

THE ROTATOR

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SAN DIEGO ROTARY CLUB

San Diego
Rotary



Established 1911

The Power in Genome Sequencing



Camille Newbern
Editor

Hi guys, remember me? It's been a minute. Well, more like 6 months, but who's counting? Let's see if this old thing still works. This old thing serves as dual reference, to my brain (which isn't all that old) and my laptop (also not very old), both of which I have been procrastinating in the form of shoe shopping instead of writing. Per usual. But I digress. (Also, as you've probably realized, per usual.)

Welcome to my version of the Rotator! (Aren't you lucky it only happens a couple times a year?? #blessed)

Among the many perks of Club 33 is that we have members in just about every decade of life. One of the few downsides to this is that we often find ourselves saying goodbye to yet another beloved friend and Rotarian. President **David Oates** (who shall henceforth be known as POATES) called Thursday's meeting to order with a powerful (not to mention very on-brand) reminder that as Rotarians, our legacy is our impact not just here, but everywhere. And that is the makings of a life worth living.

Keeping that in mind, our meeting was bookended by tributes at both the start and close, beginning with beloved Club 33 friend, Past District Governor Larry Scott. POATES will remember Larry's limitless ability to be kind, always ready with a smile and a caring word. And if that isn't a way to go out, I don't know what is.

The Inspirational Moment was delivered by the always-dapper **Will Hage**. With membership month wrapping up this week, Will gave us three ways to support Club 33's 4th place ranking:

1. Say it loud and proud; share your Rotary affiliation via your social media channels.
2. Invite a friend to a meeting. Don't you want to give the gift of Rotary? (Talk about leaving a legacy.)
3. Share what Rotary means to you. (This would be an appropriate place for me to do so, but I'm pretty sure everyone has heard my story at least once. Plus, I already used up a lot of my allotted word count with that online shopping tangent in the beginning.) Everyone has a

Rotary story; share yours.

Read by **Mark Burgess**, Thursday's News was sponsored by **Dr. Divya Kakaiya**.

No stranger to the spotlight, recent past president **Suzy Spafford** made last weekend's paper for her involvement with the upcoming Festival of Books. Now this kind of recognition typically comes with a fine, but when Suzy reminded POATES that she would be heading up his roast, our new president quickly conceded that the press was not fine-worthy material. (Although, I'm here to argue that POATES so easily folding to Suzy's thinly veiled threat is roast-worthy material, no?)

And talk about a celeb-packed audience. This year's Mr. San Diego with be none other than our very own **Michael Brunker**. If you didn't catch Diane Bell's write up of Michael in last week's Union Tribune ([click here](#)), it's worth the read. I can think of no one more deserving. Clearly, Club 33 shared in my sentiment as the news of Michael's honor was received with a standing ovation.

John Peelle presented the annual tennis trophy for the whopping 11th time to none other than **Vern Aguire**. I have to wonder if it's still fun winning the 11th time. Seriously. I've never won anything twice, let alone 11 times.

As Rotarians, we all know that education and building awareness are key to fighting our toughest battles. In that vein, **Julia Holladay** invited all those interested to a complimentary workshop hosted by Free to Thrive on September 14. The event is in support of POATES's mission to combat human trafficking.

Larry Hoeksema introduced Lincoln High's Youth Exchange students, freshly returned from their summers away in the UK, Finland and Slovakia. All three students thanked Club 33 for sponsoring their life changing experiences abroad.

Chair of the Day (who the Girl Scouts once voted on of San Diego's top 10 cool women, nbd) **Julia Brown** welcomed speaker Brian Steffy of San Diego power company, Illumina. (It should be noted that it's power, meaning powerful, not electricity, which they are often mistaken for.)

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Next Meeting

**Next Meeting:
August 29**

**District Governor
Marta Knight
And
Our Annual Committee
Showcase**

A perennial program, this is your chance to learn about how our club spends more than 100,000 volunteer hours annually in the service of others. Our international, youth, community and vocational committee will be showcasing their projects.

Come early! The Showcase begins at 11:15 am with Marta Knight, 2019-20 Rotary District 5340 Governor, headlining as our program speaker.

Marta will be sharing her "Rotary AHA Moment" and family history. She will also be sharing Rotary President Mark Maloney's goals as well as our District goals for the coming 2019-2020 Rotary year.



**Chair of the Day
President David Oates**

Camp Enterprise Legacy Nominations are open!

Is there a High School Junior in your life? A son or daughter, niece or nephew, grand, close family friend? It's time to consider nominating them to attend Camp Enterprise March 19-21, 2020. It sounds like a long time away, but we would love to have many legacy students this year and there's no time like the present to nominate that special young person. Students headed into business or entrepreneurial careers will find Camp an particularly informative and rewarding experience.

[Click here for the nomination form.](#)

Got questions? Contact [Bridget Meckley](#) or [Christy White](#).

A 21-year veteran in the biotech field, Brian currently serves as Associate Director of the Illumina Solutions Center. Among his responsibilities are designing labs for Next Generation Sequencing, leading a team of scientists who provide their clients with customized solutions as well as educating them on the benefits of their technology. Additionally, Brian and his colleagues have developed a successful program in which high-school science teachers can bring genomics to their classrooms and perform an actual experiment on their campus.

Pretty cool, right? But what does all this genomics stuff mean for us? In a word, everything. According to Brian, we are extremely close (like 5-10 years close) to solving some of the world's largest problems via genomic sequencing. By knowing our genome, we will be able to have better insight into family planning, learn about predispositions, inform proactive health management and guide therapy and drug choice. Essentially, more patients produce more data, leading to more discoveries and therefore better diagnosis. The holy grail of genomics is disease prevention. And if you're wondering how will we feed all these healthy bodies? Well, genomics is improving agriculture and food production, as well. It's literally everywhere. (OMG, just like us! Talk about full circle!!)

Past President **Bob Russell** closed the meeting with a touching tribute to **Russ Kirbey**. Survived by his loving wife and four children, Russ was a big man with an even bigger heart. The Braille Institute is what it is today thanks to Russ's tireless efforts and many years of service. Russ and his infectious smile will be missed.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LIBERTY STATION CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

August

29 District Governor Marta Knight/Annual Committee Showcase

September

5 Supervisor Nathan Fletcher

12 Gabor George Burt, Author

GROTARIAN EVENT



Join us on Tuesday, September 24 at NBC 7 & Telemundo 20 and go behind the scenes of San Diego's leading TV stations.

Address: 9680 Granite Ridge Drive, San Diego 92123

We will:

- * tour the news studios
- * learn about their multi-platform marketing offerings
- * get a sneak peak of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games

Cost: \$20 per person (includes food and beverages)

Guests 8 years of age and older are welcome.

Deadline to register is September 17 – space is limited to 30 people max. All attendees must present a valid ID upon check-in at security.

[Click here to register](#)

BIRTHDAYS

August

Josh Buchholz	27
Bill Thaxton	27
Jordan Abushawish	27
Craig Barrett	28
Tom Wilson	29
John Hill	29
Doug Myers	30
Mark Nelson	31
Tom Vecchione	31

September

James Buley	1
Bonnie Schwartz	1



In Memoriam



Ann S. Bethel, Ph.D.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Ann passed away on Saturday, August 24. She was a member for 22 years. Service information is pending.



Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106

David Oates, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

San Diego Rotary ♦ 2247 San Diego Avenue, Ste. 233, San Diego, CA 92110-2943

Phone: 619/299-3309 Fax: 619/299-3340 ♦ e-mail: paul@rotary33.org ♦ website: http://www.sandiegorotary.club

2019 Mr. San Diego



*The Past Presidents of San Diego Rotary have proudly selected
Michael W. Brunker
as the recipient of the
2019 Mr. San Diego Award*

*Please join us on September 19th at the
Liberty Station Conference Center to honor Michael for his passionate leadership
and altruistic contributions that have made a lasting impact in our community.*

Congratulations, Michael!

[Click here to watch KUSI's feature on Michael](#)

FACES IN OUR CROWD

Photos courtesy of Lisa Miller



(Left) Guest speaker Brian Steffy with Chair of the Day Julia Brown; (center) Will Hage's Inspirational Moment told us of ways to show our love for Rotary, one of them by adding a Rotary frame to our social media profile picture; (right) **Kathleen Carroll** on badge duty.



(Left) John Peelle presents the club's 2019 Homer D. Peabody, Jr. Tennis Trophy to repeat champion Vern Aguirre; (right) Larry Hoeksema introduced the Lincoln High School students who participated in this past summer's Youth Exchange program (Juan Zavala, Emily Hermosillo and Karen Mendoza).



(Left) **Wendy McKinney** and Mary Radovan congratulate Michael Brunker on being selected as this year's Mr. San Diego; (right) The Kirbey family joined us today for Russ Kirbey's eulogy presented by Bob Russell. President David presented them with a frame of Russ's Rotary badge.