

The Napa Rotagram

May 21, 2008



President-for-the-Day, **Mike Loughran**, personally took the lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thought for the Day:
Bruce McCall had pertinent thoughts about Memorial Day. *It's not only about family outings, picnics, long drives in the car-- we should honor our*

Veterans on this day. Take the time to visit a cemetery, say a prayer, and give thanks for living in a fabulous country. Remember all men and women who have sacrificed for our freedom. Once more, Bruce was honored for being the health professional of the year.



Applying **Dick Lonergan's** reminder about the proper greeting of *visiting Rotarians* and guests of Rotarians, we welcomed **Bill Lockhart**, Money, Sunrise; **Vic Ajlouny**, Government Relations,, Omaha Downtown; **Jim Henry**, Commercial RE, Napa Sunrise; **Constance Coughlan**, CPA, Waianae Coast; Mike Basayne, Business Consultant, Napa Sunrise; **Robert Mutzas**, Entertainment, Napa Sunrise. Welcome.

Guests of Rotarians: It was a privilege to welcome **Larry Wolfe** introduced his wife, **Linda**, a teacher of 38 years at Silverado Middle School; **Alecia Hancock** introduced her husband, **Rich**, a retired

contractor; **Bill Blanckenburg** introduced **Lorie Gordon**, who is **Mona Humpert's** daughter.

Announcements: Once again, the sunshine report proved that all Rotarians are well. **Joe Dacanay** got stuck with his four wheel drive vehicle in the outskirts of Napa County. **Mike Loughran** was serious: There is a fine on the horizon!

Quarterly Student Achievement Award: **Ann Cash**, **Tom Young**, and Vintage High School teacher **M.L. Oxford** introduced **Michael Brantley**, a senior at that school. The County Board of Education has chosen this exceptional Student to receive the quarterly achievement award. **Ann Cash** presented the plaque signed by Rotary's President, and **Tom Young** handed over the \$200 check. Michael has distinguished himself in many ways, especially his great results in a regional retail merchandizing program.



MEASURE N PRESENTATION

Please Note: This week, in lieu of a speaker, Rotary members heard a balanced program with arguments for and against Measure N, The Responsible Growth Initiative which will be on the June Ballot. None of the opinions below are those of the writers and editors of the Rotagram, and in addition it is against Rotary principles to engage in political endorsements. However, informative meetings exploring the validity of issues are acceptable. The following is for informational purposes only:

Speaker on Behalf of Measure N: Victor Ajlouny
Speakers Against Measure N: Bill Blanckenburg and Joe Fisher

Victor Ajlouny spoke first and stated that he felt that Measure N gives back to voters the ability to approve

developments. The intent was to take the existing county ordinance and put it in a format so that the decision will no longer be a decision by supervisors, but it will be a decision by the voters.

The county general fund will have to pay \$750 per year for each new dwelling that might be built on the Napa Pipe property in the future. The full development of the property – approximately 3,200 housing units – would result in an enormous expense for Napa County. It would take this number of homes to make development of Napa Pipe profitable. There are companies –paid by the Board of Supervisors – issuing feasibility (9111) reports. Their conclusions seem to mirror the view of the majority of the supervisors.

Mr. Ajlouny spoke to the public criticism that holds that they have not been transparent with the disclosure of all campaign contributors. He responded that each dollar contributed to the “*Yes on N*” campaign has been reported. The main proponent of the measure, attorney James Marshall has reported every dollar received to-date even though he will not disclose the identity of individual sponsors who contributed to a poll prior to the initiative qualifying for the ballot based on a promise to those individuals that he would not reveal their names. In contrast, said Mr. Ajlouny *Keep Napa Napa* has collected \$700,000 and they have not reported the original source of the funds. Mr. Ajlouny says it is a common tactic to confuse the voters. He also remarked that if Measure N loses, it could open the floodgates to developers who will come in and develop many other industrial sites.

Bill Blanckenburg presented the other side of the coin. He stated that he could not believe that he and the other side were talking about the same proposal. He responded that the 3200 homes contemplated by Measure N are not on the books at all. He stated that the measure is unnecessary because the main thrust called Responsible Growth is already in force and the 1% law exists right now. That control, and the 35’ height limit has been very well exercised.

Bill has received the 26-page leaflet of legal language that comprises Measure N and he states it contains changes to the General Plan that have been made by an unknown author. He states that this 5,000 word document would render the Board of Supervisors powerless forever. Bill cannot find any good in this measure that he states is backed by people who refuse to identify themselves.

There were questions from the audience, rebuttals and clarifying comments about the role of the supervisors. The idea was that supervisors will be voted out of office if they do not take the wishes of their constituents seriously, and that protection from a “Yes” vote on Measure N is not necessary. Mr. Ajlouni cautioned that this is a long term decision and that a no vote could be to the disadvantage of the community during the next generation of supervisors and beyond. He also pointed out that the wordiness of Measure N was a result of California Election laws that require that all language that is proposed to be deleted also appear in the Measure.

The closing comment: Growth is a complicated issue. We cannot deal with it via an initiative. You decide by casting your vote at the polls on June 3.



For more info you can check out the campaign websites:

<http://keepnapanapa.org/>
www.votersretakecontrol.org

