

SAN MARINO ROTARY FY2006-2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2006-2007 was an outstanding year for our San Marino Rotary Club. It certainly was a memorable year for your President. As part of updating and maintaining an ongoing history of our club we would like to review the year's key activities and events.

At the start of the year we set four major goals for our club and its members:

1. To expand club attendance and member participation by providing interesting, unique programs.
2. To support local and/or international projects through aggressive fund raising efforts.
3. To promote Rotary fellowship and camaraderie through social events.
4. To have fun.

I would like to review our year's activities in relation to the above four objectives.

PROGRAMS

Our Rotary year started with the club's sponsorship and management of the Annual Fourth of July Parade in San Marino. The parade was an outstanding success with a record number of floats and participants. Debbie Priester and Jim Pink did a great job organizing and running the event with other Rotary volunteers.

FY2006-2007 was a solid year in membership growth. During the year twelve new members were initiated into the club while only four were lost, for a net increase of eight. As of June 30, 2007 the club had 114 active club members and was selected as one of the top ten clubs in membership growth in District 5300.

During the year we were treated to many interesting programs developed and presented by our Program Committee chaired by John Wallace. We had speakers as diverse as a young Muslim woman who tried to explain Islam to us; talks by Trader Joe Coulombe founder of Trader Joe's Markets; Gene Perret, Emmy Award winning TV comedy writer and lead joke writer for Bob Hope. We hosted the Dan Stover Music Competition, the Four Way Speech Contest and, as always, our very successful Paul Harris Luncheon at the Huntington Library. We also spent an informative lunch with David Dow, retired CBS News Correspondent. We concluded our year with a well attended, inspirational "Salute to the Military Academies" where we honored the local appointees to the four academies-US Army, US Navy, US Air Force and US Coast Guard.

FUND RAISING FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

FY2006-2007 was an outstanding year with regard to fund raising. We started the year off in the fall with the Merrill and Margie Francis Memorial 50/50 Raffle. At every meeting we would sell tickets for \$1.00 a piece; one ticket would be drawn; and the winner was given the chance to pick the joker out of a deck of 52 cards. If he/she drew the Joker then the money in the pot was divided 50/50 between the lucky winner and the RI International Foundation Committee. If the Joker was not drawn then the card was torn up and the process was continued the next week with one less card in the deck. With a good bit of luck the raffle continued well into the spring and when Kelly Smith finally drew the joker the pot totaled over \$12,000. Kelly got \$6,000 plus and the Foundation Committee got the same amount which was earmarked for an international water project in rural Mexico.

However, our club's proudest accomplishment during the year was the founding and funding of two distinct endowment funds---The SMRC Unrestricted Donation Endowment Fund and The William G. "Bill" Steele Jr. Mini-Grant Endowment Fund. The unrestricted fund was seeded with \$25,000 bequeathed by the estate of a deceased Rotarian plus contributions from club members. The Steele Mini-Grant Fund benefited from a very successful fund raising effort on the part of club members and matching funds from Andy Barth and Family and Dennis and Liz Kneier. When the campaign was concluded over \$156,000 was deposited into the foundation account. The interest and income earned from the initial amount plus later additions will be used to fund our annual Mini-Grant Program for San Marino teachers.

San Marino Rotary Charities once again conducted its successful Spring Party and Fund Raiser in May. The event raised \$10,000 to be used for local projects.

We should mention that with all the money the club raised and spent during the year we still managed to leave a year end cash balance of \$38,083, some \$11,736 more that we started with at the beginning of the year.

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP THRU SOCIAL EVENTS

Our club members like to party. FY2006-2007 was no exception. We started the year off with a well attended dinner honoring our District Governor Chris Montan held at Southwestern Academy. The event had a Hawaiian Luau theme and the guests were entertained by "The California Girls", an all girl rock and roll band that played spirited fifties/Beach Boys music.

The party year continued with our annual Christmas Party at the San Gabriel Country Club, followed by our traditional Year End/New Years Party at J.D. and Nancy Hornberger's home.

In February we tried something new for the first time. Thirteen Rotarians opened their homes to host a progressive “Dinners for Eight” event. To start things off a cocktail party for all participants was held at the President’s home. At this party names were drawn out of hat to determine which of the thirteen houses the guests would attend. All went to the house they drew and were served an elegant full course meal with wine prepared by the host and hostess. The event was very successful. Some 54 Rotarians and their spouses participated. We expect it will be continued in future years.

The year ended with the club’s annual Spring Party and Fund Raiser mentioned earlier, and our Demotion Dinner at San Gabriel CC where your president was tossed out of office and Fred Sohl was recognized as our club president for FY2007-2008

HAVING FUN

Our final objective for the year was to have fun! I can honestly say that the year was one of the most ‘fun’ years I have ever experienced. I considered being your president my job for the year and I put it ahead of almost everything else. I believe the duties and responsibilities helped me grow as an individual and as a contributor to the community. It was a year that I will always remember. Thank you for selecting me to be your president.

Wayne Carter
San Marino Rotary Club President, FY 2006-2007