



Your **ROTOSCOPE** for **Thursday, April 8, 2010**

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY CARMEN TRUTANICH

SO WHO PAYS ANY ATTENTION to a big-city's attorney's office between elections? The current L. A. city attorney has only been on the job for eight months, but Carmen Trutanich has gathered lots of attention in a short time. He will tell us about some of his adventures, and some of the activities of the city attorney's office.

CARMEN TRUTANICH grew up in San Pedro, earning an MBA at USC and teaching at community colleges. His interest in the law grew, so he studied at night while working alongside his dad during the day, packing tuna for StarKist. Bar passed, he worked as a prosecutor for L.A. County before forming his own firm specializing in environmental law. Last spring, Trutanich ran to replace Rocky Delgadillo and won the job of city attorney, to be sworn into office last July first.

SO WHAT DOES HE DO? The city attorney's office handles all civil and criminal cases for Los Angeles, and the city's department is one of the largest governmental legal offices in the United States. They prosecute over 100,000 misdemeanor cases a year, some as high profile as the high and illegal advertising signs that Trutanich's office recently ordered down. Some of the bigger felonies that the office prosecutes concern hard core gangs threatening neighborhoods with great harm, and major tax cheats stealing millions from the city.

THE CITY ATTORNEY SETS POLICY for the office, deciding which felonies and misdemeanors deserve the most attention in prosecution. At the same time, the city attorney must defend the city in thousands of claims for anything from a scratch on city property to major problems with city police and other departments. Shifting from the prosecutor's table to that of city defender, then back, Trutanich's plate is full of fascinating action.

CARMEN TRUTANICH WAS SCHEDULED to be our guest speaker last month, but had to rush to Sacramento instead of trying out our lunch buffet. This week, he's promising to come and tell us of his more interesting experiences over the past eight months in "City Hall East" with the attorney's office.

ALMOST PERFECT – BUT NOT QUITE YET

WE ARE VERY CLOSE to another year of 100% success, every member of our club donating something this year to The Rotary Foundation. We've met that goal every year for at least a decade, and now we might fail. A handful of members haven't given anything since the fiscal year began last July. While at least \$100 is recommended, Rotary understands that many people worldwide are pinched by this Great Recession – so even a few dollars is needed and welcomed.

JOHN HARRIS AND OUR FOUNDATION friends have been trying to call or speak in person with the few members who haven't yet done their share. If you have not been reached but haven't contributed, please call John or send a contribution to the club post office box. It's not only a good cause, it's good acknowledgement of the work done by our foundation committee and by all supporters of The Rotary Foundation in fighting polio, water/sanitation needs, and student exchanges.

TAP INTO ROTARY!

OUR ROTARY NEIGHBORS in South Pas held a discussion on how some of the professionals and small businesses in that town could help each other through this recessionary time. They focused on a network of experts close at hand – Rotarians. They listed three ways to tap this network:

--**GET LINKEDIN.** Did you know that RI maintains an official group on LinkedIn? Register at the site, and you'll connect with thousands of Rotarian professionals who'll help.

--**CONSULT A GLOBAL GROUP.** There are scores of "Rotary Fellowships" in scores of professional and business areas, and their advice is good. Visit www.rotary.org to search out one or more of these groups that can consult with you in confidence and at no cost.

--**SIT AT A NEW TABLE.** They're not kidding. With 100 or so in our club, there's a good chance you don't know everyone. Shift tables, and you might find a new client.

APRIL / MAY 2010

APRIL

8 Noon LA City Attorney Carmen Trutanich

15 Noon Larry Mielke on Huntington Hotel History

22 Noon Meet at Community Church – program under construction

29 Noon Another program under design – please have patience

MAY

6 Noon Gary Cunningham with the World University Games

13 Noon Still in progress – hold on!

THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

April 8: L.A. City Attorney's Stories



THE "PLUS" PART IS HELPING

DON'T FORGET THE "PLUS" in PolioPlus. When Rotary's campaign began in 1988 to eliminate polio by our organization's 2005 centennial, Rotary health care professionals saw quickly that most of the infants and children they treated in most third-world nations had never received any medical care. It was decided that year to pack along inoculations for childhood diseases, and as the sugar cube was dispensed to give a polio vaccine, stick in a needle too if the child hadn't gotten DPT, tetanus, typhoid, measles, or other vaccinations. At the same time, volunteer Rotary physicians and nurses gave the child a quick check-over, referring a parent – usually a caring but uninformed mother – for more care if they noted signs of other disease or growth problems.

IT'S HELPING. Today, 10,000 fewer children will die than on a typical day in 1990. PolioPlus didn't do it all, but we helped with the immunizations, vitamin A supplements, and instruction on insecticide-treated bed nets. The world's mortality rate for children under five has dropped more than 25%, from 90 per 1000 in 1990 to 65 per 1000 last year, according to figures from UNICEF. Again, we didn't do it all, but we sure helped.

8,800,000 CHILDREN UNDER 5 WILL DIE this year. We've made progress, but there's much more to be done in the area of child mortality. More than 40% of those deaths occur in the Congo, India, and Nigeria. Rotary volunteers have been extremely active in all three countries, but there is a great deal more that we as Rotarians can and should be doing. Most of these deaths are preventable. Most can be prevented with such inexpensive interventions as a water filter, teaching the need to wash hands, building sanitary toilets, providing simple antibiotics. Please help, through TRF!

IT WAS HARD TO HOLD BACK

LAST WEEK'S ROTOSCOPE was dated April 1st, April Fools. When this date has fallen on our meeting-Thursdays over past, your faithful fool of an editor couldn't resist making up the whole bulletin with silly stuff about our officers and city. He should be ashamed of himself. He didn't realize that San Marinians, let alone Rotarians, have absolutely no sense of humor. Paul Crowley declared humor as being against our city code. Emile Bayle is all seriousness. Lois Matthews couldn't crack a smile if she tried, but she didn't even try through all of last year. Your editor learned his lesson. So last week's Rotoscope stayed straight. Well, almost. There was a tiny bit of foolishness about our city council following our mayor in building high-rise towers, but otherwise, straight.

A FEW YEARS AGO, our club met in late March at Tournament House, and toured the basement where William Wrigley's great pipe organ hung its pipes. The next bulletin was dated April First. So Rotoscope had a small bit asking the San Marino Rotarian who took the 15-foot G-major pipe out of the basement to please return it immediately. A copy got to the newspaper. The next day the front-page headline was **SAN MARINO ROTARIAN STOLE ORGAN PIPE**. As I said, humor is illegal in San Marino.

STILL GROWING; OTHERS NOT

RI IN EVANSTON sent out the latest membership figures of Rotary around the world, and all classes are growing whereas most if not all other service clubs have been shrinking. As of the first of October, there were 1,234,526 Rotarians in 33,790 clubs worldwide. There are now 180,274 Rotaract members in colleges, universities, and community groups with 7,838 Rotaract clubs. 281,152 high school students belong to some 12,224 Interact Clubs. Strength in numbers!

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OFFICERS:

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EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

I'm slowly learning that a closed mouth gathers no foot.