

Rotagram March 5, 2008

Ed Barwick took the lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dean Donaldson delivered the Thought of the Day. At this time of year it is appropriate to quote an Irish writer: "To make us love our country, it ought to be lovely!" ... and a pearl of wisdom from Dolly Parton: "If you think you can, you can do it!" Wild applause brought the house down – or maybe not.

Visiting Rotarians came from all corners of the world: Dale Ann Knight, Insurance, Rohnert Park/Cotati; Jim McKeever, Communications, Napa Sunrise; Lenore Hirsch, Education Admin., Napa Sunrise, Doris Gentry, Manufacturing, Napa Sunrise, and Steve Hill, Marketing Automation, Mission San Rafael.

One Guest of Rotarian was Charles Spohn, Surgical nurse and Realtor.

Maren Namdar was successfully reunited with her lost badge – it cost her \$20!!! Ouch!!!

Napa Sunrise member, Jim McKeever, announced that Queen of the Valley Hospital will celebrate its 50th birthday with a fundraising gala on June 14. There was a lively debate of people claiming babies were born at Queen of the Valley Hospital more than 50 years ago.

Brenda Spaeth received honorable mention. She may just have had a hand in the generous Napa Valley Register publication of our Club's Cycle for Sight event.

President Steve Orndorf still has a seat available in his car if you would like a ride to attend the District Assembly on April 12th.

Lenore Hirsch discussed the Nicaragua Project. Rotarians are sponsoring scholarships for students who are now being matched up with their sponsors. Continuing education after age 11 is one of the goals.

Jason Weiss talked about the Boys and Girls Club gala fundraising event on March 15. Experience the Las Vegas atmosphere right here in Napa!

Rotarians have been very busy distributing the yellow sign-up cards for prospective participants in the Cycle for Sight event. This event will be wonderful. Please volunteer for any spot that is still open.

The moment arrived that everybody had been waiting for: The resolution of the Jim Ford (illegal) U-Turn controversy. All Rotarians patiently listened to the breathtaking saga of exculpatory evidence presented to the traffic court. All mitigating factors were put on the table for this "U-Turn @ Left Turn Only" citation. Google Earth photos, diagrams, photos were offered as evidence by Jim, the poor victim of a flawed system. Photography sessions of the scene of the ultimate injustice proved that hundreds of cars violated the "No U-Turn" sign, some of them even (hopefully, you are sitting down) crossing DOUBLE, DOUBLE yellow lines. Yes, as far as Jim is concerned, the law had been violated, but only after the rules had been inappropriately changed! The conclusion: the citing officer did not show up for the trial and the case

was dismissed!!! Tom Young was wondering "if it was still Wednesday?" Legal analyst Bill Blanckenburg mused: "Is this all Jim Ford has to do?" Bill objected to Jim describing his hair as being colored "silver" and he really nailed it with the statement: "Just because everybody is doing it, that doesn't make it right." The verdict should have been GUILTY. Jim Ford now has a standing invitation to put in the same effort to benefit our bicycle race fundraising event. Gary Rose went to Jim Ford's house and he arrived there just as Johnny Cochran was leaving....

Our speaker was Gale Knight, who was very impressed with Napa Noon's members being able to laugh so much. She spoke about the Rotary Polio Eradication Program. In 1985 Rotary started a worldwide campaign to eradicate polio. They produced a lemonade polio vaccine. It was a goal to have polio eradicated by Rotary's 100th anniversary. India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria still have cases of polio. The disease is only a plane flight away. Many children in this country have never been immunized. Luckily, Rotary took on the challenge of eliminating polio. WHO (World Health Organization), CDC (Center for Disease Control), UNICEF, and governments of the world are partners in this mission. New tools and new techniques have been developed to eliminate the polio virus. The question was asked: Since it is so expensive to eliminate polio, should we maybe just control the disease? Well, the cost to control will be much higher than eradication. Bill and Melinda Gates

donated to Rotary \$100 Million as a challenge grant. Rotary will have no problem matching this amount. The polio virus has reappeared in areas where it did not exist anymore. The reason for recurrence is the pilgrimage which allowed the virus to spread into 22 countries. The Arabian countries decided that polio would not be a Muslim disease and Hadj (pilgrimage) participants have to be immunized. In Nigeria, religious leaders proclaimed that the polio vaccine would render male children sterile. The First Lady of Nigeria has worked hard to make polio virus eradication a national goal. In Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, children were immunized on the same day on both sides of the border. Without the eradication program, there would be 200,000 new cases of polio per year. Rotary is totally committed to finishing the eradication job. In 1969, while traveling with Rotaplast in WestAfrica, Gale Knight first saw the devastating, crippling effects of polio. Polio afflicted people had to crawl and Gale gave them flip-flops to protect their hands and knees. Gale's immunization trips have been a source of great fulfillment. It is good to know that parents do not have to watch their children suffer the devastation of polio. Mel Engel made a motion to assess each Napa Noon member \$10 for the immunization efforts. It passed unanimously.

President Steve closed out the meeting with sports quotes. "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is someone like Norman Einstein."

