



THE ROTO NEWS



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APRIL 25, 2008

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

THE BERC FOUNDATIONS

Mike Cooper started things off with his description of the Plank Foundation. Lloyd and Patty Plank began the **Plank Foundation** in 1985 by contributing fully-paid \$25,000 life insurance policies on themselves with Bakersfield East as their beneficiary. The original mission was aligned with the Health, Hunger and Humanity focus of Rotary. Former BERC President Bill Stone and member Barney Gill urged members to contribute to the fledgling foundation so Lloyd and Patty could still be with us as it began its good works. Many members have contributed and continue to contribute, and Lloyd & Patty have matched these contributions, and the Foundation has been able funds, such as if burned out of their homes.

The foundation has expanded to address many cancer related needs supporting activities such as remodeling the facility that provides wigs, and supporting activities such as Relay

for Life, Daffodils, and Links for Life. The Foundation has been able to make \$10,000 donations on an annual basis to the Florence Wheeler Cancer center.

The Foundation sponsors an annual golf tournament at which a person is honored as Humanitarian of the Year. The first was Buck Owens in 1988. This year Father Craig Harrison will be honored. The Board of Directors was introduced, with Rich Harger singled out as the longest serving board member. Rex and Michelle Brown were the latest in a string of fine folks to be honored with a donation in their name given by the Plank Foundation to the Florence Wheeler Cancer Center. A check for \$10,000 was presented at the close of Mike Cooper's presentation by Lisa Plank to representatives of that institution.

Dean Carpenter was next



Since there were no "fun pictures" taken because Mr. Cooper forgot the camera... This is the Board of The Plank Foundation, the only Foundation picture in my file.

up to tell us about the Joe Alexander Foundation. The **Joe Alexander Memorial Scholarship Foundation**, the first of our local foundations, was established in memory of Joe Alexander, a beloved longtime member and Past President (1958/59) of the club. This seemed a fitting memorial to a departed friend and fellow member who had served as Club Scholarship Chairman for many years and who had made many gifts to deserving youth on his own.

At the time of Joe's death

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OFFICERS

President: Ron Biglin

Secretary: Christine Randall

Treasurer: Bob Parker

Sgt. at Arms: Mike Cooper

Board Advisor: Kelly Gibling

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Administration: Dave Bass

Membership: Jean Watanabe

Vocational Service: Sandra

Larson

New Generations: Steve Gibbs

Outreach: Carole Cohen

International Service: Michele Brown

Past President: Vernon Varner

President Elect: Susan Leedy

President '09-'10: Tom Burch

Upcoming Events at Bakersfield East Rotary Club:

May 2 - Law Enforcement of the Year - Dave Haynes

May 9 - Gin Fizz-- Home of Gary and Evie Stanfill (morning meeting)

May 9-11 Attn RV'ers - BERC Campout Quail Valley (1 hour North) \$30./nite. See Ron for details and to RSVP. Bar b q/potluck Saturday. Day campers welcomed.

May 17 - Pasta Feast

Worker Bees for 5.02.08**Flag Salute:** Bill Gresco**Visiting Rotarians:** Chuck Gray**Invocation:** Dan Giordano**Reception Table:** Tony Ansolabehere, Steve Richardson**Greeters:** Susan Gill, Bill Lewis, David Coffey**Supper Club: 4/30/08**

La Cabana

6725 White Lane

6 p.m.

RSVP

Call Dave Haynes 393-7204

May reading assignments from The Rotarian**Page one (President's message) Tom Burch, page 54 - Susan Leedy,
page 58 (Polio) Michelle Brown, page 31-53 Mike Griffin**

(con't from page one)

in the late 1970's, a number of the members of Bakersfield East made scholarship contributions in his memory, and through Joe's company, A-C Electric, his family agreed to match these contributions. A separate endowment fund was established to keep the scholarship funds donated in Joe's memory separate from the normally appropriated scholarship funds of the club. In the years since Joe's death, the family and the company have continued to match the memorial scholarship contributions of Bakersfield East Rotarians dollar-for-dollar. A Board of Trustees for the Foundation, drawn from both the Rotary Club of Bakersfield East and A-C Electric, has continued to oversee the activities of the foundation. With the Joe Alexander Foundation's goal of \$50,000 in invested principal having been reached, two or more Joe Alexander Memorial Scholarships per year are awarded from the earnings to deserving students from Highland High and/or East Bakersfield High in amounts fixed each year by the Foundation's Board.

Dean Carpenter described the very effective arm twisting done by Vernon Varner each year to ensure super participation in the Foundations annual fundraiser, an elegant evening of wine, and the solid and conservative scheme under which the funds of the foundation are invested.

Sandra Larson finished the program with a presentation describing the **VALLEY FEVER AMERICAS FOUNDATION** which was incorporated in 1996. The impetus was the need for a vaccine to prevent this disease which in our area usually kills more people than West Nile Disease in any given year. BERC member Johnson Jung and Dr. Hans Einstein learned exciting new research was going on but funding was unsure. Tom Larwood suggested to President Elect Mike Cooper that he make a project of helping to fund the promising research. Many Rotarians in our club and throughout the district have helped.

She explained that the VFAP is just one participant in the larger VALLEY FEVER VACCINE PROJECT but that all participants have the same goal as was so eloquently expressed in the billboard VFAP put up throughout California back in the 1990s which stated simply SAVE A LIVE – HELP FUND A VACCINE FOR VALLEY FEVER.

Rotary has provided credibility, helped demonstrate broad public support for a vaccine, held many fundraisers, made many presentations. A website and newsletter help maintain the community of support and generate funds. Total revenue to the VFAP since its inception – over \$830,000.

Rotarian representatives of the VFAP have also been instrumental in obtaining funds for THE VACCINE PROJECT which has raised over \$15 million with major donors the state of California, California HealthCare Foundation, CDC, and County of Kern.

Results -- The Vaccine Project has established a huge body of new knowledge and investigated a number of potential vaccine candidates. Sandra said that it is hoped the one currently being worked on will prove to be the one that can be taken to human trials, but that in science there are no guarantees, that we have not had sufficient funds to test more than one or two possibilities at a time, and if this one fails, there are many more that can be tried. A vaccine simply must eventually be found to stop the suffering caused by Valley Fever.

This week's business:

Visiting Rotarians: Pauline Larwood, Downtown, Stephanie Weber, Downtown

Guests: Patti Plank, Lisa Plank, Keith Bishop, Mike Day, Rex Brown, Robert Tidwell

Birthdays: Mark Ramsey

Club Anniversaries:

Mike Griffin 13 years, Kelly Giblin 15 years, Tony Ansolabehere 15 years, Dave Haynes 21 years, Rich Harger 23 years, Dean Carpenter 26 years, Ron Bivins 28 years

Installation of New Member:

Scott Begin introduced new member Robert Tidwell who is with TelTec Security – Robert used his fine free moment to tell us he had once worked for Mike Cooper down south somewhere in California. Welcome Robert!

Fines:

Kent Pryer was unprepared to report on the assigned Rotarian Magazine article even though the technical topic was right down his ally -- \$25 penalty! Barbara Tarpley will pay \$75 for an ad featuring a view of her at the beach that has run for 3 years without a Rotary pin in sight.

Announcements:

President Ron Biglin played three new commercials prepared by RI that will run on Cable channels – look for them, they were all great.

President Ron also showed the district business directory which (there are a few days left to sign up!) helps locate Rotarians in a particular business for a small fee which will help pay the costs for showing the commercials.

Membership Category for the week is fitness – we could all use a friend in that category.

Judy Rolf reported that Stan's cancer will be treated with radiation and chemo before surgery is considered.

Kelly Giblin will stand in for Ron Biglin next week which is the meeting when Law Enforcement Officer of the year will be awarded.

Jim Clark didn't show up so probably hasn't deposited the required amount in the grandchild account!

Carol Cohen announced a "new and good but used" luggage drive for a foster family agency which needs luggage for kids who are given clothing and need something to haul it in when going to assigned homes.

Rotary Foundation Thought of the Week: Group Study Exchange or GSE was founded as an educational program of the Foundation in 1965. As a result of this popular program, thousands of young professionals from more than 100 countries around the world have received vocational training, experienced another culture, and benefitted from Rotarian hospitality around the world. Create understanding and peace with your contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

Area Meetings**MONDAY**

Bakersfield South-noon

Holiday Inn Select

Wasco- noon

Veteran's Hall on Poplar Ave.

TUESDAY

Bakersfield North- noon

Petroleum Club

Inyokern- 6 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 am

Petroleum Club

Taft- noon

Jo's Restaurant

THURSDAY

Frazier Park- 5:30 PM

Los Pinos Restaurant

Bakersfield Downtown-
noon

Bakersfield Art Museum

Tehachapi- noon

Kelcy's Restaurant

Delano-noon

Kong's Dynasty

Kern River Valley - 6 pm

Ewings

FRIDAY

Bakersfield East - noon

EB Veteran's Hall



ROTARY CLUB OF
BAKERSFIELD EAST

P.O. Box 2383
Bakersfield, CA 93303

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BAKERSFIELDDEASTROTARY.ORG

“The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.”

Francis Maitland Balfour