

Newsletter Without a Name

This just in...

OK, so we now have pictures and “living color”, with a little help from my friends. Who said you can’t teach an old dog new tricks? The learning curve is just a lot steeper, believe me. This newsletter edition will not attempt to catch up on everything since the last one in November, but we will publish much more frequently in the future.

We still do not have a new name for our little publication; hence the “temporary” name you see above. Check out Doug’s comments in the “President’s Corner”. If you are clever enough, you could win a free lunch!

While it has been a cold, COLD winter, we have warmed ourselves with some interesting programs at meetings. We got a catch-up on the outlook for the expanding light rail system in our region; the leg to the airport will open by this summer or fall. We also heard some interesting discussion of the possibilities for a commercial airport at Paine Field (it would be a shorter trip for Bill Toskey, who always offers his “airport shuttle” services at our annual auction). By way of keeping us informed on one our many international service projects, we heard from David Anstine, Chair of Rabuor Village Partners, regarding our latest contributions there. Our club is sponsoring 5 high school freshmen in Rabuor Village. We presented David with a check for \$3,300, which will provide each student with a scholarship of \$660 for this year, to pay for room & board, tuition, uniforms, text books, plus some travel expenses. We have committed to support Brenda Okumu, Carolyne Wasuna, Linda Asenath, Victor Okwacho, and Daniel Omondi for all four years of high school.



[George Washington \(Jim Hodges\) visits our club.](#)

And in keeping with February Presidents’ Day, we received a visit from “George Washington” (see photo). Actually, he was “channeled” through our own Jim Hodges, to rave reviews. Thanks Jim.

Coming up on March 24, we will hear about the “Ten Grands Concert”. That’s not dollar bills strewn about the stage, but rather 10, count ‘em., 10 grand pianos at once... but you’ll have to come to the meeting to hear about it.

We welcome Lwanga Llwanga, back to Edmonds from many months in his former home of Uganda; we look forward to an update on his adventures there. We will be missing Lamin Manneh, who is off to Gambia to visit family for a month or two. When he returns we will have an update on the projects we are working on with him there.

Headline: Club Retreat

Last chance to sign up for the great Club Retreat! We are meeting in Leavenworth, at the Bavarian Lodge. Plan to come Sat night, March 28, bring your family for a fun time... the lodge is right in the village, and it has a heated pool! AND, if you come over Sat eve, the Club will pay for a great German dinner, and the camaraderie is free! If you can't spend the night, get up early Sunday and join us for our meeting, starting at 9:00 sharp. We have a few members already who are doing that, and maybe you could carpool? Carol promises we will be done by 3:30, which will get you back home at a reasonable hour. Hot topics will include fundraising, as well as balance between domestic vs. international service projects. This is a very important part of our commitment to our club; it gives us a chance to have some input about the direction we want to go, and to help our incoming President, Carol Kinney, focus and plan to address the issues you all care about the most for the next year. There have been some grumblings the past few years about where we are going, and who decides; this is your chance to REALLY be a Rotarian, not just a member of a noon networking club.



Student of the Month, Maggie Laush, and her teacher, Brenda Lee.

Commitments

Date	Greeter	Invocation
24-Mar	Shultz, Oliver	Halsan, Pam
31-Mar	Shields, Pat	Hamilton, Sophie
7-Apr	Semez, Nataliya V.	Henderson, Don
14-Apr	Schmutz, Don	Holcomb, Staser
21-Apr	Smith, Matt	Jones, Georgene
28-Apr	Ramm, Sherry	Hagen, Brent

District Conference

Are you planning to attend the District Conference this year? Well, are you? It will be on May 1-3, in Victoria. The District has even arranged for special Victoria Clipper group rates to get you there. This is always a good chance to see what is happening in other clubs, "meet and greet" other Rotarians, and feel a sense of pride in all that our own club has contributed to the world of Rotary. Trust me, you will definitely feel like you are more a part of Rotary after attending a District Conference. AND, our club will refund the cost of your registration (which includes meals). Forms can be downloaded from the District website.

The President's Corner

Welcome to the new version of the Club newsletter, soon to be formerly known as "The Backwash." I thought I would take a few words to talk about the Board's decision to go with a new name. Rotary clubs have, from the very beginning, used newsletters as a vital method of communication among members. As the newsletters were almost exclusively intended for internal communication, the Clubs used their collective imaginations to come up with unusual names. Some of the names were funny, some were "kitchy", some were downright crude (Remember, this was in the days before women were allowed in Rotary Clubs).

I am sure that the name "The Backwash" was intended as a reference to the back flow of water after a wave has washed up on the littoral shore, presumably as a salute to our maritime location. Even today, this definition is generally the first to appear in the dictionary. However, the word has taken on negative connotations as both a mainstream media reference to the aftermath of catastrophic events and as a slang term for the unfortunate blow back which happens when you let a friend have a drink out of your beer bottle.

These negative connotations would not be of great significance, if we were using the newsletter solely for internal purposes. However, as part of our public relations outreach, we intend to use the newsletter as something more, a window into our club. The newsletter will be part of our interaction with the public, distributed to friends and contacts in the community and the District.

With that thought in mind, and particularly with an emphasis on reaching younger people as potential members (younger people who would most frequently call to mind the second and more unfortunate of the negative connotations described above), the Board opted to make a change.

In a quick search of about 40 clubs on the internet, I was able to ferret out about four or five names that did not have direct Rotary connections. Others, such as "Spoke" with the Rotary gear substituted for the "o" were more or less self-explanatory. Some, like the "NairatoR" (a play on the role of narrator and hair removal, with that final "R"otary thrown in?) were certainly something that only the home club could love. In this day and age, the name I most frequently encountered was "[Club Name] Newsletter. It is concise but boring.

As we move forward with bringing the newsletter back to life, I would like to call upon the Club members to exercise their originality and imagination to come up with suggestions for a new name. The thoughts should be submitted to Pat Thorpe either in writing at a meeting or at her email address: pmtbroker@comcast.net. The person whose name is selected will have his or her lunch paid for by the Public Relations Committee.

Answers to the quiz.

1. Marie Curie (1867-1934)
2. Victoria Woodhull (1838-1927)
3. Martha Matilda Harper (1857-1950)
4. Julia Morgan (1872-1957)
5. Nellie Bly, born Sarah Breedlove (1867-1919)

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

c'est finis

Pat Thorpe, Editor

Quiz du jour

1. Who was the first person to receive the Nobel Prize twice?
2. Who was the first woman to run for President of the United States?
3. Who invented the concept of “franchises”, such as Subway and McDonald’s uses today?
4. Who designed Hearst Castle, in California?
5. What reporter pioneered investigative journalism?

Answers on page 3.



Here's to the Irish!



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