

# Flywheel



**SERVICE Above Self**

October 21, 2005

*A Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Richmond, California*

Program for Friday October 21, 2005



**Richmond Rotary  
Board Of Directors  
2005-2006**

**Officers**

**President**

Jonathon Lawlis

**President Elect**

George Egan

**Treasurer**

David Brown

**Secretary**

Joe Nusbaum

**Past President**

Herb Cole

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

John Nicol

**Directors**

Jim Young

Josh Genser

Rhonda Harris

Joe Bagley

Pam Jones

Paul Washington

**Rotary**

**International**

**President**

Carl-Wilhelm

Stenhammer

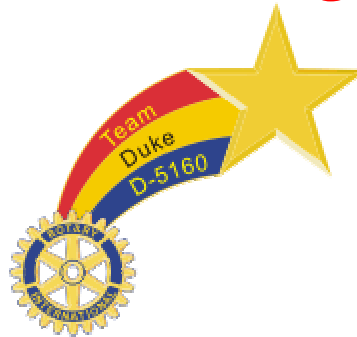
**District 5160**

**Governor**

Brian D. Thiessen

*Richmond Rotary  
meets every Friday  
12:30 at the  
beautiful Mira  
Vista Golf and  
Country Club*

**No Meeting**



**Please attend the District Conference at the Concord Hilton - One and Two Day Packages Available**

**Registration forms at [http://www.rotary5160.org/docs/Concord\\_RegForm.pdf](http://www.rotary5160.org/docs/Concord_RegForm.pdf)  
Single day Reg fee - \$50, Dinner - \$45, Lunch or Breakfast - \$25**

**You Can Register at the Door.**

Program for Friday October 28, 2005

**Michael Mahoney**

Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee discusses the use of Measure M & D school bonds and the need for Measure "J" on the Nov. ballot

**Door Duty:** Rhonda Harris and David K

Meeting of October 14, 2005

John Lawlis opened the meeting today back at our old home – the incomparable Mira Vista. Markku, with his thick Finnish accent, announced the invocation again this week. **John Wilson** led us in the pledge and **George Egan** had the thought for the day.

Visiting Rotarians

**Jane Del Simone**, past president of El Cerrito Rotary was a visiting us today to see George Miller of course. **Jack Freethy** also came from El Cerrito Rotary

## Door Duty

10/21  
No Meeting

10/28  
Rhonda Harris  
David K

11/4  
Ralph Hill  
Joe Kelman

11/11  
Joni Hiramoto  
Henry Kelman

11/18  
Paul Hodgen  
Judy Kafka

\*\*\*\*\*

## Where to Make Up

**Mon** 12:15 Seafood  
Peddler, San Rafael

**Tue** 12:30 Solano Grill  
Albany

**Tue** 12:15 Elks Club  
El Sobrante

**Wed** 12:15 His Lordships  
Berkeley

**Wed** 7:15am Hercules  
Senior Center, Hercules

**Wed** 12:15 La Strada  
San Pablo

**Thu** 12:15 Mira Vista  
G&CC, El Cerrito

**Thu** 12:30 Outback Steak  
House, Pinole

**Thu** 12:15 World Holiday  
Inn, Vallejo

## Rotarians with Guests

**Mark Howe** brought his lovely wife, Susan Howe, who lately has been coming to Rotary functions more than Mark – yes this is becoming a habit – maybe a red badge is in her future? **Jim Young** brought two old friends to the club Jean and Jack Knox. Jack is seems to be doing quite well after his recent bout of illness. Just goes to show you can't keep a good guy down. **Judy Morgan** brought John Z. another old friend of the club. **Rhonda** brought Jenny Holland? And Rhonda's pal Ron Berry snuck in late. Rhonda has the best guest bringing record in the club! **Josh** introduced Gary Bell and Planning Director Steve Durant **Stoney's** guest was his better half, Mary Anna.

## Sunshine Report

David K reports that all Rotarians are in relative good health despite some creaky bones and unexplained pains here and there.

## Announcements

On Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Peres Elementary School is going to dedicate the **Dan Ercolini Memorial Library and Computer lab**. Please sponsor a Classroom at Peres ES". So far we have 26 Rotarians signed up Get your checks to **David Brown** ASAP! The **Holiday Auction and Party** will both be December 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, the auction will be at the Mira Vista CC per tradition, followed by the election of officers, and, the party will be in the evening with the El Cerrito and Richmond Rotaries coming together to celebrate at the Richmond CC. **Rhonda Harris** has taken over the responsibilities of Paul Washington with regard to Peres school and she needs **HELP!** Please contact Rhonda or Jonathon if you can do a little. This is a good opportunity for our new members to really get a hands on experience.

## Recognitions

The ever popular, **Jim Beaver**, again announced the recognitions today.

**Ren Partridge** celebrated his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday and promises that his check is in the mail. And in the new "years with Richmond Rotary category", **Barry Gordon** has 7 years, **Rich Brandes** has celebrates his 12<sup>th</sup> year, and the **Beaver** has been with the club 16 years.

## Happy & Sad Dollars

**Elof Grandberg** had some sad dollars to recognize the passing of his friend Ed Dowling. **Herb Cole, Jim Young, Jon Lawlis, and David K** went fishing and were all impressed with David's skill baiting hooks – in fact Herb says David is the MASTERBAITER.

Herb gave us an update on the progress of his hurricane-displaced mother. She is still in Baton Rouge and has received the \$2,000 FEMA is handing out to displaced

## Upcoming Programs

**Oct 21**  
**No Meeting**

**Oct 28**  
Michael Mahoney, Chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee discusses the use of Measure M &D school bonds and the need for Measure "J" on the Nov. ballot.

**Nov 11**  
Honoring Rotary Vets, each veteran member gets 5 minutes to tell their most important memory/experience/insight from their military service.

## Raffle

With over \$600 bucks in the pot, Judy Morgan Pulled the white ball to finish up last week's raffle from La Strada. Don Hardison then stepped up and again pulled the white! Both Judy and Don wondered if the orange ball was really in the bag. It was, I swear!



## Important Dates

**10/20/05** Board Meeting  
at Richmond Country  
Club

**10/21- 10/22/05**  
District Conference in  
Concord

**12/02/05**  
Annual Holiday Party

**12/02/05**  
Holiday Party with El  
Cerrito Rotary

## Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**FIRST** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

hurricane residents. **Bags** just got back from Chicago where he celebrated his fathers 90<sup>th</sup> "the father says getting old is a pain in the ass" -- I can imagine that to be the case at 90! **Rich Brandes** has the most original delivery today. He talked about his recent bare boat charter trip to Turkey and Greece and some of the odd docking customs that even his 20 years in the Coast Guard did not teach him. 20,000 Turkish Lira was his donation to the club today. Commenting again on the holiday auction, **Beaver** asked **George** how the bottle of Muscatel was doing? George confidently responded "there is still some left" and everybody laughed.

## Program

**Congressman George Miller** was feisty today. He says there is a mood on the hill these days unlike he has seen in a long time. A moment of truth of sorts, exposed by the hurricanes, where our leaders are broadly coming to the conclusion that our domestic agenda is suffering under the weight of the very expensive Iraq War. Distracted by the war our country was not prepared for the hurricanes; we had let politics turn FEMA, a once proud world renowned emergency response organization, into a destination for partisan political appointees, untrained in emergency service work. The top eight positions at FEMA were political appointees.

The lack of focus is not the entire problem this war is causing. Profound financial stresses are starting to surface. On the domestic front we have authorized a Medicare prescription drug benefit that congress was told would cost \$300 billion but will in fact cost \$1,000 billion – and the drug industry knew this all along but cynically forgot to tell congress! We are also proposing to spend \$200 billion or more to help hurricane victims, wealthy banks and gambling companies recover from the storms.

Congress's irresponsible behavior does not stop with spending. The latest round of tax cuts benefited only the richest 3%/ 4% of our population and hurt the country's tax base. The same is true of the estate tax.

To add fuel to the fire, current energy prices are causing economic distortion the likes of which we have never seen. Commuters in the suburbs are now having to bear the true economic cost of living there. – the cost of commuting is squeezing out everything else. General Motors and Ford addicted to the profits of SUVs saw their sales decline last month by 40% and Delphi the old GM parts division that was spun off several years ago declared bankruptcy last week. The investment community is



## Birthdays

**10/3** Joe Bagley  
**10/11** Jim Cannon  
**10/11** John Troughton  
**10/13** Tom Cameron  
**10/13** Ren Partridge  
**10/21** Troy Pewitt  
**10/23** Charlie Wong

## Anniversaries

**10/1** Dave and Betty Calfee  
**10/7** Margaret and Thomas Hanlon-Gradie  
**10/12** David and Mary Ruth Smith  
**10/22** Bart and Norma Wallace  
**10/24** Bud and Alice Martin  
**10/24** Ted and Carolyn Smith  
**10/30** Troy and Annell Grove

## Club Anniversaries

**10/6** Barry Gordon 7 yrs  
**10/7** Donna Bell 12 yrs  
**10/10** Rich Brandes 12 yrs  
**10/10** Tom Butt 25 yrs!!  
**10/16** Jim Beaver 16 yrs  
**10/20** Ted Abreu 10 yrs  
**10/21** Bud Martin 42 yrs!!!  
**10/25** Paul Allen 4 yrs

## Get To Know Our New Members!

**Monique Le Conge**  
Classification  
Libraries

**Margaret Morkowski**  
Classification  
Waste Management

**Margaret Hanlon-Gradie**  
Classification  
Consulting-Political

**Lance Jackson**  
Classification  
Engineering- Electrical

**Don Joseph**  
Classification  
Banking-Branch  
Management

**Jazzy Singh**  
Classification  
Banking – Account  
Executive

**Nick Despota**  
Classification  
Graphics-Web Design

**EJ Shalaby**  
Classification  
Wastewater  
Management

**Glenn Daggs**  
Classification  
Security Management

plenty scared too. GM bonds are now yielding 11% even though the company has \$40 billion in cash on its balance sheet.

We also see concern on the political front. Nearly 2/3 of the country think that we are headed in the wrong direction.

George says the hill is starting to sense that the country doesn't have a "rainy day fund" and that things are getting out of control. If there is a silver lining in this cloud, it is that this fear is forcing parties that have not cooperatively spoken to each other for years, to the bargaining table.

On the topic of education he says that we have too few people entering the math and science fields which are the foundation of a healthy economy. No longer do foreigners want or are able to come to the US to study because the terrorism rules now make it too hard to enter, and today, foreign schools are as good as US schools. The best university in the world is in India today, not the US. Germany, Korea, and China also have some of the world's best universities.

I asked him why after the Arab oil embargo did the European countries has the good sense to heavily tax petrol products while in America we just kept skipping down the primrose path. Politically self interested lobbying by the automobile and oil industries prevailed over the interests of the people he said. Today America's fleet of cars has an average fuel economy rating 1/3 of those in Europe.

On the Richmond violence issue he says simply "Fix the schools and fix Richmond" He said study after study after study has shown that the best investment a community can make, in itself, is in improving its educational system. He went as far as saying that if you had \$10,000 to spend on your house, a new bedroom or a new kitchen would be nice, but if the money was instead spent on improving schools in the area it would be more effective at increasing the house's value – the school district a house is in is more important than its amenities.

He also talked about Casinos and the ongoing health care problem.

Good Job Congressman George Miller!!

Rotating Editor  
Mark Howe

## Click Me



### Highlights of the District Meeting:

#### Friday, October 21, 2005

8:00 - Golf – Diablo Creek  
8:00 - Hike Mt Diablo  
1:00 - Community Project – Markham Regional Arboretum, Concord  
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton  
7:00 - Dinner  
8:00 – Rain Man – Kim Peek  
9:00 - Club Entertainment – Fun, Food, Beverages – Suite Rooms – Concord Hilton

#### Saturday, October 22, 2005

8:30 – Breakfast  
9:00 - Opening Ceremony  
9:30 - Cliff Dochterman, Past RI President  
10:30 - Special Session – Getting to know Rotary  
12:00 – Lunch.  
1:00 – RI President's Representative  
2:00 – Special Session – Getting to know Rotary  
5:00 - No Host Reception – Banquet Room Area - Concord Hilton  
6:30 - Dinner  
7:30 – Cave Man – Al Mathis  
8:30 - Conclusion of District Meeting  
9:00 – Club Entertainment – Fun, Food