

NORTH FRESNO ROTARY



BULLETIN FOR MEETING OF 11/20/14



Rotary Club of North Fresno

Chartered October 5, 1948

District 5230

northfresnorotary.org

90 Members

Upcoming Events:

December 8th-12th: Ringing Bells for Salvation Army at CVS Fig garden. Sign up.

January 1st: A new year.

Following Weeks:

November 27th: **DARK.** Happy Turkey Day. Gobble, gobble, and gobble.

December 4th: Dr. Lynn Williams, CSU Fresno Dept. of Agriculture Business.

December 11th: Community Service- Lowell School Lunch.

December 18th: Christmas Party at Tornino's.

December 25th: **Merry Christmas** and **DARK** at Tornino's

January 1st: **Happy New Year** and **DARK** at Tornino's.

For those responsible for the programs; Please review the above programs for accuracy and correctness of topics and presenters.

President Ralph Boyajian opened the meeting with a welcoming "G'Day" and reminded us all that we are to Light up Rotary! **Teri Amerine** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Honorary Member Betty Arnold**, who passed away earlier in the week – and followed with a Thanksgiving Blessing, reminding us all of how much we have to be grateful for. We saluted the flag under the direction of **Bea Hensleit**. **Katie Siemens**, serving as both greeter and introducer, joyfully welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests. And many thanks to our ever steady **Sy Sizemore**, who added to our proceeds by selling raffle tickets.

Patti O'Neill (Colby) made a very special announcement as she introduced her guest Rich Colby as her new husband! The two were married last week and graciously shared wedding cake with all Rotarians present at the meeting! Rich was asked to pull the raffle ticket winner – who was **Jerry Dale**. Jerry gifted his winning Target Gift Card to the new Mr. & Mrs. Rich Colby as a wedding gift!

President Ralph, presiding over NFR's Annual Meeting, asked **Past President John Krikorian** to present the slate of Junior Members for the Avenues of Service for 2015. They are: **Bruce Harr**, **Bea Hensleit**, **Stephanie Krauss** and **Jeff Pape**. These members were unanimously elected to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. International Service. **John Krikorian** reported on the Okoroni, Mexico dental x-ray equipment NFR donated last spring. He shared an email from the Yuma Dentist using the machine, thanking our club for the equipment, and sharing how many people are benefiting from it. A

secondary use was discovered with the ability of the x-ray machine to also take images of small bone fractures!

2. **Ring the Bell for Salvation Army. Rod Gibson** announced the dates of NFR's committed to Ring the Bell in front of Fig Garden Village CVS Pharmacy – the week of December 8-12. A sign-up sheet was passed around to encourage participation.
3. **Lowell Christmas Party. Kevin Oflazian** announced that our Rotary Meeting scheduled for December 11th will be held at Lowell School where we will be having lunch with the students and enjoying a student holiday program. Members are asked to bring a wrapped gift, marked boy or girl – selecting a gift appropriate for ages 7-11. A reminder will be sent out, but please make every effort to attend this wonderful event.
4. **Laton Christmas – A COGS Project. Bruce Harr** reported. The COGS are supporting the Laton Christmas Project – which was introduced last year by Richard Lord and was a great success. This Christmas Gift Giving event will take place in Laton on Saturday, December 20 at Noon. Rotarians are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for a child from infant through age 14 to our Dec. 4th and Dec. 18th meetings. A challenge was announced of a \$500 match to donations made by Rotarians – a sign-up sheet was circulated which yielded over \$800! So the challenge was met – but we encourage additional donations and gifts! There are many children counting on us!
5. **Wine Crush. Nick Smaldino** distributed bottled wine to those who participated in the wine crush in September. He promises another great wine event in the future.
6. **Craft Talk. COG member Sergio Balli** gave an excellent talk on his background, giving us an insight into his personal and professional life. Sergio is a Chiropractor, has been married for 15 years and has 2 daughters. He is happy to be part of Rotary as he looks forward to serving the community.



PROGRAM: Community Food Bank – Mapping an End to Hunger. Andy Souza, the CEO of the Community Food Bank presented. A video was shared, featuring Joan Minasian, who eloquently and humbly shared her childhood story of hunger, shame and the challenges of a single parent family who was forced to go on assistance. It was a very moving video that led into many statistics shared by Mr. Souza about the needs in the 5-county area they serve. The Food Bank is housed in a 50,000 sq. foot facility in Malaga and distributed 31.2 million pounds of food in 2013, serving over 300,000 people every month. They do this on a \$5.5 million annual budget – raising \$4.4 million of that total

amount. He asked Rotarians to consider investing in what you are passionate about – invest in your community and make a difference!



On December 4th and 18th – please bring an unwrapped toy for the Laton Christmas Project!

Laton is a small unincorporated farming community with less than 2,000 residents, located on the northern bank of the Kings River. While 23 miles south west of Fresno, and a part of Fresno County, it is rural, isolated and economically depressed. Its residents are predominately Hispanic, poor, and young. The community lacks many normal conveniences, including a gas station, ATM, restaurant or full service grocer. The only Community Center providing services to the residents of Laton closed several years ago due to a loss of funding.

While it existed, the Laton Community Center provided an annual Christmas party for the children. When it closed, no other organization remained to provide the children, of this impoverished community, with a party and/or presents. Two years ago Mickey Lord (wife of NFR member Richard Lord) and her siblings, all of whom were raised within this community, were determined to rectify this. They, along with extended family, organized a Christmas Party and toy distribution, from Santa, attended by almost 300 children.

Last year's North Fresno Rotary COG'S took this on as a project and our current COG'S are continuing the tradition. Rotarians generously provided unwrapped gifts as well as cash contributions, allowing us to supplement what Toys-For-Tots was able to provide. As a result, over **400** children, infant through age **14** were able to receive a toy from Santa as well as a candy cane, cookies and enjoy hot chocolate. No child went without a gift! This would not have been possible without assistance from NFR. In addition to the toys gift cards for Save Mart, provided by parishioners at Fresno's St. Paul Newman Center were distributed to approximately 50 families, allowing them to enjoy a holiday meal.

This year Santa will arrive, via the Laton Volunteer Fire Departments truck, at the Laton Methodist Church, at noon on Saturday, December 20.

Let the peace which transcends all understanding; fill your hearts and your minds this season.

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Que la paix qui surpasse toute intelligence , remplir vos cœurs et les esprits cette saison .

Y la paz que sobrepasa todo entendimiento , llenen sus corazones y mentes en esta temporada.

Laat de vrede die alle verstand te boven gaat , vul uw harten en geesten van dit seizoen .

Ας την ειρήνη που ξεπερνά κάθε κατανόηση , θα γεμίσουν τις καρδιές και τα μυαλά σας αυτή τη σεζόν .

Låt frid som övergår allt förstånd , fyll era hjärtan och sinnen denna säsong