

S P O K E



FEBRUARY 25, 2010

**THIS WEEK
PROGRAM CHAIR
BEN HANSON**

CENTENNIAL HIGH VIRTUAL ENTERPRISES

A team from Centennial High School recently participated in a California Virtual Enterprises Business Plan Competition. The 5-member team placed 2nd in the State which qualified them to compete at the national level in NY in March! To prepare for the competition the team of students is going to present their Business Plan. Additionally, they need to defend their Plan through a Q/A session. This is where you come in! Come prepared to be impressed by the quality of our youth and to interact with the team and help them with meaningful & insightful questions as they prepare to compete in NY.

FEBRUARY 18, 2010 MEETING
KEN SECOR, EDITOR



President Duane called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. with his usual promptitude. He startled those Rotarians who were beginning to settle into their usual meeting open-eyed nap by announcing that “change was good,” and that the day’s agenda would feature that characteristic. Guarding his backside, he attempted to justify his pronouncement by blaming the change mentality on member **Holly Culhane’s** remarks as a recent club speaker—amazingly, **Past-Prez Daphne Harley**, known during her regime as the “High Priestess of Change” escaped without reference. In any event, the flag salute was introduced ahead of the invocation, a major departure from tradition. “All-American” member **Ray Karpe** handled the pledge leadership well under such stressful circumstances. Continuing to wrench tradition, President Duane next called upon **Colleen McGauley** to demonstrate her commitment to change by conducting something different in the way of a patriotic song. Colleen responded by selecting #40 in an ancient (1925) Rotary songbook resurrected from the files by Evelyn. The selection turned out to be “*It’s a Grand Old Flag*”—a choice well received and very respectfully sung, even though it was obvious that some members were a bit weak on the words.

The reason for the Prez’s assault on tradition became evident as he next called upon **Ken Secor** to handle the invocation. Ken indicated that a special invocative event was in store for the assemblage, and then introduced his son-in-law, **Al Gaines**, a senior faculty member at East High School and a mentor to students interested in multi-media production. Al noted he was present this day on behalf of the North of the River Junior Theatre program as the director of a production of “*Godspell*,” a musical play based on the Gospel of St. Matthew. The show will be staged March 5/6 in the East High Auditorium. He

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U P C O M I N G P R O G R A M S

March 4 **Stockdale Christian School**
Wind Ensemble

March 18 **Ready to Start**
Larry Reider

March 11 **Solar Power**
Jake Thone

March 25 **DA Office**
Lisa Green

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indicated that he had with him a team from the cast to give the Rotarians present a preview of what promises to be a powerful student production. Commenting that the Junior Theatre program attracts talented youth



from many schools in the area, Al quickly introduced performers **Jonathan Canez, Fred Cremer, Cassidy Fraley, Kyle Gaines, Guilia Kubik, Morgan Pence, Hannah Schill, Braden Unruh and Caitlin Wolfenstein**, as well as vocal director **Rose Taylor**. He continued by

explaining that the preview would consist of the prologue to *Godspell*, a piece not often performed because of its complexity. The room lights were dimmed, and the students presented a short, but very intense and stimulating, multimedia performance that resulted in what amounted to a standing ovation from the club members.



After thanking the *Godspell* team for their special contribution to the meeting, President Duane moved the session back a bit towards a more traditional format. He announced that the roving microphones would be handled by **Jeff Johnson** (newly returned from a Rotary NID trip to India) and **Richard Beene**. **Sergeant-at-Arms Steve Illingworth** first recognized visiting Rotarian **Rick Kreiser**, a member of the Bakersfield West club, and then called upon club members **Colleen McGauley, Stephanie Weber, Don Clark, Steve McEvoy** and **Shawn Kelly** to introduce their respective guests. The Prez concluded the opening ceremonies by presenting those seated at the head table, all “best-looking” members of the club: **Program Chairman Stephanie Weber, Russell Judd**, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield President and the day’s speaker, and Bakersfield Rotary’s **President-Elect Harry Starkey**.

President Duane noted one more departure from tradition: no self-serve desserts had been available in the usual spot at the end of the buffet line. However, all did not seem lost—a huge and decorative cake, uncut as yet, did occupy the dessert table. At Duane’s urging, Russell Judd stepped to the podium to explain the situation. Russell indicated that Mercy Hospitals had provided the cake in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of his organization’s establishment. The assembly joined him in singing “Happy Birthday,” and then the cake was “ceremonially” sliced and distributed.



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AREA MEETINGS

MONDAY

Bakersfield South - Noon
Petroleum Club

Wasco - Noon
Veterans Hall on Poplar Ave.

TUESDAY

Bakersfield North - Noon
Petroleum Club

Inyokern - 6:00 p.m.
Bernardino’s

WEDNESDAY

Bakersfield West - Noon
Stockdale Country Club

China Lake - Noon
Heritage Inn

Shafter - 6:30 a.m.
Shafter Vet’s Hall

Bakersfield Breakfast - 6:45 a.m.
Petroleum Club

Taft - Noon
Jo’s Restaurant

Bakersfield Twilight - 6:00 p.m.
T.J. Maxwell’s

Interact - 2:40 p.m. BHS
Auditorium #301

THURSDAY

Frazier Park Rotary - 5:30 p.m.
Los Pinos Restaurant

Bakersfield Downtown - Noon
Bakersfield Art Museum

Tehachapi - Noon
Kelcy’s Restaurant

Delano - Noon
Kong’s Dynasty

Kern River Valley - 6:00 p.m.
Ewings

FRIDAY

Bakersfield East - Noon
Veteran’s Hall

ROTARY OFFICE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRECTIONS...

The Prez had one announcement: next Thursday, February 25, **David Dobbs** and **Tracey Kiser** have put together an outstanding social event at David's Imbibe Wine & Spirits (4140 Truxtun Ave.). The social, featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres, is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m., and a reservation (contact Evelyn) is required because space is limited to 75 persons. Make-up credit will be available to those attendees requiring same.

President Duane also (somewhat shamefacedly) admitted that he had earlier announced the wrong date for the First Annual Kern County 12-Club Rotary Dinner. It is scheduled for Friday, March 19, and NOT for Monday, April 12. More details will be forthcoming in the near future, but the event still will be good for make-up credit, as previously advertised.

PROGRAM...

All other club business being concluded, President Duane asked **Stephanie Weber** to introduce the day's program. Admitting to some bias as a Mercy employee for some 21 years, she indicated that she felt **Russell Judd's** presentation of the Mercy Hospitals' story would have special appeal for those present, as it was closely linked to the history of the community. Stephanie continued by noting that Russell has been the President and CEO of Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield since April 2004. Prior to accepting that appointment, he served as CEO of three other hospitals across the U.S. However, he started his career in health administration right here in Bakersfield. After graduating from Brigham Young University, he completed a master's degree at Cal State Bakersfield and went on to become an intern administrator at Kern Medical Center. Upon completing the internship, he was an associate administrator at KMC from 1991 to 1996. He is involved in many community activities, including membership in Bakersfield Rotary Club. He enjoys running, fly-fishing and other outdoor activities, but most of all, he enjoys spending time with his wife, **Shawna**, and their five children.

President Judd moved to the podium, thanking Stephanie for her introduction and for the many hours of research her staff and she had done in compiling the Mercy story he would be presenting. He then began an excellent PowerPoint presentation relating the founding and development of Mercy Hospitals over its hundred-year history. It all began on February 19, 1910, when four Sisters of Mercy arrived in Bakersfield to be greeted by the pastor and parishioners of St. Francis Church and to take over administration of the St. Clair Hospital. That facility was originally a home at 14th and H streets owned by the St. Clair family; purchased by the Los Angeles Diocese,



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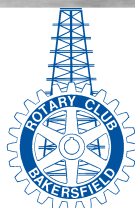
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it had been converted into the first private hospital in Bakersfield, yielding 14 rooms accommodating 24 beds.

The Mercy slide show recounted a fascinating stream of events in local history, but unfortunately only a few samples can be reported in this newsletter. A key event occurred in 1912 as growth pressures forced a relocation from the original site to the present one on Truxtun Avenue. The Sisters purchased the Tevis Ranch property there, and physically moved the St. Clair Hospital building, the largest such project ever undertaken in Southern California! Facility additions and changes followed in ensuing years to meet the growing needs of the service region, funded by active fundraising and by financing managed by the Sisters. The 1929 stock market crash shook the hospital's fiscal planning, but it was rescued by generous support from the community. Throughout the difficult 1930s and 1940s decades, Mercy continued its growth in space and services, always in partnership with local citizens—as an interesting example, Bakersfield Rotary donated a respirator to treat newborn babies during this period.

The 1950s decade brought Mercy a new challenge: earthquake damage during the summer of 1952 rendered the facility unsafe to treat patients. The Sisters were awarded a federal grant for re-building, but significant private matching funds would be required. Fortunately, a campaign to build Memorial Hospital was being launched at that time, also with a need for matching a federal grant; so the first Mercy/Memorial affiliation occurred as community leaders agreed to expand the campaign to address the needs of both institutions.

Russell's presentation included several human-interest anecdotes illustrating that the quality of patient care afforded by Mercy's staff over its century of service has had results extending far beyond facility walls. For instance, the Make-a-Wish Foundation had its origins in the efforts of a pediatric nursing Sister with career roots in Bakersfield. The Mercy Hospitals organization continues this tradition today with new facilities and services. Among them are: **Dr. David Hair** at the Southwest Campus with his ocular surface transplant procedure founded on stem cell grafting; **Dr. Aaron Banks**, a specialist in pediatric cardiology, now practicing in Bakersfield; **Dr. Matthew Malerich**, pioneering the Malerich Procedure for surgical treatment of arthritis; **Dr. Arthur Fontaine** at the Truxtun campus with a state-of-the-art laboratory for interventional radiology; and the Mercy Sepsis Team working to reduce sepsis mortality. The Mercy staff is gratified that this continued commitment resulted in Mercy Hospitals being voted Kern County's Best Hospital in the Californian's Reader's Choice Poll in May 2009.

President Duane thanked Russell for his presentation, and rewarded him with the usual speaker's gift from Stinson Stationers. He then adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

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