



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN MARINO

President Emile Bayle's 2009-10 Year In Review

Thank you to all our San Marino Rotarians for all your efforts in so many areas to make this Rotary year so successful. There is an old adage that says leadership is getting in front of a parade and waving a baton...and our San Marino Rotary has been a well-organized parade of professional volunteers since its founding in 1939. It is individual Rotarians as well as teams of Rotarians who help make San Marino and neighboring areas better places to live, work and raise our children. As I turn in my President's Gavel (or baton), it is appropriate to salute our joint efforts during the 2009-10 Rotary year.

Behind every District 5300 award lie a great deal of creativity, effort, time, and service on the part of San Marino Rotarians for each project earning recognition. Our key accomplishments this year include:

- **Rotary Exemplary Award for Community Service – Polio Plus**
- **Rotary International Award for our lead efforts to provide laparoscopic equipment for Yaqui farmers in rural Mexico**
- **Presidential Citation Literacy Award for our Rotary Readers program**
- **Club Administration Award for Wray Cornwall's club service**
- **100% Paul Harris Fellow club**

Polio Plus: Thanks to two star athletes from San Marino High School whose impressive football and softball accomplishments earned matching funds from Rotarians and community partners, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$25,000 to help eradicate polio worldwide during our community drive, for a total of \$29,500.

Graduating senior and SMHS Football Team's running back Benny Hung rushed for a total of 1228 yards and 16 touchdowns while freshman Women's Softball Team pitcher Michelle Floyd achieved 301 strikeouts, leading the SMHS team into the CIF Quarterfinals for the first time since 2005. Both earned matching grants for our club's contribution to Rotary's Polio Plus international eradication campaign. Benny is the son of Rotarian Isaac Hung and his wife, Celia. Michelle was named to the First Team All League and First Team All Area, and is the daughter of Rotarian Dan Floyd and his wife, Julee.

Our Rotary Polio Plus chairman, Lee Mothershead, said it best: "While most young people today do not live in fear of polio like earlier generations, and polio has been eradicated from the Western Hemisphere, it is important to remember that polio is just a plane ride away."

Polio Plus donation cans were widely distributed among the many San Marino retail businesses along Huntington Drive and in the Mission District. Rotary teams walked the blocks in San Marino asking merchant support, and other teams reached out to organizations and neighborhoods for their nickels and dimes. As Lee said, "There's simply no reason anyone should get this disease anymore." Thanks to Lee for his leadership.

I also must commend Lucille Norberg's Polio Plus "Guess How Many Pennies" Contest! She donated her jar of 10,151 pennies she had saved since childhood. In addition, our weekly "Pass the Polio Pig" was both successful and appreciated for donations of extra coins and bills.

Laparoscopic equipment: We successfully teamed up with The Flying Doctors of Mercy to raise \$16,000 for laparoscopic equipment for El Fuerte, Mexico's, Yaqui farmers. We led a consortium of three San Gabriel Valley Rotary clubs to purchase a refurbished laparoscopic surgical machine with three sets of surgical equipment to be flown to El Fuerte, Mexico, in Fall 2010 by the Liga International Flying Doctors of Mercy.

Our 110-member Rotary Club, together with the Ciudad Obregon Rotary Club of Mexico, led the matching grant fundraising. San Marino Rotary raised \$7,166, Pasadena Rotary \$6,734, and Arcadia Rotary \$2,000. The small, rural Ciudad Obregon Rotary Club in El Fuerte provided \$100 in seed funds in order to qualify for Rotary's matching grant. The equipment will assist the Yaqui farmers of Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range by providing less invasive surgeries and a safer, quicker patient recovery for a people who depend on their health to be able to till their land.

The Flying Doctors of Mercy provide monthly free clinics run by volunteer medical personnel to perform surgeries, examinations, administer medication, and dispense medical advice to wonderful people who simply have less than ourselves. Many of the doctors who volunteer are from the San Gabriel Valley, practicing at Huntington Memorial and Arcadia Methodist.

The clinic that will be receiving Rotary's donated laparoscopic surgical equipment is manned by volunteer doctors, dentists, audiologists, and optometrists who provide much needed medical services on weekends near El Fuerte, Mexico, a town of approximately 30,000 population, much of which is rural. Thanks to Greg Thompson for spearheading this effort.

Rotary Readers: Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the San Marino Rotary Readers program provided over 2,000 books this school year to schools in Pasadena and Alhambra, including Longfellow, Cleveland and Emery Park elementary schools.

The San Marino Rotary Readers program, originally called Reading-By-Nine in partnership at the time with the Los Angeles Times and Rotary International, has been expanded from its original K-3rd grades to encompass K-6th grades with San Marino Rotary now in partnership with Scholastic Books Publishers. In the program's ten-year history, San Marino Rotary members have donated approximately 16,000 books among twenty-one different

elementary schools in the Western San Gabriel Valley. Thanks to our Rotary Readers founder and chairman, Will Bortz, for his dedication.

With such severe education budget cuts statewide, including in our San Gabriel Valley, school libraries have been greatly impacted. It has become all the more imperative that we support the children's reading opportunities.

Club Service: We have many unsung heroes among our members who volunteer their time to make the club run smoothly, from Wray Cornwall 's unflinching efforts in setting up our meetings at the Fellowship Hall at the San Marino Community Church, to Membership recruitment to Programs. Credit also goes to two past presidents who shepherd our *Rotoscope* newsletter and web site respectively, Ken Veronda and Chris Datwyler. We owe them a debt of gratitude!

Programs: Our programs this year were exemplary. We started the year at Aaron Weiss' Classic Car Collection private museum, hosted our District Governor Tim Novotny, hosted the Pasadena Rose Court queen and princesses, and held Rotarian Margie Francis' traditional Valentine's Day fashion show from her San Marino boutique, among other great speakers.

Music Contest: San Marino High School junior Andrew Liu swept the Rotary Club District 5300's Dan Stover Music Competition held in Las Vegas, winning the District's \$5,000 prize. Andrew won over winners from each of the district's 62 clubs competing for the prestigious Dan Stover prize.

He originally placed second in the San Marino Rotary's music competition held February 25th, showing what an extremely close contest it was. When Andrew stepped in because San Marino's first-place winner could not come and perform at the Rotary District Conference in Las Vegas, he stunned the judges with his outstanding piano performance of a difficult Beethoven piece. Andrew is the son of Jack and Grace Wang Liu.

Art Contest: Held at the Crowley Public Library in San Marino, our Rotary Art Contest winners were feted for their amazing entries. San Marino High School sophomore Hope Welder, daughter of Wally and Terri Welder, won the \$100 Grand Prize. My thanks to chair Vivian Chan!

Speech Contest: There is nothing more rewarding than hearing students from San Marino High School and Southwestern Academy vie for top honors. This year's winner actually reminded our own members how truly valuable Rotary's 4-Way Test is, and went on to honors at the District 5300 level.

Social: We had a whopping good time with our ***Chili Cook-off Contest*** this year, tapping culinary expertise we didn't know our members had! Especially celebrated were our ***Rotary On The Town*** events headed by Lucille Norberg and our Social Committee, which succeeded in dual goals: a

bonding experience for Rotarians and their spouses plus support for our local San Marino Businesses. Rotaries-On-The-Town were held at the San Marino Courtyard for Restaurant Night , the San Marino Women's Club for Mardi Gras honoring my birthplace, and our Cinco de Mayo event held on the seis de Mayo at Mayor Dennis Kneier's home.

Paul Harris Luncheon: Not only are we a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club, but our annual Paul Harris Luncheon held at Friends Hall at The Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Gardens was a highlight of the Rotary Year. We honored two outstanding community service volunteers with impressive credentials, Charlene Liebau and Valerie Gumbiner Weiss.

Education: Our Huntington Middle School **Mideract Club** sported over 75 members from the 6th through 8th grades, signaling a re-energized San Marino High School **Interact Club**. My thanks to our indefatigable Denise Wadsworth for her leadership.

Our club-sponsored **Ambassadorial Scholar** Christie Shu spent the year studying and volunteering at schools and an orphanage in Kazakhstan. Our club-sponsored candidate for the next Ambassadorial Scholarship is Katarina Mayer who will study in Peru. We hope our track record in our San Marino candidates being selected for this \$26,000 scholarship to study abroad and build goodwill continues for such outstanding young people. Thanks to Bill Payne for his chairmanship.

Our **Group Study Exchange** this year was in Brazil, with a fine presentation – including soccer rivalry for the World Cup – at one of our luncheon meetings. I thank Greg Custer for his leadership.



Adieu: At the beginning of my term of office, the Rotary International Conference held in Birmingham, England, was a stellar event where my wife Tinker and I met many wonderful Rotarians. At the end of my term of office, my "Demotion" party held at the San Gabriel Country Club was skillfully planned and executed by my predecessor 2008-9 President Lois Mathews, and certainly was a most appreciated celebration as I turned over my gavel to my successor, 2010-11 President Bob Nafie after a wonderful Rotary year. Thank you and best wishes to all our San Marino Rotarians for continued success.

Emile Bayle
President, 2009-10