

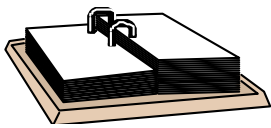
The Strand

The Newsletter of PRLS

Volume 7 Issue 4

October 1, 2006

PRLS Calendar



- October 3 – Master PRLS 3
Santa Maria Inn
- October 7 – Master PRLS 4
Santa Maria Inn
- October 13 – Basic PRLS
Santa Barbara
- November 11 – Master PRLS 5
Santa Maria Inn
- December 2 – Basic PRLS
340 Mobil, Camarillo
- December 9 – Master PRLS 1
340 Mobil, Camarillo
- December 16 – Master PRLS 3
340 Mobil, Camarillo
- January 6 – Master PRLS 2
340 Mobil, Camarillo



Why Stay in Rotary?

Ed note: This is the second in a series of notes that try to explain why we keep our personal ties to Rotary.

I think Rotary helps us grow to become more mature people. For example, most of us are able to move forward personally by learning some graciousness. We grow by

learning how to treat other people compassionately. And it's probably that compassion that allows us to flourish in our communities.



It Had to Start Somewhere

Does anyone ever wonder how it was that the British colonies in North America during the pre-Revolutionary period could have produced such a crop of great leaders? These patriots not only started and won a revolution, but almost simultaneously started and formed a new and lasting nation. It's possible that the talent which made itself known in those days was on a par with that recalled under Elizabeth I and, spottily, under Napoleon Bonaparte. It seems to me that the "how" has never been answered by anyone competent enough to judge – and I'm certainly not in *that* group.

But more than forty years ago, Henry Steele Commager, noted American historian and author of *Growth of the American Republic*, advanced these reasons: "New occasions teach new duties." "Great

challenges evoke mighty responses."

Can that still be true today? Can we be seeing part of it in Rotary? Is it possible that PRLS and Master PRLS is contributing to the development of a new generation of Rotary leaders capable of revolutionizing our much-vaunted humanity?

Yes, yes and yes!

It's *way* too much to claim direct descent from those whose names are in the history books as one result of their initiative, imagination and sheer nerve. I don't think it hurts, though, to suspect that some of their talents may somehow have spanned the centuries.

Let me bring to your mind Walter Buchanan, our visitor from Brisbane, Australia in July, who paid his own way from home to come here to our district to attend, learn about, and take back to his District our PRLS and Master PRLS programs.

Now, we've learned that the RI Director for Walter's area has given him a full day in November to talk to all the

DGs, DGEs, DGNs and strap-hangers in that Rotary Zone about what we've been doing here for more than 13 years. Walter's a natural salesman and is willing to do all the work, so all those other luminaries will see what's possible. So what!

So, two of our people are heading on over to help him – Doug Hoffman (San Luis Obispo Daybreak) and David Gore (Goleta Noontime) will be joining Walter on the dais when our programs are introduced to the Australians and other nationalities who will be present.

So, far from the implication above that we are the only Rotarians in the world with initiative, imagination and sheer nerve, we'll learn about Walter Buchanan's successful importing of Rotary's premier leadership program, and two of our own will actually witness it, adding Australia (and several other nations) to the international list that now includes Zimbabwe and South Africa.



'Til There Was You

Most people have seen the movie or the play, "Music Man." Remember the story? Harold Hill has wasted his life as a scammer and a cheat. He has no desire for what the rest of us would call order in his life. All his friends and associates are others in his same general line of survival. Then he meets someone, Marian the librarian, and he finds himself wanting to live a brand new

kind of life. He becomes exposed more and more to new possibilities, and tries to become more like those new friends in River City who are more honestly involved in community activities.

This love story could just as well be a Rotary story.

After you become a member, you see what's possible and you are tempted to put one toe in the water. So you maybe sign up to haul trash at a Street Festival. The next year, you're maybe a little more sure of your motives and availability, and decide that you'll help with a 25K Bicycling Event – an event you've never even seen, never mind some-thing you've ever participated in, either as a wheeler or as an official. Never mind that you don't have a clue what you might be getting involved in. You know that we have other members, more experienced than you, who know almost everything about how to stage a bicycling event. They'll show you everything you have to know.

Gradually, you assume more responsibility. In turn, you help other people learn new skills. You eventually become an expert at many, many little jobs. And one year, when they ask you, you're put in charge of the whole thing!

Rotary is now in your life. "'Til There Was You." You have met something new, and you now have a love affair with the idea of expanding your personal horizons.

Perhaps one year, one of the other organizations to which you belong asks you to take a leadership role in an event. At that point, you're able to export your Rotary experience to another group, and you see once again that the best thing we in Rotary do is export leaders to communities badly in need of them.

Our home-grown Rotary Leadership Academy is in full swing. That's where Rotary shines at its brightest.



What's Valuable, Anyway?

Remember when we were kids and there was a Halloween party at school or in one of the local churches? Remember how the adults passed around a sheep's eyeball and a dead hand? Remember how scared



you were, even though you probably knew that what you were feeling was a fake? The big people were able to scare you because they conned your mind and because it was dark – you couldn't see the "surprises" they had in store for you. The eyeballs and hands they passed around became what your mind told you they were.

It's the same as tripping over a diamond in a cave. You can't see what's there, and your mind is saying something like, "Oops! Just stepped on a rock. I'll have to be a little more careful until I can get into the light and see what I'm doing." The diamond is worth nothing because you can't see in the dark and can't feel through shoe soles.

But, put that same diamond on a jeweler's counter, on a black velvet cloth, in a really good light, and it's a different matter, isn't it?

That's part of what's good about joining a Rotary Club. Outside, and outside the light, it's another refuge for those with no social life, or for those intending to network with strangers for personal gain. Inside, and in the light, its hidden traits, the members' hidden talents, the organization's innate worth become visible and valuable.

For some of us – maybe even *most* of us – it's among the most meaningful things we've ever done for ourselves.

Measure Up to the Quality

"The character of what we Rotarians lend to our organization provides the light to see what is right and competent in ourselves."

Through Rotary, we get to see what our character is, and sometimes what we see isn't especially pretty. Are we very often perfect? No. Do we even need perfection? Well, it might be nice, but no, I don't think so.

Most times, we just have to be able to measure up to the quality of those other members with whom we're associated at least once every week."

Our personal character is normally something we hide, isn't it? Maybe it's not deliberate, but most of the time we're aware that we're being judged by others, maybe not consciously, but judged, nonetheless. Judgments such as "too old," "too ugly," "too dumb," "too smart" or "too fat" are someone else's idea of what and who we are, and those judgments we have to live with, because there's nothing we can do about them. Well, OK, there's something we can do about "too fat."

People make judgments about us in ways that would surprise even the most jaded of us. Yet, we're lending our character to the organization "to see what is right and competent in ourselves."

You know what we can do? We can assume that we, personally, are people of quality. We can assume that whatever judgments we make about others are not (with the exception of lying, cheating or stealing) pertinent to our joint experience as club members.

I, personally, measure up! You judges can take your opinions and put them where the sun doesn't shine!

Basic PRLS Class

The Basic PRLS class held on July 15 at the Santa Maria Inn was sort of special. It included 19 of our own members as well as Walter

Buchanan, our month-long visitor from Brisbane, Australia. That made it only the fourth Basic PRLS session in our history to contain an international seeker of Rotary Truth and Beauty.

Adding the pearl to the center of their membership pins were Jim Bell (Bakersfield Breakfast); Patrick Hampton, Donna Lehar, Dave Melendy and Socorro Simons (Cambria); Shari Baldwin (Cambria Sunrise), Edward Hinds and Julie Kocsas (Paso Robles Sunrise); Kirk Spry (Santa Maria Breakfast), Ken Parker (Santa Maria South), Jim Groessl (Solvang), Susie Anderson, Carolyn Benjamin, Gary Duke, Steve English and Barbara Mikelonis (Templeton); Gene Pritchett and Susan Warnstrom (Vandenberg Village). Finally, from Westlake Village Sunrise there was Bill Martinet.

Twenty more PRLS graduates! A LOT better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick!

Homestay

Twenty years ago, Homestay used to be a pretty common event – people from other countries or other places in the district would spend overnight with new friends during, before or after Rotary gatherings. It was fun – new kinds of dining, different languages, different points of view, different Rotary experiences – all the pleasant surprises that anyone gets by associating with new people

having a similar Rotary affiliation.

That now-outdated practice of hospitality is mostly ignored these days, I'm sorry to say.

It came back with a BANG, though, when Walter Buchanan visited us from Brisbane in July. David Gore (Goleta Noontime) arranged for the hosting of Walter for the three weeks he was here, so he stayed in our homes in places all the way from Cambria to Westlake Village as he wended his way into and out of 14 clubs during his visit.

You ought to see the messages that have come back from him since he returned home. Because we mostly don't see enough of each other socially in the normal course of Rotary events in this district, we tend to forget how *nice* we can be.

Walter's glowing remarks brought that back.

To David Gore for arranging it all goes yet another kudo. To the hosts and hostesses who stepped forward to house, entertain, feed and educate Walter – thank you so much.

Our reward will come when districts in his zone adopt the PRLS program.

How Can PRLS Challenge You?

What are the main points in your life that PRLS is trying to change? Well, in the first place, it's not really PRLS in general that's trying to do anything; it's

the actions and suggestions of those around you—those with ideas and community ambitions you never thought of before.

In the second place, though you may not have noticed it by yourself, maybe your life needs a change, even a challenge.

Taken to heart, meeting the challenge, even accepting the possibility of a change, is perhaps the greatest positive result anyone gets out of having participated in a PRLS or MPRLS session. Back in your club, you have to be tolerant of those who try to get you involved further than you already are, you have to be patient with yourself, and you have to be supportive of the general good.

When were those ever bad things—tolerant, patient, supportive?

Does PRLS really do all that? Of course not! We do it all by ourselves. PRLS, though, tends to remind us individually that there's life beyond complacency and value beyond money.

Are we better people for having had the PRLS experience? No. We *are* better people for having thought about our lives a little bit and juggled our priorities a tad to include perhaps a little more of what Rotary has to offer.

Special PRLS Session

The coffee, juice and rolls come out at 8:00 on Friday October 13 at a special Basic

PRLS session scheduled to be held at Montecito Union Grammar School, 385 San Ysidro Road, Montecito.

The PRLS registration form is included in this issue on page 5. Check Session #19, and send it on to registrar Alan Hitt

Before We Close

Part of Rotary's Strategic Plan this year is to improve training and education at all levels.

Governor Rich Abbott has put his force of his office into that precept, and the two follow-on DGs have already added their "Ayes" to the programs under development.

There'll be more to come as the details get fleshed out.

District Education Committee

Chair:

Stewart Fries (Solvang)

gsfries@aol.com

PRLS Registrar:

Alan Hitt (Solvang)

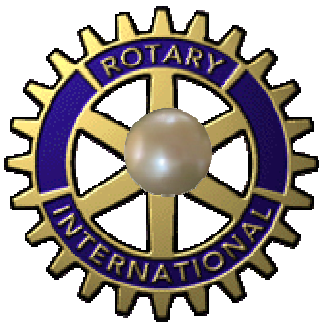
a.hitt@verizon.net

Strand Editor:

Jock MacKenzie (Westlake Village)

rhm717@adelphia.net

Potential Rotary Leaders Seminars



Registration

Please register me for:

1. Session Number#: _____
 2. Session Number#: _____
 3. Session Number#: _____
 4. Session Number#: _____
 5. Session Number#: _____
 Name: _____
 Club: _____
 District: _____ Zone: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Postal (Zip) Code: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____
 Total Funds Enclosed USD: \$ _____

- To register for a PRLS class circle the sessions in which you wish to register from the list below, complete the Registration Form above and mail this form **NLT one week prior to class** with your check to the PRLS Registrar, **Alan Hitt, 2540 School Street, Solvang, CA 93463, work phone: 805-688-6644**
- You may also email the completed form to **a.hitt@verizon.net** or fax it to Alan at **805-688-2753** with your check to follow. Directions to PRLS Venues may be found on our website at **www.PRLS.ORG**.
- We **MUST** know your intentions to attend **NO Later Than COB TWO DAYS prior to the event** or we may not be able to accommodate your attendance! You will be enrolled as a standby after that deadline passes.
- Each PRLS and Master PRLS day of instruction is \$50 per person, with the check payable to **“Rotary District 5240 PRLS”**. The rate for Rotary spouses and family members, Rotaract and Interact members and Rotary Youth Exchange Students is \$25 per person. The cost includes continental breakfast and lunch.
- All classes start at 8:30 AM (with continental breakfast available at 8:00 AM) and are finished by 4:00 PM.

Basic PRLS		Session 7 – Sat 12/02/06 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 13 – Sat 03/03/07 Kern County
Master PRLS 1 Extemp. Public Speaking		Session 8 – Sat 12/09/06 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 14 – Sat 03/17/07 Kern County
Master PRLS 2 Planned Public Speaking		Session 9 – Sat 01/06/07 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 15 – Sat 04/21/07 Kern County
Master PRLS 3 Facilitation Skills	Session 4 – Sat 09/23/06 Santa Maria Inn	Session 10 – Sat 12/16/06 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 16 – Sat 04/07/07 Kern County
Master PRLS 4 Situational Leadership	Session 5 – Sat 10/07/06 Santa Maria Inn	Session 11 – Sat 01/13/07 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 17 – Sat 05/12/07 Kern County
Master PRLS 5 Project Management	Session 6 – Sat 11/11/06 Santa Maria Inn	Session 12 – Sat 02/10/07 340 Mobil Ave., Camarillo	Session 18 – Sat 06/02/07 Kern County
Basic PRLS	Session 19 – Friday 10/13/06 in conjunction with the District Conference in Montecito		
Basic PRLS	Session 20 – Friday 04/27/07 in conjunction with the District Assembly in Camarillo		