

Rotagram March 18, 2008

Kevin Massie led the Pledge of Allegiance with an elegant and positive introduction. Bruce Ketron was inspired by Valentine's Day and the "you know when you are in trouble" routine: "Is this seat empty?" is answered by: "Yes, it is, and this one will be empty too if you sit down." "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?" "Yes, that's why I don't go there again." "I would go to the end of the world for you!" "But would you stay there?"

There were almost no visiting Rotarians. President Steve, however, mentioned "drop-ins" Bill Dodd and Joe Keebler. The latter is embarking on a bicycling trip in rainy Ireland.

Friends of Rotarians: The Cooney/Wolfe clan was well represented. Steven Wolfe visited us on leave from West Point, where he made 31st. He will be married in Napa on June 16.

Jason Luros announced that Napa High qualified for state in the Mock Trial competition. Unfortunately, they lack the funding to compete on that level.

Barbara Nemko pointed to a sign-up sheet on all tables for a one-day Junior Achievement event at West Park School. This will take place on May 22 from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. It is a one-day commitment to help the children learn about free enterprise.

The Napa College musical "La Cage Aux Folles" is a wonderful performance. A group of Rotarians

will go there on Friday, April 11. There will be sign-up sheets for this event.

Paul Ahearn publicized the "Night in Tuscany" dinner event to be held at Hagafen Winery on April 5. Last year's experience is still fondly remembered by all participants. The Interact students organize and prepare the entire affair with finesse and enthusiasm – and without any kind of adult supervision. Two wonderful young Chefs will cook. Maya Weir explained that proceeds from this evening will go the green belt project in Kenya. Trees will be planted to empower women. This venture addresses humanitarian and environmental concerns at the same time. Buy tickets for this nice, candlelight dinner with delicious food and a silent auction.

A GSE team from Nigeria will be in the Napa Valley on May 7 and 8. The Calistoga Club has asked for help to find homes for these young people.

Jacob Kelly received his Paul Harris award. As a gracious, young recipient, Jacob showed great interest in President Steve's explanation of the help that is given to disadvantaged children around the world. Jeanne Christoffersen presented Jacob with a book about the Polio eradication efforts. Certificate, medallion and pin in hand, Jacob is now a honorary member of the Napa Noon Club. Yes, Jacob, always remember to join our Club and not the one that starts with the letter "K".

Elisabeth McKenzie introduced our special guest from West Point, Steven Wolfe. Steven explained when you arrive at West Point, you

start way at the bottom – you are a janitor picking up the trash for the corps of cadets and you even have to guard the dumpsters. Gradually you earn the opportunity to exercise more and more leadership skills. As a senior, Steven calls 500 people to attention each day. Four special education courses Steven takes are civil engineering, science, chemistry, and physics. Two years of math and general education are required. As a West Point cadet Steven earns \$500 per month. After graduation he will be assigned to the chemical corps where he will have the skills to deal with the aftermath of chemical weapons deployment. West Point is all about leadership. You are forced to find ways of getting people to do what you need done. After graduation you are obligated to five years of active duty, three years of active reserve. After 20 years of service you can retire. The question was asked whether West Point women go into regular combat. Yes, they also get shot at in convoys in Iraq. West Point attracts people directly from High School, from colleges, and those who have served in the Army. Of 1200 starting, 970 will make it to graduation. The application process to West Point takes a long time. They check out your physical (sports) record, academic and leadership qualifications. You need to have a recommendation from your local congressman.

Our speaker was Steve Coswell, Napa Valley Fair Housing. Fair Housing involves civil rights and community development. It assures equal housing opportunities for all. The agency assists in settling landlord/tenant disputes and it provides information on rights and

responsibilities. 90% of inquiries received are from tenants; 10% from landlords. The agency administers the City of Napa memorandum between the City, the mobile park, and the mobile homeowners. Illegal discrimination can occur in any kind of transaction that involves renting or purchasing a house, insurance, financing, zoning, etc. The federal statutes state that you cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. The State of California puts it differently: Age, ancestry, sexual orientation, medical condition, marital status, arbitrary characteristics, source of income. There is a special disability provision: You cannot treat one person differently than another. A disabled person can ask for reasonable modifications to accommodate their disability. This is also reflected in design standards for new construction for multifamily housing. Guide dogs and other companion animals for the disabled also have to be provided for. Fair Housing offers the following services: Individual education and counseling, community education, research and advocacy, as well as community education to the general public, social services providers and real estate professionals. A landlord can require a tenant to purchase rental insurance to protect the property.

Gary Rose advises to put Saturday, April 26 on your calendar. This is the big Cycle For Sight event. 15 wineries have been signed up, as well as three micro breweries, 200 bike riders, memorial signs, etc. This event is coming together. Find your opportunity to volunteer!