



Rotary of Pacific Grove

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Rotary Club of Pacific Grove • Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:30 at Spanish Bay • www.pgrotary.org

Kyle Krasa, President 2010-2011

What? Me? Join Rotary?

By Amy Doré



Can you think of an instance when you had a belief about a group or an organization (whether positive or negative), and later discovered you were way off base? Have you ever involved yourself with a group of people – out of sense of duty or necessity – who you expected you would have little or nothing in common with, and then you developed meaningful, enjoyable relationships with those people? This has been my experience with Rotary Club of Pacific Grove.

I've been a member of PG Rotary since November 2008. I'm still considered one of the 'newer' members of this club, and would like to share my experience with you.

I was first introduced to Rotary by Jim Calandra, a long-term member and Past President of the club who is my accountant and now my friend. Prior to attending my first meeting, Jim extended the invitation to be a guest at least three different times over a period of 5 years. I repeatedly declined because I felt too busy running my physical therapy clinic, building a new business, and balancing a life. I also never really thought of myself as a 'joiner' or large group person. And truthfully, I knew nothing about Rotary, except it is a service organization which had a cog-wheel logo on Welcome Signs into cities, and had a reputation of being a rather homogeneous group of conservative 'mature' men. Not that there's anything wrong with that; I just couldn't picture myself relating well to this group (faulty assumptions number one and two).

When I did finally attend a Rotary meeting, my motivation was to find an effective means to serve the community and expand my professional network (goals which have materialized).

After attending my first meeting as a guest, I was pleased to discover the assumptions I had about the group which had kept me away were inaccurate. First, PG Rotary is made of a diverse group of interesting, intelligent, accomplished, inspiring, kind people. 1/3 are women. The age ranges from 32 to 90-something. The member's professions are varied, and the club is non-political and non-religious.

Within 2 months I became a member, and that's when I really started enjoying Pacific Grove Rotary Club.

First, I truly enjoy and look forward to the weekly meetings, and – yes – a weekly meeting is feasible for busy people. I make this point because I've heard potential new members express concern that the weekly meeting is too great of a time commitment. Allow me to make two points about the 'time commitment' argument: One, it's the busy people who are good about getting things done and managing time, so if you are "busy" you are ideally suited for Rotary.

Second, all of us in Rotary are either in the thick of it with demanding professions and families, or are now retired and busy doing the things we couldn't do before.

For me, the weekly meeting is a great opportunity to take a break from my intense work schedule and share lunch and conversation with fellow members, discuss what's going on in their world and mine, learn from interesting speaker presentations, and help organize our service projects. The weekly meetings are a great time to interact with business professionals can who can be valuable resources to help you with your own business.

Rotary has also given me the opportunity contribute my time and resources to help with projects which serve the local community as well as Rotary's humanitarian efforts abroad. Last



Kick-Out Party July 2010 President Kyle as Lounge Singer. Every so often I even subject myself to a costume change...



Amy at weekly meeting Auctioning off vacation gifts...

year I accepted the position of Parade Chairwoman and organized the Pacific Grove Rotary's Good Old Days Parade – a lot of work, but a much enjoyed local tradition - and was part of the guest speaker committee. I am continuing as Parade Chairwoman, and also Membership Chair.

Finally, I want to share how much fun I have had with the social aspect of the club. Our fellowship events have been rich and entertaining. I have had the opportunity to design fabulous costumes for our esteemed club President, Kyle A. Krasa, which have enriched the fun of our social gatherings and parties.

Bottom line, I'm glad to be a part of this club, and Rotary International, I'm grateful to the members who encouraged me to join, and as a relative newcomer I feel like I've barely scratched the surface. I would be happy to share with anyone interested more about what it's like to join Rotary and what a worthwhile endeavor it is.

Invitation Leads to Membership



When I was 25 years old, a new partner in a local CPA firm in Fresno, California, my banker, a Rotarian, invited me to a Rotary meeting. That invitation led to my becoming a Rotarian. At that time, you had to be a male and the Owner or Manager of a business. Thank goodness that was changed, some of our best Rotarians have been female and not an Owner or Manager of a business. At the time, I joined Rotary in 1965, it was to meet other business people and hopefully to add more clients to our firm. Rotary started as a businessmen's club in Chicago, in 1905, and I was only thinking of it as business connections when I joined.

After joining, I found that Rotary was so much more than a businessman's club. Rotary is very involved in the local community assisting in many needed projects.

In addition to the local community projects, Rotary has been able to assist in projects world wide with its International membership totaling 1.2 million Rotarians.

With this world wide membership, Rotary has sponsored many exchange and educational projects. They have also been in the forefront of eradicating Polio since 1985.

Rotary has introduced me to so many wonderful people, many of which have become my closest friends. I have had the honor of being a member of four clubs and President of three of those clubs. I am delighted to have been introduced to Rotary by my banker in

1965 and had no idea it would become one of the most fulfilling things in my life.

RotaCare Golf Tournament

On March 15, 2011, a charity golf tournament once again will be held to support the Monterey Peninsula RotaCare® Clinic. This tournament presents an exciting opportunity for Rotarians and guests to play a round of golf with their friends and colleagues - while supporting the only free clinic on the Monterey Peninsula. There will be a maximum of 100 players on the course!

Not a golfer? You can still support the clinic with one of several sponsorships available. The RotaCare® Clinic is a 501C (3) not-for-profit corporation. (Tax ID 77-0328723) 100% of the profit will benefit the clinic and our goal is to raise one half of the annual budget from the proceeds of this golf tournament.

For information on golf, sponsorships, or other ways you can support the RotaCare® Clinic, please contact Jane or Pamela at the numbers listed below.

Jane Durant-Jones
Tournament Co-Chair
831-372-3151 phone
888-772-5721 fax

Pamela Norton
RotaCare® Administrator
831-659-8037 phone
831-659-8474 fax

Some of Our School "Activities"

We sponsor an INTERACT Club at PG High School which allows students to organize and engage in their own community service programs. We give annual scholarships to PG High School students, sponsor "Job Shadow Day", (this year March 1) by allowing students to spend a half day with a Rotary member in the work force. We provide support staff for the annual PG High School track meet and judges for PG High School's student senior projects, send PG High School students to Camp Royal where they learn about leadership. Earlier in the year we donated dictionaries to third graders at Forest Grove and Robert Down elementary schools.




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