

San Marino Rotary Club  
President Bob Eichel's year  
1997-1998

The year 1997-1998 begin with a wonderful International Convention in Glasgow, Scotland attended by all of District 5300's dignitaries including our own 1998-99 District Governor and spouse, Lee and Therese Mothershead. Then came the 4th of July Parade and with the artistic Direction of Margie Lowe-Francis and Joe and Terry Petrillo our float won first prize. (There was only one float).

I want to take credit for recycling two individuals who in their pre-puberty years were presidents of this club, Dick Hultine and Larry Goodreau. Dick did a wonderful job as fund raising chair, helped materially by two Lois's. (They'll remain nameless.) Larry was fabulous as program chair. (He says it was much easier than pulling teeth.)

Our Foundation, under the leadership of Lloyd Ownbey, Stu Cypherd and John Harris achieved 100 per cent sustaining membership contributions, and our contributions, as usual, exceeded \$300 per member. Our annual Paul Harris Lunch, held for the second straight year at the Huntington Library and Gardens was a huge success, honoring two local heroines, Mary B. Hunt, and Midge Sherwood. Our two Huntington people, David Zeidberg and Jim Folsom, did their share to add to the event, as did Huntington Chief Executive Dr. Robert Skotheim. Joe and Terry Petrillo hosted a marvelous party, with Margie's helping hand to celebrate our 100 per cent sustaining member participation.

Christmas and the New Board, Old Board party displayed the talents of that past president and hostess with the mostest, Lois Derry. The Christmas Party was held at the Shakespeare Club, a wonderful old house on Orange Grove. We all came and left with holiday good cheer.

Other highlights of the year included parties for our returning Rotary Scholars, Samantha Johnson and Nicole Biles, our second straight Group Study Exchange Participant Robin Jarchow, from Southwestern Academy, and the visit of the GSE team from Australia.

With the hard work of Alan Weirick and the financial help of Andy Barth we were able to continue to fund the mini-grant program. Hopefully, we can make this a permanent program. The letters from the teachers and students are testimony to the program's value.

I had the pleasure of working with a great board of officers and directors, immediate past president, Lois Derry, incoming president, Paul Crowley, secretary, Judy Almond, treasurer, Jerry Wolcott, ably assisted by John Harris, the incomparable and sometimes, incomprehensible, Ken Veronda as bulletin editor, sergeant, Gordon Weaver, and a board composed of Bob Almanza, Stu Cypherd, Dick Durant, Joe Petrillo, Jo Schmal, Emile Bayle, Dick Hultine and Len Therrien.

It was a privilege being president of a great Rotary Club. I had a lot of fun and I hope you all did.

