



Oak Hills Rotary Ramblings

Club No. 1923 • Founded 1977 • District 5840
P.O. Box 291069 • San Antonio, TX 78229



www.oakhillsrotary.org

Club Information: organized in October 23, 1977	Current Membership: 35
Contributions to the Rotary Foundation \$741,382.89	Foundation giving per member 2009-10: \$148.43
Paul Harris Fellows: 334	Current PHFs or Multiple PHFs: 32(91%)
Benefactors: 43	Paul Harris Sustaining members 2009-10: 14(40%) Benefactors: 22

July 16, 2010

Newly elected President **Bil Trodler** called the meeting to order. **Elaine Kovner** gave the prayer and pledge. **Bubba Vollmer** introduced visiting Rotarians and guests.

CLUB NEWS & ACTIVITIES:

- Wine and book donors:

July	Lee Parker
August	Jim Walters
September	Walt Sandison
October	Gloria Duke Richter
November	John Curran and Brett Ward

We are in good shape for books.

- Fish Bowl: Money collected during July will continue to go to the Northside Independent School District's School Age Parenting program.
- We have entered a bowling team in the Northwest Rotary Club's fund raiser. Team members are **Dave Ives, Brett Ward, John Curran** and **Bruce Richter**.
- There is a polio immunization trip to India being planned for over the Thanksgiving holidays. It appears that Rotary has sponsored a school in the area so if you have an old lap top (with XP operating system) that you'd like to put to good use, Sherri Muniz is interested in taking it for the benefit of the students. Similarly, if you have an old vehicle it can be donated to Kidz Harbor or to Builders without Borders of Texas. Becca Pride is the Rotary contact for this. President Bil has the appropriate phone numbers.
- The official club visit by new DG Stephanie Macchia will be a joint meeting of several clubs on Saturday, July 24. This will be a combined meeting and service project. It will be held at the San Antonio Food Bank from 8:00 to noon. **Bil Trodler** will be at the Papisito's parking lots at 7:30 a.m. for those who'd like to go and want a ride.
- If you'd like to make a donation to the Eagle Pass/Del Rio Rotary clubs to help with the considerable damage wrought by the recent hurricane in that area, you can donate used clothing and shoes or write a check. President Bil has the collection points for the clothing. Checks should be made out to the District Disaster Fund.

CLUB MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

EREY Certificates for this new Rotary year were presented to **Herb Eastwood, Dave Ives** and **Bil Trodler**. **Jeri Tiller** was presented with a Multiple PHF certificate for having contributed sufficient funds to cover a second PHF. **Dan Comrie** was presented with a certificate, pin and medal in honor of his first PHF.

PROGRAM:

Elaine Kovner introduced retired FBI agent Jim Kenney. Since retiring from the FBI Jim has opened his own investigation agency. His avocation, however, is trying to find the grave sites of Medal of Honor recipients and make sure their gravestone reflect this honor. If the sites are not properly marked, he orders up a new gravestone and there is an appropriate grave side ceremony. This is NOT the Congressional Medal of Honor though Congress must act to approve it. It is the Medal of Honor. Over the years there have been 3448 recipients. This is about one two thousands of one percent of the total military personnel over the years!

Will it be Beneficial to All?

Will it build Goodwill an Better Friendships?

Is it fair to All Concerned?

Is it the Truth?

THE FOUR WAY TEST

The Medal of Honor has a somewhat checkered history but it has (almost) always been a very important honor. There are currently three different medals: one each for the Army, Navy and Air Force. (The Navy medal is used for the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.) These medals are awarded for courage which implies accompanying fear that must be overcome. In his travels Jim has had the opportunity to visit with many living recipients. Almost uniformly they don't think of themselves as heroes. They see themselves as doing what needed to be done.

The awarding of medals for valor goes back to the Revolutionary War. At first medals were thought to be "foreign" and rather elitist. Indeed the first medals awarded were made from the melted down medals taken from a Red Coat and recast as stars for those who captured the British officer. The next medals mentioned were the Badges of Merit. Only three of these were ever earned. However, Certificates of Merit (for the enlisted) were very popular as this meant an additional \$2 a month added to their (\$12/month) pay. In 1861 the Navy instituted a Medal of Honor to promote efficiency in the Navy. This was expanded to the Army and evolved into a honor for valor. During the Civil War you could (and many did) submit their own names for the medal. From 1876 to 1905 higher standards were set for the medal. This was done after Custer's Last Stand when ALL the Army personnel involved were originally recommended for the medal. After some thought only a relative few got the medal. However, you could still get it for non military valor. (Charles Lindburgh). After the Spanish American War you needed the recommendation of the commanding general and two eye witnesses. The Medal of Honor was the only medal awarded for nearly 56 years. In WWI the Distinguished Service Medal was added. From 1963 to the present the award was earned by courage on the battle field. It is for heroic actions taken that you would NOT have been criticized for not taking. Truly duty above and beyond the call of service.

A few trivia facts. The youngest to earn it was eleven (a drummer boy in the Civil War). Two sons of Presidents got the medal. There have been seven sets of brothers, two fathers and sons (Roosevelt and MacArthur), two cousins. One was issued to the wrong person. One was "earned" by a soldier for actions taken six months AFTER his death! Since WWII 56% of all the recipients were awarded the medal posthumously. Before that only 2% were.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

July 23	Dan Comrie: The New Health Care Bill and What it Means to YOU
July 30	S. A. Literacy
Aug 6	CPS Energy
Aug 13	Alzheimer's Association
Aug 20	TBA
Aug 27	Rotary GSE Team: Philippines

UMBRELLA:

Elaine Kovner confessed that she forgot her 34th anniversary. Well, she forgot to tell us anyway.

CONFESSIONS:

Jeri Tiller confessed to 50 years of marriage. **Dave Ives** reported that his trip to California was very good except that he aged one year and added one year to his marriage. Otherwise Disneyland, LegoLand, Presidential Libraries, etc, were fine. California is, however, obviously in financial straights. Roads need repair, etc. **Dave Ratcliff** was in Illinois for some family time. **Joe Montagna** sent his bike to Iowa. Presumably, he will follow and go for a (long) ride. **Dan Comrie** reviewed the economic situation of various locations where he has family or where his company has offices and concluded that he was thankful to be a Texan.

RAFFLE: **Jeri Tiller** managed to draw the two of clubs on the first week of the new raffle. This means she got \$100 and it means that the club must buy a new pack of cards when the old one is only missing one card! **Clark Niblock** and **Ass't DG Monica Guttieriz** each took home some wine. **David Ratcliff** took home the extra food. We closed with the Four Way Test.

President	Bil Trodler
President elect	Dave Ives
Vice President	Brett Ward
Treasurer	Neil Hager
Secretary	David Ratcliff
Sgt at Arms	Hou Chi Dung

Directors:

Barry Abrams (Youth)
John Curran (Community Service)
Gloria Duke-Richter (Club Service)
Jim Higdon (International Service)
Dan Comrie (Vocational)