



February 24, 2016

Volume 99 Issue 32

Dear Fellow Rotarian,



We continue to have great programs and wonderful social opportunities on a monthly basis. This month's programs have been fantastic, and Ed Ratleff was fascinating to listen to as he regaled us with stories and humor about his basketball career.

We followed Wednesday's program with a very well-attended 5 O'Clock Somewhere at The Boathouse on Thursday evening. 46 Rotarians and guests were in attendance and enjoyed the beautiful view, good company, and various beverages and appetizers. Thanks to host **John Morris** and congrats to **Vali De Vries** for getting that kind of turnout for the social outing...think about it, we had more folks come to a cocktail gathering mid-week than most other clubs in District 532 have in their active membership.

This coming week we will unveil the much-discussed, long-anticipated, sure-to-entertain-and-amuse...the Talent Revue. Please be sure to join us Wednesday evening at Old Ranch for a novel meeting format that will certainly be a highlight of the year. Embrace the new and different, think outside the box, get yourself out of the house and join your friends as we embark upon this first-ever club Talent Revue. Come on...seriously, how often do you hear the phrase "knife throwing" and Rotary meeting in the same sentence (unless, of course, you are discussing the methodology of trying to cut through the grizzled lunch meats at the Queen Mary lunch)? Let's live a little and see what our fellow Rotarians have to offer by way of varying talents.

Plus, you may witness **Wayne Slavitt's** Chuck Barris impersonation....

**Be sure to reserve your dinner seat by Tuesday morning.**

Yours in Rotary Service,  
**Greg Burnight, FY 2015-2016, Pres# 99**

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## THIS WEEK'S MEETING



**Wednesday - February 24 - Club Talent Revue Show 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**CALL TODAY TO RESERVE A SPACE, EVEN IF ON THE MEAL PLAN**

Instead of a lunch program, we will be having an evening meeting at the Old Ranch Country Club. All members should plan to gasp and applaud the talent abounding within our club members. From singing and dancing to a magic show, knife throwing, acrobatics, presidential pipe band----you do not want to miss the many surprises in store for you! What a perfect opportunity to invite your favorite guest for an evening of laughter and camaraderie. Cash bar opens at 5:00pm; dinner at 6:00pm; meeting begins at 6:30pm

## NEXT 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.

## LAST REGULAR WEEK



If you were there last week, you met LB State's greatest basketball player, **Ed Ratleff**.

Ratleff was inducted as part of the 2015 class of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. The Ohio native was the cornerstone of Long Beach State's glory days under legendary coach Jerry Tarkanian. Ratleff was a two-time, first-team All-American while at LB State. He was part of the 1972 US Olympic team that lost a highly controversial gold medal to the Soviet Union by one point. Ratleff was the 6th pick for the 1973 NBA draft and played 5 NBA seasons with the Houston Rockets. Ratleff, grew up playing baseball and only started playing basketball in the 8th grade to "get a girlfriend." Ed Ratleff exemplifies the athletes of a former era where humility and gratitude are a hallmark of their character.

**Gabrielle Canale** led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Sergeant-at-Arms Jeremy Harris** introduced our guests and celebrated the birthdays of **Bonnie Lowenthal and Karen Wyrick**. Announcements were made by: **Vali De Vries** (5 O'Clock Somewhere, Feb. 18) and **Jim Kinmartin** (golf outing, Feb.27). **Prez Greg** reminded members of the February 28 Ronald McDonald House. Also a change of dates for two events announced last week: American Red Cross is re-scheduled from March 23 to June 1, and the Quito trip re-scheduled from May 4 until sometime this fall. As this is a Papal Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is holding a special mass for Rotary International on April 30; several club members are planning to attend.

## COMING UP



### Sunday - February 28 - Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal Prep 4:00pm

It's never any fun to have a sick child in the hospital. Thanks to the LB Ronald McDonald House some families can stay nearby while the child is receiving medical treatment. Help prepare a home-cooked meal for the families. It is often they only time they have a real meal that day, where they can actually all sit down together. Contact team captain : **Mike Miller** ([mike.miller@vistage.com](mailto:mike.miller@vistage.com))



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

Start your day with a breakfast for champions! FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY, meet in a small group setting to share experiences, concerns, resources. Contact **Dennis Smith** ([dennis@stratisfinancial.com](mailto:dennis@stratisfinancial.com)). Meet at The Breakfast Club (formerly Cafe Bixby at 3900 Atlantic Ave.).



### 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@pacret.com](mailto:jensen@pacret.com))

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- **Feb 24** - No Lunch, but evening Talent Revue 5:30-7:30pm
- **Feb 26** - Golf Outing (Rec Park) 11:00am
- **Feb 28** - Ronald McDonald Sunday Prep (Mike Miller) 4:00pm
- **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

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



- **Cindy Allen** - 2/20 ETA (Advertising - Agencies)
- **Gary DeLong** - 2/20 The RTP Group (Telecommunications - Management)
- **Jayne Lastusky** - 2/23 Retired (Non Profit Organizations-American Cancer Society)
- **Bob Patton** - 2/24 Retired (Education-LAUSD-Teacher)
- **Aaron Blackburn** - 2/25 CDR Benefits (Financial Services - Benefits)
- **Val Owen** - 2/27 Honorary
- **Marty Kurner** - 2/28 The Hawden Group (Furniture Sales - Retail)



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 **BENEFICIAL** 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.

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