



Your **ROTOSCOPE** for **July 29th, 2010**

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

THE PLAY'S THE THING – AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN

"THE STATE THEATER OF CALIFORNIA," as the Pasadena Playhouse was proclaimed by the legislature years ago. A fine title, but no money came with it. The 93-year-old theater and its adjoining tower thrived in the 1920s, 1930s, into the 1940s and 50s. You've heard some lists of the stars who started out on its stage. Then came the Playhouse's sad decline and abandonment, with 1960s hippies living among backstage props and in empty offices. Foreclosure by a bank brought a private purchaser. The City of Pasadena leases from them, and the nonprofit State Theater operating company leases from the city. Complicated? It's even more messy: ticket sales in recent years didn't cover the upkeep of the historic building, and another Chapter 11 bankruptcy began this year, the third in the Playhouse's modern history. The entire staff was laid off in February. A week ago, the Pasadena Playhouse came out of Chapter 11, and the challenge now is to rebuild its finances. Perhaps more important, the subscription base must also be rebuilt by tempting us with fresh and exciting productions. All that falls to executive director **STEPHEN EICH**, who with noted artistic director **SHELDON EPPS** are back to keep the proud Playhouse afloat. Last weekend's Star-News reported they have received a \$1 million anonymous donation, but must match this with the same. Epps is quoted as saying the recent closure was "an intermission," and they're ready to start fresh. One or both of these talented and patient gentlemen will tell us more as this week's speakers.

MONEY MATTERS – YES, YOUR MONEY REALLY MATTERS

OUR MAYOR REPORTED at our meeting two weeks ago that San Marino's budget was balanced. Now our club treasurer is proud to echo the mayor with the same good report about our club's fiscal year. Treasurer Dennis parroted the praise of Mayor Dennis: good city and good club management kept both organizations clicking along **BALANCED**. The bottom line is that the bottom line is good and black for both organizations. That's all you really need to know. Maybe either our Mayor or our club treasurer should take over our California State government and do the same magic there?

BUT IF YOU WANT SOME DETAILS, both the Mayor and the Treasurer are happy to provide them. For the club, SMRC took in \$93,445 and spent \$90,303 – raising our year-end fund balance to \$36,244. Receipts were under budget because we didn't have as many new members as planned, but spending in several categories was less than expected and gave the positive balance. Meal costs were over budget, as we had more guest meals than planned, and initiation fees were under budget, as we processed only three of the ten new members budgeted. Our Paul Harris luncheon, the demotion party, and the Ambassadorial Scholar party were in the negative, but the three "Rotary on the Town" events earned a bit to balance.

MEETING ATTENDANCE WAS UP last year. That's **GOOD**. Rotarians and guests are interested. That's **BAD**. The catering expense went over budget due to more Rotarians and guests attending. But we had more meetings away from the church, so the "facilities fee" budget savings made up for the caterer's increases. The RI convention expenses were less than budgeted because the Nafies were thrifty, and the budgeted district meeting expenses weren't entirely used because the Bayles cut back on those costs. We also saved some budgeted items for Mideract insurance and a few other operating expenses that had been overestimated. The full Treasurer's Report is available from Dennis, if you want more details.

SO WE ENDED THE YEAR WITH \$3,142 as a positive gain, versus the breakeven budget that had been planned. And we ended the year with **NO OUTSTANDING PAST-DUE DUES**. Remembering some deadbeats of the past, including the initiation fees and meals that our local celebrity Christopher Chichester never paid, that's wonderful. Several years the club was stuck with money owed by former members, even a former district governor, who skipped town and club without paying. It's good to know that all current members are more responsible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILE, his officers, and especially his dutiful treasurer for minding our money so well. Two weeks ago, the club also congratulated our mayor, council, and the city management for their own good money management. We hope the club treasurer will hear our praise now, and pass more praise along to the city mayor if and when they run into each other.

JULY / AUGUST 2010

JULY

29 Noon The latest drama from the Pasadena Playhouse

AUGUST

5 Noon Today's Red Cross

12 DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT – 9:30 officers, 10:30 Board, noon lunch.

19 Noon A Hundred-Year-Old Story

26 Noon Keys to Nature Health

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

July 29th: Stephen Eich of the Playhouse



THE BIG "M" OF "M&M"

MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP, Membership and Mission, our two Rotary opportunities to let us give service and support. Both important. But think a minute: without strong membership, our mission is just a bunch of words. Without strong *ROTARIANS*, I mean, not those who may pay dues and maybe even come for lunch, but who don't do anything else.

SAN MARINO ROTARY NUMBERS have held fairly steady for the last thirty years, since we came down from Woody & Eddy's attic and increased 200% to around 100. Over those thirty years, we've lost about a dozen members a year, and inducted about a dozen – fluctuating each year, of course, but holding steady overall. Last year we lost only half the "usual" number, but we inducted only three. Look at our roster, and you will find several names that are probably strange to you, either long-time members who've moved outside the area and don't attend, or some members who pay their dues but never, never attend. Steve Talt jokes a bit about a few names who joined late in the last century, but haven't attended one single meeting this century. They're ghost Rotarians, but it's not funny. They help balance the budget, that's all.

THE NAFIE TEAM INCLUDES a red-hot membership committee, headed by Terry Petrillo who won't let ANY of us rest. We're all part of recruiting Rotarians – but only *real* Rotarians, women and men who will come for lunch but stay for work with our projects. Every member helps the mission with dues payments, but money won't get things done. Every member is needed to pitch in, from chores such as meeting set-ups to major efforts such as joining a PolioPlus field team, each according to interests and abilities. Those are the *real* Rotarians we need to find.

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

**TO FILL THE OPEN CLASSIFICATION OF:
PUBLIC SAFETY**

JIM ANDERSON

Office: San Marino Fire Department
2200 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Home: South Pasadena

Proposed by Terry Petrillo

**TO FILL THE OPEN CLASSIFICATION OF:
HEALTH CARE**

DEBORAH HERBST

Office: Monte Vista Grove Homes
2889 San Pasqual St., Pasadena 91107

Home: 328 Cody Road, San Dimas 91773

Proposed by Wray Cornwell

shop.rotary.org

R.I. HAS PARTNERED with Amazon with a new website to buy Rotary publications, videos, and other resources. Online shoppers receive a 15% discount off their first purchase this month only, but you must enter code **15PFIRST**. (Our friends in Evanston are really edging toward the 21st century)

WHAT A TEAM!

THOSE DOING ALL THE WORK FOR BOB

Club Officers and Directors

2010-11



Robert W. Nafie
President



Stephen S. Talt
President-Elect



Emile Joseph Bayle
Immediate Past President



Karen D. Paciorek
Secretary



Dennis B. Kneier
Treasurer



Kenneth Veronda
Club Bulletin



Peter F. Corzo
Director



J. Leland Mothershead
Director



Joseph J. Petrillo
Director



Frederick D. Seares
Director



Andrea L. Simpson
Director



Gregory G. Thompson
Director

BOB SAYS:

There is one good thing about being poor.
It is inexpensive.