



March 2, 2016

Volume 99 Issue 33

Dear Fellow Rotarian,



Well...I have recovered from the beheading at the hands of Elliott Dixon's guillotine...and from the memory-scarring trauma of Rotarians donning speedos and spandex uni-tards at a Rotary meeting. McFarland's reprisal of a rhythmic gymnastics routine brought laughter to the room (not to mention likely shame to all fellow Cal alums). All of the performers were great and a good time was had by all of the over 100 attendees thanks to the work of the committee that helped coordinate the program (**Alfredo Velasco, Wayne Slavitt, Salvador Farfan, Vali De Vries, Adriana Lanting**) and the House Set-up crew (**Virginia Zart, Steve and Meredith Shaw, Sandy Simon, Mu Zhang, Nel Varenas**) for the off-site event. All in all, it was everything we hoped for and more at our first-ever Talent Revue. Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to the event through club service, sound and music or performance. We certainly couldn't have done it without you!

We get March off and rolling with a great program this week. February saw the California monster wave contest of Mavericks off of Half Moon Bay, as well as the first contesting of the Eddie Aikau big wave classic since 2009 (an annual event, but only held when conditions merit the contest--that is, sustained wave faces reaching above 30 feet for a prolonged period of time) in Waimea Bay on the North Shore with 28 invitees surfing 40 and 50-foot faces on monster swells. This week we follow those legendary surfing occurrences with a program about a local CPA who transitioned from accounting work to heading the surf and apparel company Body Glove. The risk of transitioning from a safe career to an entrepreneurial alternative is not unlike the risk of taking off on a monster wave.

Here are a couple of links to wipe outs from the Eddie Aikau last week...to give you a taste of what big wave surfing risks:

<https://youtu.be/viCBCJoqCdk>

<https://youtu.be/wjquCRBqAe4>

Visit our Website [ [here](#) ] District 5320 [ [here](#) ] Rotary International [ [here](#) ] E-Club of the West [ [here](#) ]

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## THIS WEEK'S MEETING



### Wednesday - March 2 - Russ Lesser - "From Wing Tips to Flip Flops" - 12 noon

Not many CPAs go from managing partner of one of the largest single office CPA firms in the country to presiding over a company that makes wetsuits. Russ Lesser grew up in Manhattan Beach, graduated from CSULB, and served in the US Army before joining Windes & McClaughry. After 20 years of partnership, he left to join Body Glove International, dropping his suit and tie to switch to jeans and flip flops. No matter what age you are or how long you've been with a company, find out how taking tremendous risks can lead to entrepreneurial pursuits.

## NEXT WEEK'S MEETING



### Wednesday - March 9 - Mayor James Butts- "Inglewood Brings Home the Rams" - 12 noon

James T. Butts, Jr. was elected Inglewood's 12th mayor in 2011. In less than 5 years his operational expertise prevented impending bankruptcy and his strategic vision created the "Best Neighborhood in Los Angeles." The 80,000-seat stadium and 6,000-seat performing arts venue are stimulating other major real estate re-development. Butts has more than 43 years of public safety and municipal government experience including Deputy Chief of Inglewood PD, Chief of Police for the City of Santa Monica, and assistant general manager for the LA World Airports.

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING



Last week the club met for a dinner program at Old Ranch Country Club for its first ever *Talent Revue*. Over 30 people performed--many for the first time ever--in front of an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. From special guest appearances (Ellen DeGeneres and Marilyn Monroe) to magical illusion, emcee **Wayne Slavitt** and Sergeant-at-Arms **Dennis Smith** kept everyone on their toes. You'll have to find out who performed an Olympic-worthy rhythmic gymnastic routine and who brought the crowd to tears on an emotional roller coaster ride. Thanks to all who participated: **Adriana Lanting, Vali DeVries, Lisa Ramelow, Kelly (and Jim) Ruggirello, Mu Zhang, Elliott Dixon, Alfredo Velasco, Brandi Collato, Mark Kachigan, Ron Grimm, Gabrielle Canale, Steve Keesal, Randy Kemner, Ian Hicks, Sara Myers, Cindy Swan, Dan Tapia, David Babore, Lynne Wainfan, Walter (and Julie) Larkins, Jayne Lastusky, Gail Schwandner, Andy McFarland.**

## COMING UP



### Thursday - March 3 - Breakfast Business Roundtable 7:30am-9:00am

Start your day with a breakfast with other champions. Small gathering venue is perfect to share concerns, experiences, resources. FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY.

The Breakfast (formerly Cafe Bixby at 3900 Atlantic Ave.)  
Contact: **Dennis Smith** ([dennis@stratisfinancial.com](mailto:dennis@stratisfinancial.com))



**Thursday - March 10 - Information Meeting (Greg Owen's) 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Even if you've been a long-standing member of the club, there is always something to learn about what we do or, more importantly, why we are Rotarians. Bring a prospective member, or come meet prospective members who are interested in joining the Rotary ranks.

Hosted by: **Greg and Val Owen** (5350 East El Prado Ave)

**Saturday - March 12 - Centennial Park Clean-up 8:00am**

We created this park in 2005 to celebrate Rotary International's 100th anniversary. Each month we continue to keep it clean and safe. Join us for the fastest and most fun way to do community service. Entrance on Pacific Coast Highway (between Junipero and Cherry Streets), near the purple and yellow burger joint.

Contact **Mike Jensen** ([jensen@pacnet.com](mailto:jensen@pacnet.com))



◀Mar2016▶

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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- **Mar 3** - Breakfast Business Roundtable 7:30am-9:00am
- **Mar 10** - Information Meeting (Greg Owen) 6:00-8:00pm
- **Mar 12** - Centennial Park Clean-up 8:00am
- **Mar 17** - 5 O'Clock Somewhere (Forbidden City) 5:30pm-7:30pm
- **Mar 27** - Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal Prep 4:00pm

More information about upcoming events [ [here](#) ]. The above events qualify for makeup credit [ [here](#) ] or you can review EClub programs [ [here](#) ]

**This Week's BIRTHDAYS**



- **Doug Haubert** - 3/3 City of LB, City Prosecutor (Government-Municipal-City Prosecutor)
- **Bill Phillips** - 3/5 California United Bank (Banking)
- **John Gooding** - 3/7 Coldwell Banker Beachside (Real Estate-Residential)
- **John Hancock** - 3/8 Bancap Commercial Real Estate (Real Estate-Commercial & Investment)
- **Alfredo Velasco** - 3/8 YMCA of Greater Long Beach (Non-Profit Organizations - YMCA)



For Rotarians, The Four-Way Test is the cornerstone of all our actions.

Of the things we think, say or do ...

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

	4. Will it be <b>BENEFICIAL</b> to all concerned?
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**The Rotarygram** is published weekly by the Rotary Club of Long Beach, the largest Rotary club in Rotary District 5320, and with over 300 members, among the 50 largest clubs in the world of Rotary International.

Club number 840, chartered November 1, 1917.

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