

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Will Bortz – “Fulfill the Impossible Dream “

2000-2001

Before my year as President began, both Ave and I had the opportunity to attend the Rotary International Convention, held that year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We were accompanied and supported by Margie and Merrill Francis, Lee and Therese Mothershead, and Graziella and Bob Almanza.

The Rotary International theme that year, “Create Awareness, Take Action”, was articulated by incoming RI President, Frank Devlyn. Going to the Rotary International Convention set the proper tone for my year because you met Rotarians from around the world, all committed to our motto of “Service above Self”.

Because Frank Devlyn was introduced to the to the RI assembly to the sounds of “Man of La Mancha”, I decided that the theme for my year should be “Fulfill the Impossible Dream”.

The challenges began at the Demotion Party for Ken Veronda, the outgoing President of SM Rotary, when my Director of Programs, Terry Ryan, announced that he was being transferred by his company. I asked Rich Haserot to replace him and he graciously accepted.

Club officers and directors for this Millennial Year (2000-2001) included Margie-Lowe-Francis (President-Elect); Warren Yetter (Secretary); Gerry Wolcott (Treasurer); John Harris (Assistant Treasurer); Kenneth Veronda (Immediate Past President); and Doug Larner ((Sergeant at Arms).

Other directors were Jo Schmal (Club Service – House); Greg Thompson (Club Service – Events); Rich Haserot (Club Service – Membership); Joe Petrillo (Community Service – Events); Kathy Bianco (Community Service – Youth and Schools); Lloyd Owenby (Community Service – Foundation and International); and Elliott Katz (Vocational Service).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to the ongoing projects of the San Marino Club, the following are highlights of my year as President.

1. We reversed the downward trend in membership and grew club membership from 90 at the start of the year to over 100 by the end of my year.
2. Volunteer opportunities included Career Connection, Fourth of July Parade, Valentine Fashion show by Margie, Grad Nite chaperonage for the SMHS graduates.
3. We hosted a GSE team from Russia, had a 100% Paul Harris Fellows party at the Old Mill, cosponsored with South Pasadena Rotary Club the visit of District Governor Sal Broguglio, and enjoyed our Club's Christmas party and a New Year's Luncheon reception.
4. There was also a "Double Dip" Raffle, benefitting our members and local charities.
5. We initiated a "Rotary Moment" at each meeting to educate members about various aspects of Rotary.
6. We received the Golden Oak Service Award from the California PTA.
7. The Paul Harris Foundation Luncheon was held at the Huntington Library and we honored Sandra Fastnow and Sylvia Wikle as Honorary Paul Harris Fellows.
8. We continued to be a 100% Sustaining Paul Harris Club and we received numerous commendations at the District Conference in Palm Springs.
9. We began funding a new program "Reading By Nine" which is designed to improve literacy by providing books to local elementary school classrooms. In addition, we sent more aid and volunteers to Guatemala as part of the



FINCA Program which was already underway and the recently donated San Marino Fire Truck.

10. My Demotion Party was arranged by Ken Veronda and was held at the historic Castle Green in Pasadena.

THANK YOU TO ALL SAN MARINO ROTARIANS, AS WELL AS THE MANY OTHERS WHO MADE MY YEAR POSSIBLE.

