



Flywheel

"Service
Above
Self"

A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California

Program for Friday September 17, 2004

Steve Weir, County Clerk

Door Duty: Erle Brown and

Program for Friday September 24, 2004

LCDR Ross Sargent, USCG, San Francisco Vessel
Traffic Service

Door Duty Jan Brown and Werner Schwarz

Program of Friday September 10, 2004

Candidates for City Council



This program has been energetically organized by Bob Dabney so that the Richmond Rotary can hear directly from as many as possible of the 15 candidates running for Richmond City Council in the General Election, November 2nd. Local media has characterized the large field of candidates as running the gamut from sublime to ridiculous. As in all great democracy's the Richmond voters will get to decide which is which, and, which combination of those two different characteristics will best serve the next four years of Richmond politics.

As an editors note, quotes (“...”) will only be used when I'm pretty damn certain the candidate said the quoted statement or if a written statement has been provided by the candidate. Paraphrasing will be written as narrative text. If possible, candidate points will be summarized in bullet points. *If editorial comment is used at all it will be in italics.* Corky Booze, the Linden La Rouche of Richmond politics was invited to speak but was a no-show. Phone Phlix of the two candidates are provided and apologies for their poor quality are given here under the banner, “Ain't technology wonderful, when it works”.

Last Week

Prez Herb began the meeting of the friendly Richmond Rotary Club by asking Past Pres Stoney for the invocation which is the now traditional Silent Prayer for Freedom and Peace on Earth. Pres Herb then asked the D of the friendly Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Judy Morgan, to lead the members in the Pledge of Alliance. Ted Abreu provide today's words of wisdom no doubt inspired by the presence of our guest candidates for Richmond City Council,, advice to politicians and speech makers was, “Be sincere, be brief, be seated”.

Sunshine Report

David K. is fishing

Recognitions

Prez Herb noted that minus David K. there was no Sunshine Report, no birthdays, no anniversaries (and no bananas). However, Prez Herb expressed the great joy felt by the entire club at the presence of Charlie Wong who received two ovations, the first for just being with us, the second for his thanks to the members for all their well wishes (special thanks for all the help to Werner) and his recommendation to not have a stroke.

Visiting Rotarians

John Clinton of Marin Sunrise introduced himself.

Rotarians With Guests

Gloria introduced Lance Jackson, Deputy Director of SGI, the school district construction manager/financier. Gloria thought Lance might be interested in club membership if he attends a regular meeting at MVCC. *Other members may want to consider who they know who might like to join the club.*

Josh G. introduced Cory Lawrence, Jon Lawlis guest, also noting that Jon wasn't there to introduce Cory himself. Prez Herb also noted that Jon wasn't present to introduce his guest Cory and that's going to cost him.

Announcements.

Prez Herb carrying Hank Covell's message reminded the members that the club's dinner & drama night is

Prez Herb introduced the first candidate speaker, **Deborah Preston-Stewart**.

This is Ms. Stewart's first campaign for elected office as she is not a member of the Gang of Nine, although as a third generation Richmonder and a city employee, she is familiar with the city and its problems. Educated in local schools and a graduate of St. Mary's College, Ms. Stewart currently is a labor contract negotiator for the Port of Richmond. She has also worked for the City as a local contractor procurement agent and job trainer for the Knox Freeway Project and ran on-the-job training programs for the Oakland Private Industry Council focusing on getting PIC members good employees. In addition to her "professional manager" experience, Ms Stewart describes herself as a, "Neighborhood Advocate and Parent".

Major issues described by Ms. Stewart include:

- **The Financial Situation** – for which she would definitely try to make the City Council more accountable including an auditor that reports directly to the City Council. Stewart would also:
 - "Boost jobs and economic development.
 - Help city government become more efficient and boost 'customer service'.
 - Insist on a 'Hire Richmond Residents First' policy."
- **A Workable Relationship with the WCCUSD** – including the development of a Youth Council. Stewart would also:
 - "Seek new funding for after school programs and other youth services."
- **Better Schools Generally** – noting that good schools will help attract new business.
- **Blight** – which adversely affect much of the city. Ms Stewart has a vision of Cutting Blvd. revitalized to the condition of contemporary Jack London Square or Emeryville.
- **In General Governance** - Ms. Stewart would:
 - Make public safety – improve police and fire services – a priority.
 - Institute new ethics reforms to loosen the grip of special interests on the city.
 - Bring an environmental focus to city decision making.

Ms. Stewart asked the rhetorical question, "Why run for City Council?" Answering it for herself she said, "The timing is perfect. Richmond is a Jewel. She has the management and people skills necessary to make it work, and concluded asking for the members vote on November 2nd. *Ms. Stewart did not take a position on casino gambling in Richmond either at Pt. Molate or any of the other venues discussed from time to time around town,*

Prez Herb then introduced incumbent **Council Member Mindell Penn**.

Council Member Penn started her presentation with a humorous expression of disappointment as she wasn't able to speak after Tom Butt so she could "re-but" everything he said.

September 16th. Dinner at the Hotel Mac then a walk across the street to the Masquers Playhouse to see the mystery, thriller comedy, "Ravenscroft". Tickets for dinner and the show are \$40, a good deal for all you supporters of the muses. (More info at <http://www.masquers.org/Masquers.html>)

Josh invited the members to join the Richmond Chamber Golf Tournament at the Richmond Country Club October 4th. Sign-up deadline is Sept. 27th. Call the Chamber office at **234-3512** or you can download a registration form at <http://www.localcommunities.org/lc/937/FSLO-1093901490-371937.pdf> Sponsorships are also welcome.

Judy K. is collecting class sponsorships for the Peres Project In Rhonda's absence).

Werner announced that everyone should make a special effort to attend the next meeting Sept. 17 because there will be a very special event, the details of which he is not at liberty to discuss yet. Rumors abound about this surprise event that have included:

David "I bought the kitty" Brown will equitably distribute his misbegotten gains to all the members present.

Earl Brown will give away a case of 50 year old tequila he smuggled into the country from his last visit to Puerto Vallarta'

J Lo will visit the club with a scintillating discourse of why integrity is such a turn-on.

Paul H will tell the members where to crawl under the fence to get free admission to the Rod and Gun Club.

With **Werner** in charge, it could be anything (Paris & Nicki Hilton discussing the work ethic?) Clearly, "a not to be missed" event.

Happy/Sad \$\$\$

Josh G. had both happy & sad dollars; Happy for the Levin Terminal/Pacific Railway adventure down the back tracks of Richmond. Josh noted he and his family have lived in Richmond forever and much of the route he had never seen. Josh gave the adventure and lunch "two thumbs up" for the next Holiday Auction with special thanks to Jim Cannon. Josh also had happy dollars for his new puppy and a story of puppy adoption that you'll have to get from him. Sad dollars were for the passing of Gail Overra. **Charley Wong** had happy dollars for being at Rotary and a check for his daughter's Paul Harris. **David Brown** had \$5 sad dollars for the third anniversary of the victims of 9/11 and a change in our times, having to live with terrorism brought to us by the likes of Osama bin Laden. **X-Prez Stoney** had \$5 sad/happy dollars commemorating 9/11, sad because of the

Ms. Penn is seeking reelection to continue her original campaign to "Clean up Richmond". She said that in addition to her original concerns about cleaning up Richmond streets from out-of-town dumping this now means cleaning up Richmond internally including city operations, fiscal control, employee performance and poor support systems. Combined, these operating issues have prevented the city from balancing its income and expenses which must be done in the future.

Besides her last term on the City Council, Ms. Penn has 34 years experience as the governmental relations officer for PG&E in Contra Costa County. While she represented the entire county, her office was in the Richmond Service Center. Combined with her residency she became very familiar with the city and its community wide problem of illegal dumping which she attributed to a lack of code enforcement. Ms. Penn noted that her switch from business to government culture has required a serious adjustment and that for her it has been four years of learning from the inside; developing working relationships with other City Council members; learning all the city's issues and learning how to move those issues through the political process. Noting forcefully that this learning curve is now behind her she is, "Now I can fight for my belief and clean up Richmond".

Speaking of the primary issues facing the city besides illegal trash dumping Council Member Penn said:

The Fiscal Crisis has to be addressed. "It has been a long time coming as evidenced by my conversation with past Richmond CFO Jay Goldstone who left the city in 1994 when it had a \$10MM surplus." Goldstone said, given the city's established operations, he was not at all surprised that it was now facing bankruptcy. Council Member Penn then said, "I take responsibility for this situation because it happened on my watch and now I want to do something about it and it will take four more years."

Libraries and Community Centers - simply need to be reopened.

Interim City Manager Phil Batchlor - is a tremendous asset for the city given the current crisis. Batchlor has prepared a list of 177 issues facing the city (including illegal trash dumping) that must be addressed. Most importantly, Batchlor is going to fill all the primary city management positions with permanent managers. The selection of the best people for those positions is critical to the future of the city and resolving the multiple crisis's now facing the city.

Role of the City Council is policy making not city administration. That's why we have to hire the best permanent employees as our public administrators.

Council member Penn concluded her presentation asking for the members support and vote November 2nd. *Council Member Penn did not take a position on casino gambling in Richmond either at Pt. Molate or any of the other venues discussed from time to time around town,*

Thank you Mr. Williams for bringing Richmond Rotary up to date on one of our finest community assets.

third anniversary of the Attack on America, happy because we haven't been attacked again. Stoney was also glad to see Charley back at Rotary. **Gloria** had happy dollars because the WCCUSD has 17 schools under construction but all the teachers and students are in classrooms although at several school sites this means the entire campus has been moved into temporary quarters. Gloria complimented "everybody" on their resilience and she and Prez Herb recognized Ted A. for his temporary substitute work as principal at Ellerhorst and Mira Vista Elementary Schools. Gloria even invited the club to hold a meeting at one of the newly rebuilt schools, and idea that will no doubt be taken up by the Board, **PREZ Herb** had another happy \$5 for Charley and because Gloria is running the school district and not him.

Raffle

The raffle was postponed because somebody forgot to have the balls.

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Your Acting Editor,

Jim Young

Door Duty Reminder

09/24/04	Brown Jan	Schwarz Werner
10/01/04	Butt Tom	Schulze Russell
10/08/04	Cameron Tom	Schneider Tom
10/15/04	Cannon Jim	Sanders Dan
10/22/04	Chauvin Sid	Reina Father Nick
10/29/04	Lawlis Jon	Reid Bill

Important Dates

10/06/04 10/08 Meeting at His Lordships in Berkeley
 10/08/04 No meeting
 12/02/04 Holiday Party at Mira Vista G&CC
 12/10/04 Annual Holiday Auction and Elections

Upcoming Programs

10/01/04 Council Candidates Butt, Black and Shaft
 10/15/04 California Attorney General Bill Lockyer
 10/22/04 Council Candidates Soto, Osborn and McLaughlin
 10/29/04 Council Candidates Marquez, Casendorf and Bell
 11/05/04 Louis Reynaud Asst Coach for Cal Basketball

Where to Make Up

San Rafael	Mon	12:15 Seafood Peddler
Albany	Tue	12:30 Solano Grill
El Sobrante	Tue	12:15 Joe's of El Sobrante
Berkeley	Wed	12:15 His Lordships
Hercules	Wed	7:15 am Hercules Sen. CTR
San Pablo	Wed	12:15 La Strada
El Cerrito	Thu	12:15 Mira Vista G&CC
Pinole	Thu	12:30 Outback Steak House
Vallejo	Thu	12:15 World Holiday Inn