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss." - Emily - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." - Bobby - age 5

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." - Nikka - age 6

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." - Noelle - age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." - Tommy - age 6

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." - Cindy - age 8

"Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." - Elaine - age 5

"Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." - Chris - age 8

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." - Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and she has to go out and buy new ones." - Lauren - age 4

"I let my big sister pick on me because my Mom says she only picks on me because she loves me. So I pick on my baby sister because I love her." - Bethany - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." - Karen - age 7

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica - age 8