



The RotoNews

Of The Rotary Club of Bakersfield East

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With Only One Meeting (and a DEMOTION) To Go:.....

The curtain came down on the Parker Presidency on Friday, June 21, 2002, with a moving program about a Kern County Fire Chief's contribution to the recovery efforts at the Pentagon in September, 2002. **Jan Blake** was the only brave Rotarian on hand to welcome members and guests to this last Parker meeting. **Larry Moxley** stepped in for **Tom Burch** and provided the invocation. **Gary Hoetker** led us in the flag salute, and under the direction of **Remlap** & our



Scott Begin brings poems to almost not so presidential Parker.



It's a Love Thing that is presented to Not So President Parker.

President for one more week, we sang God Bless . . . no! We sang America the

Beautiful! **John Mc25c** left his ivories in order to welcome visiting Rotarians. Two Presidents and one Past President and District dignitary were on hand



Gary Hoetker discusses the Joe Alexander Scholarship Award Program.

for the penultimate Parker appearance, Susan Eaton, President of the Breakfast Club; Irma Smith, President of North; and David Milazzo, Past President of North and current Assistant Gov. Also on hand were John Petrini from the Downtown Club, and North Bakersfield Rotarians Harry Patel and Jason Badgley. Joining us as guests were the always



Phil Icardo is the Director of the Joe Alexander Foundation Scholarship Program and presented Susan Faber with a \$500.00 scholarship for her continuing education in fitness and nutrition.

entertaining Peter Burley; Karen Peltier, guest of **Janette Ramsey**, scholarship recipient Susan Favor, and BC Cooperative Education Asst. Director, Nan Hodges.

The Stuff Started early, and Just Got Worse.....

After the introductions, the meeting was interrupted by Scott Begin, who brought to the podium a poem and a package for **President Bob**.

**Roses are Red, Violets are Blue,
Wild Thing, I think I love you!**

President Bob then pulled out a wild pink striped zebra, which performed Wild Thing. **Bob** settled his new friend in the chair next to **Club Treasurer Greg Braun**.



Susan Faber thanks BERC for the honor of the award.



Ralph Bartel gives a craft talk regarding his long career and the TV & Broadcasting businesses

But The Scholarships Were Worth Listening To.....

Phil Icardo reminded us of the largesse of Joe Alexander, and explained the genesis of the Joe Alexander Scholarship Foundation. Joe was a long time member of BERCC who enjoyed his service on the scholarship committee. When deserving scholarship candidates outnumbered the scholarship funds, Joe



Bruce Keith accepts a certificate of achievement from District for his efforts with the GSE team.

dipped into his own pocket and added more scholarships. He also loaned educational grubstakes to local students, including



Palmer, PDG comes up instead of standing up for Almost PP Parker and a discussion regarding his upcoming District assignment.

attorney Ken Byrom, who now serves as pro bono legal advisor to the Joe Alexander Foundation.

When Joe died in 1977, the Foundation was established to carry on his mission. The Alexander family has been very

supportive of the Foundation. The foundation's goal is to increase



Hilda Klein is not fined for being a "Garage Sale Queen" at Prez Parker's mother's house.

the corpus to \$150,000 so \$10,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. **Gary Hoetker** said this year there were 32 applicants from BC for Joe Alexander Scholarships. Two worthy students were chosen, Susan Favor and Jamie LaFavor. Both will receive \$500 toward their continuing education. Jamie will use her scholarship toward reaching her goal as a child development professor. Susan told us she will use her scholarship to pursue her goal of becoming a fitness and nutrition instructor. Sue is a single mother with four children, who works part time and attends BC fulltime. She has a



Lloyd Plank is fined \$1000.00 for his new Lincoln Continental...Lloyd was absent today- Almost Past President was trying to increase his final fine totals.



Sandi Blaylock does the honors of introducing our speaker, as she had been to see the Pentagon after 9/11.

3.85 GPA and will continue at CSUB when she graduates from BC next spring. She has thyroid disease, and she has developed her own nutrition and exercise program to lose 160 pounds. She said she wants to help others be physically fit so they can be mentally fit.

A Craft Talk.....and An Award..... East Bakersfield native **Ralph Bartel** gave an entertaining craft talk about his career in the broadcast industry. He has been in the business 32 years, and he is currently working as a



Steve Gage, Chief of the Fire Department of Kern County presented slides and different perspective of the disaster at the Pentagon on 9/11.

marketing specialist at KGET, which has just been purchased by Clear Channel Communications. Ralph also told us about his tour of military duty in Germany, seven miles from the East German border. He has been married to Catherine for 27 years, and they have two children, Ben, a new BHS grad, and Emily, a sophomore.

President Bob presented **Bruce Keith** with a District award for the Rotary Foundation, and a plaque recognizing **Bruce** as the GSE chair. **Remlap** has been elected as our RI Legislative Council Representative, and we don't care who else was or wasn't running for the position! Thanks to our soon to be demoted **President**, we know how **Hilda Klein** spends her early mornings – looking for bargains at garage sales! **Bob** wanted to fine **Lloyd Plank** for purchasing a new Lincoln Continental, but **Lloyd** was continuing to succeed in his efforts to miss most of this President's year. Undaunted by **Lloyd's** absence, our outgoing President levied a \$1K fine. **And, Then, One Final Winning program...** **Sandi**

Blaylock stepped in for **Kelley Brown**, who is dutifully cruising to the RI Convention in Espana with our President-Elect and others, and introduced our speaker, Fire Chief Steve Gage.

Steve Gage is a Kern County Fire Chief who led a team of California firefighters to Washington DC on September 11, 2001, flying in one of the only planes in the air after 9:00 a.m. that day, to stage support efforts for the recovery personnel at the Pentagon. He told of shoring up the columns where the plane had hit, so the recovery efforts could occur without further loss of life, diagramming the damage so rebuilding could begin, and all the efforts to feed, house, and provide supplies to the people and dogs who were there to work at the site. The emotional impact of the attack was felt by both the humans and the dogs. Bystanders would come and look at "the hole" left by the attacking plane – some would just stare for an hour. Support from US citizens and corporations was amazing. People came to serve food and bus tables for the workers. Tyson Chicken, McDonald's, Burger King, Starbucks, and Outback Steakhouse sent supplies. Chief Gage shared the three emotions he felt when he returned from Washington. He felt humble because he was able to do what we all wanted to do – help. He was proud of the people on his team. And he felt fear – that we as Americans might forget what had happened. He told us to be prepared and never to forget. And with that, the Parker Presidency came to a close with the ever so curious saying for the day "You can't tell which way the trains is coming by listening to the track"..

~smg (Fight On!)

Club Calendar

Jun. 23-26	Rotary International Conference - Barcelona, Spain
Fri. Jun. 28	Demotion (Who really knows?)
Fri. July 5	Dark (Holiday)
Fri. July 12	Review of the Barcelona Conference
Fri. July 19	Riley Parker (Worker's Compensation Fraud)
Fri. July 26	RI Director Sam Greene
Fri. Aug. 2	Jan Lindsay (Research on Poverty)

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SUPPER CLUB

DARK FOR THE SUMMER!

**CLUB ASSIGNMENTS FOR FRIDAY,
JUNE 28:**

**It's DEMOTION,
Dummy. Just get
there...Okay?**