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Listening In

July 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Henderson called today's meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

PLEDGE AND QUOTE OF THE DAY

Jerry Tallman led the pledge, then followed with an important quote: "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its joy."

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

PP Jeff Ehlenbach introduced visiting Rotarian *Caron Schmierer* of Mission San Rafael. Klif Knoles introduced guest *Casey Mazzoni*, and Don Violin introduced guest *Boyan Trgovcevic*. Our other welcome guest of the day was *Alonzo Sandoval*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Denning announced she has returned from a trip to Montana, and she is glad to be back. President Henderson, her next-door neighbor, had agreed to watch Judy's home during the trip. But only moments after Judy left, a mystery was afoot with a strange car in Judy's garage, an open garage door, and tripped home alarms. As it turned out, Judy inadvertently left the garage door open exposing her new car. Before such a simple explanation was known, high drama ensued, including President Henderson having to convince the authorities she was only an innocent neighbor and bystander! Judy Denning announced a donation to the scholarship fund.

Jerry Tallman is getting a new car and is happy to retire his old one, which has 350,000 miles. He made an "appropriate donation" for the announcement.

Margaret Deedy then announced that Gary Frugoli underwent a successful operation and is doing well. He would have attended today but for a doctor's appointment. Gary Notti is still recovering from his surgery but is not expected to be back right away. Margaret also welcomed Joe Ayoob to today's meeting, as he unfortunately only rarely (lately) graces us with his presence.

In other news, Larry Piatti has taken a leave of absence. He is an indispensable part of the KRON team in the City, and the weekly trips to San Rafael take quite a bit of time away from work. We hope to see him return.

President Henderson then playfully called on Joe Sheku, who on July 1 has been with our club for 22 years. He gave a bell ringer for the honor. Laura Bertolli then offered that she, too, has a July anniversary with the club, as she now has been around for 14 years. She playfully donated \$14 to the club, a dollar for each year.

President Henderson then reminded us that Rotary's next international meeting will be in New Orleans.

Bill Goodwin then provided an Utsunomiya update: Our two girls now are in Japan, and the Japanese girls will be visiting us soon. We now have enough night hosts for them, so thank you to those helping out. But we still need day volunteers. At this point, the plan is to take them to Muir Woods, a Giants game, Santa Cruz, the City, and West Marin. Call Bill at (415) 458-8610 if you can help. **Utsunomiya Welcome Event: We will be welcoming our two Japanese exchange students on Friday, August 6 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Marin History Museum at 1125 B Street in San Rafael. Our two Utsunomiya girls will be there, too. This is a can't miss event! Make sure to come and enjoy wine and snacks while supporting of one of our most celebrated programs.**

Also, all four Utsunomiya girls – Japanese and ours – will be speaking at our August 9 Rotary Club meeting. Make sure to be there, as they no doubt will provide interesting insight and stories about their experiences and our different cultures.

In other news, Jack Diego has been the steady marble game man now for a while. It was announced that Marilyn Riede and Ed Berberian have graciously agreed to assist with the marble game for the next few months. This of course led to the...

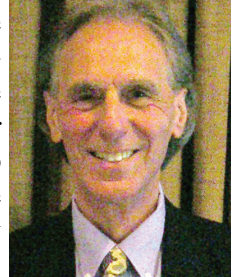
MARBLE GAME

Jack Diego strutted to the front of the room with 32 marbles and \$849 in loot. PP Maynard Wilms picked the winning ticket, a black marble, and walked away with a bottle of wine.

SPEAKER

Bob Marcucci introduced our speaker for the day, Michael Diliberto, P.E., an expert in fire protection. His clients include the government, especially the

military, and he serves as a fire protection and fire cause expert for attorneys. He also is a member of the Tiburon Rotary Club.



Mr. Diliberto recently had a job in Afghanistan, where he worked on a hospital in Kandahar. Starting next month, he will be spending a year in Abu Dhabi in the U.A.E.

When he worked for the Air Force, he was responsible for fire protection design for Cape Canaveral. He was asked to do the fire protection work for the space shuttle, but he did not have time to devote to it. NASA sent him the plans and allowed him to keep them. Apparently they are not confidential!

He also designed a fuel storage building space for the space shuttle. The fuel was extremely flammable, since a four-ounce bottle could destroy a couple of buildings. When he worked in Afghanistan, he helped design a 100-bed hospital. He previously had helped design hospitals, but not for a Muslim culture. In that culture, the men and women require different entrances and exits and other ways of keeping the sexes apart.

He also meets interesting people in his line of business. One pilot of his in the Middle East was a missionary whose guise was that of a pilot. In his spare time, the "pilot" smuggled Bibles into the Middle East. If the missionary had been caught, he would have been killed.

Lastly, he discussed a time he designed and oversaw the building of a 600-foot long and 100-plus foot wide building. They had 600 Egyptian workers on the site who used family heirloom tools, all of which were quite archaic. The workers did a great job, and in only a year, which was quite a surprise.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Barrett Schaefer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 2 – Cicely Muldoon, new superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore