



# Oak Hills Rotary Ramblings

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



[www.oakhillsrotary.org](http://www.oakhillsrotary.org)

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

## July 23, 2010

Newly elected President **Bil Trodler** called the meeting to order. **Dave Ives** gave the prayer and pledge. **Doug Kruppa** introduced visiting Rotarians and guests.

### CLUB NEWS & ACTIVITIES:

■ Wine and book donors:

	Wine	Books
July	<b>Lee Parker</b>	
August	<b>Jim Walters</b>	<b>Barry Abrams</b>
September	<b>Walt Sandison</b>	<b>Joe Montagna</b>
October	<b>Gloria Duke Richter</b>	<b>John Curran *</b>
November	<b>John Curran and Brett Ward</b>	<b>Elaine Kovner</b>
December		<b>Doug Kruppa</b>

\* motion by **Brett Ward**, seconded anonymously. Alternate **Herb Eastwood**

■ Fish Bowl: Money collected during July will continue to go to the Northside Independent School District's School Age Parenting program.

■ The Board has approved a measure to make it easier for us, the membership, to invite guests to lunch. The club will pay for the first two guest lunches. So bring a guest, make a future Rotarian!

■ 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.

■ 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.

### PROGRAM:

There are two types of speakers that are difficult. The first is someone who talks for the whole time and says very little. The second is someone who can pack lots of information in every spoken paragraph. This second situation is complicated when the speaker is a member of our club and can check up on what I write! So apologies in advance to **Dan Comrie** for any information I missed or messed up! Dan spoke to us on the "New Health Care Bill and What it Means to You".

The new health care bill will cost an estimated \$938 billion over the next ten years. It will expand coverage to an additional 32 million people. In Texas alone this will mean 5.4 million more people covered . . . 400,000 in San Antonio alone. This is expensive and our medical costs are not always reflected in our medical expenses. The U.S. spends about \$7,500 per person on medical expenses yet life expectancy in Cuba, which spends less than \$1000 per person, is longer. Singapore spends about half of what we do and their life expectancy is also longer. Even with all the new health care bill tried to accomplish, Medicare and Social Security are simply not economically sustainable. In the U. S. another person reaches age 65 every 8 seconds. There will be a projected 76 million people on Medicare in 2030 yet we already see financial strains in the sys-

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

tem. As we add people to the already overloaded system we can expect to see increases in the amount of time it takes to see a Doctor. The average wait today is 21 days and this is expected to increase to 27 days soon.

The Health Care bill represents a social debate over whether or not health care is a right or privilege. It is also a debate over who can do the job better: the private sector or government. Finally the debate played out as a question of health care reform or health care insurance reform. Health care insurance dollars are basically broken down into two major parts. 13% goes to the insurance companies to cover their overhead and expenses. The rest, 87%, goes to health care providers. Insurance can be broken down into Commercial insurance and Medicaid/Medicare.

Individuals not having insurance will start support the plan by paying a tax penalty. In 2014 you will pay \$95 or 1% of your income. By 2016 this will be \$695 or 2.5% of income. Subsidies are available for families with incomes ranging from \$29,300 to \$88,000. If you are an employer with greater than 50 employees you will face a "non-insurance" penalty of \$2000 per employee. Other changes allow families to keep unemployed children on their insurance up to the age of 26.

**Medicaid** will be expanded to cover everyone with an income of less than 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. There will be no asset test. This will mean about 2 million more people on the health care rolls in Texas alone. Doctors accepting **Medicare** will see temporary relief in the 22% reduction in payments for primary care. However, the increase in payments to doctors does not keep up with actual expenses. (The impact of this is seen in the fact that 50% of doctors are no longer accepting Medicare patients!) The "donut hole" in prescription coverage will close.

If we take a step back to look at the larger picture we see that there will be a \$500 Billion cut in Medicare at the same time as 38% more individuals turn 65! So, at this point in the social debate, we got insurance reform and government management seems to be on the upswing.

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

July 30	S. A. Literacy
Aug 6	CPS Energy
Aug 13	Alzheimer's Association
Aug 20	TBA
Aug 27	Rotary GSE Team: Philippines

#### UMBRELLA:

**Doug Kruppa** noted that he will be passing out information on how each of us can easily help the Early Act/First Knight program. Doug has submitted an application for a grant from PepsiCo to help fund future programs. The winners of the grants funded by PepsiCo are the result of a vote. He will shortly be providing us with ways that we can vote for the project and help raise \$50,000 for Early Act/First Knight! He also said that the Social Security tax will be 1% over the next ten years and that there is now no income limit on the tax. It will be applied to all wages.

#### CONFESSIONS:

**Herb Eastwood** confessed that while at the Farmer's Market on Wurzbach near the railroad track he was accosted by a TV cameraman and newscaster with questions on how often he came to the market and what he like about it. It might have been on the news last Friday night! **Barry Abrams** was in Houston to meet and greet and new grand child. **Joe Montagna** is headed to Iowa for a bike ride. **Doug Kruppa** had a birthday.

**RAFFLE: Bubba Vollmer** managed to NOT draw the two of clubs on the first week of the new raffle. This means he got \$125 toward his next PHF. **Doug Kruppa** gave his wine to the speaker. The other bottle was won by a Rotary guest. Another guest took home the extra food. We closed with the Four Way Test.

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

#### Directors:

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