

S P O K E



AUGUST 5, 2010



THIS WEEK

THE BATTLE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Robert Crowter of The Pacific Legal Foundation will present the program. The Foundation is based in Sacramento and dedicated to the preservation and defense of religious liberty and religious expression in our public life and public institutions

JULY 29, 2010 MEETING

BOB BURDETTE, EDITOR

President **Baldy Starkey** rang the bell to bring order to his out of control meeting and chose 12:20 P.M. as a good starting time to begin the official clock. President Harry announced to the club that it was **Don Camp Sr.'s** birthday and apparently Don chose to spend it with his bride and not with us.

Monsignor Braun offered an invocation after confessing his allegiance to the Democrat Party, though due to the strong arm tactics of **Roy Ashburn** and the payola required to have Roy sit on the school board, his coming out and standing tall denouncing his Republican Party registration, became overshadowed when **Ben Stinson** chose to combine Jacks (he didn't jump) and charades as his interpretation of leading a song. In between those two **Dave Wheldon** led us in the flag salute.

The head table was introduced by our President. The tag team of **Wendy Wayne** and **Gene Tackett** (on the left) and **Roy Ashburn** (on the right)... with no one in the middle (independent) were elevated a foot above the club members (which made Roy eye level with the club).

Dave Pliveltich introduced our visiting Rotarians and guests, of whom there were many.

GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Danny Abella informed the club of the service Salvation Army is providing and encouraged contributions for restocking of supplies distributed to those that lost their homes in the fires raging in our county. **Linda Vernon**, Mayor of Tehachapi shared the good news of the generous outpouring by the community.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 12 **Edward's Air Force Base**
General David "Ike" Eichhorn

August 19 **TBA**

August 26 **Chris Prentiss**
Founder & President of Passages Malibu

September 2 **Coach Gil Bishop**
John Pryor & Dr. Jack Schuetz

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Supplies were being trucked in and dropped off by concerned citizens and small businesses alike, taking care of the needs of the residents in the area that Governor Schwarzenegger declared a State of Emergency.

Pauline Larwood informed the club of classes available to the public at BC thru the Levan Institute for Lifelong Learning. The classes vary from robotics to pastry and dessert cooking.

Greg Gallion gave a plea for the American Red Cross needing donations to offset the supplies offered to those in need from the damage the fires have caused our citizens.

Ray Watson whet our appetite informing us of a Rotarian three day Cruise with a January date. All those interested can sign up now.

A special auction for the Waterman foundation occurred when President Baldy presented a zip lock baggy of his hair and bidding ensued.

PROGRAM

Gene Tackett had the privilege of introducing **Roy Ashburn** to the club. Gene gave a brief biography of Roy that started with their first encounter at a political function in 1978 when Gene was running for office and Roy was questioning his residence within the district he was running for. At age 28 Roy became the youngest Kern County Board Supervisor (one that Gene had held prior to Roy's election). Roy went on to represent his constituents in our State Assembly and currently is our State Senator for the 18th District.

After his introduction Roy proceeded to present **Wendy Wayne** with the 2009 Woman of the Year for the 18th district. This was an award that could not be received by Wendy last year due to her medical recovery. Wendy was congratulated by the club with a round of applause and words of appreciation.

Senator Ashburn started his program by publicly apologizing for letting his constituents down by driving under the influence of alcohol earlier this year resulting in his arrest. It is an action he promised to never again engage in. Senator Ashburn shared with us that his interest in politics started at age 8 and has continued since that time. Without taking a breath Roy started explaining the state's budget problems and future antidotes, for remedy. The deficit the state has had for the last three years is snowballing and recovery will be long and hard. He contends the inhospitable environment for the private sector and the insatiable appetite to fund programs and the influence of special interest groups are killing our state. Senator Ashburn contends that we need a new budget revised structural change, away from sales tax and instead tax everyone fairly... even those recipients of the "benefits". He

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ROTARY CLUB OF BAKERSFIELD

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.
Torres Steakhouse

WEDNESDAY

Bakersfield West - Noon
Stockdale Country Club

China Lake - Noon
Victoria's at 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.
Bell Tower Club

THURSDAY

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

Bakersfield Downtown - Noon
Bakersfield Art Museum

Tehachapi - Noon
Kelcy's Restaurant

Delano - Noon
Historical Society

Kern River Valley - 6:00 p.m.
Kern Valley Golf Course

FRIDAY

Bakersfield East - Noon
Veteran's Hall

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contends that if the cost is nothing to the recipient then the value is nothing. "Co-Pay" was an option he suggested as a way to have benefit recipients "share" in the costs. Pension reform is another area that he feels needs reform with reasonableness and no longer allowing for an unfunded liability. Lastly for budget reform to occur spending also needs to be revamped.

Lastly Senator Ashburn laid out what needs to occur to get California working again.

1. The basic problems are the Special Interest Groups that hold Sacramento hostage. He stated that "politicians will behave with the support given them".

2. Redistrict reform: Currently the system is "rigged" and he contends the Proposition 11's Citizen Commission to re-draw the boundaries has to be better than allowing the politicians to draw them.

3. "Do away with term limits"! He explained how prior to 1990 (when term limits were voted in), California did not have the problems it has now. He contends that elected officials just begin to understand the job and the "system" when they are termed out. Thus a total reliance on lobbyists and special interest groups (that stay in Sacramento without being termed out) to "govern" our state.

4. Impose spending caps in California.

Questions ensued and discussion resulted as an outcome of a well presented program.

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