



Monarch Beach

SUNRISE ROTARY

ON THE CALIFORNIA RIVIERA

Transition Breakfast

by Lisa Wilson

Demotion emotion ran rampant at the Transition Breakfast with the leadership baton being passed off from our lovely President, **Linda Knox Hess** to our always dapper **Russell Kerr**.

Our own PDG "**Rotary Rod**" **Eide** made sure that our meeting held extra panache by arranging for a special Ritz Carlton breakfast, beyond our normal food fare. He also ensured that everything was set to roll for President Linda's final meeting and the first for new President, Russell Kerr.

We were pleased to be joined by many special guests, including our District Governor, **Roger McGonegal** and his delightful wife, **Sheila**. Governor McGonegal did a fantastic job of inducting our new board and ensuring that the entire crew was inspired to move onward and upward for Rotary. Newly installed President Russell Kerr's wife **Pamela** was also present, with a smile on her face, to witness her husband taking over the reins of MBSR. Russell got a nice jump start on his year by hosting a great meeting with tons of activities, while still managing to bring the meeting in on time – which of course bodes well for our future meetings. Good job, President Kerr.

Outgoing President, Linda Knox Hess, was both thoughtful and nice in her demotion, sending her past board members off with both kind words and the sweet treat of chocolate – what a great way to say thanks a million! In return, the club presented its annual "*Roast of the President*". Despite her great year, the club kept to the tradition and rather than play nice, instead took pains to poke fun at President Linda, all the while sending her a wink and a nod for her dedicated year of outstanding service to the club. Linda was joined for her final meeting by her father, **Bruce Blumen**, as well as her friends, **Sondra Morrow**, **Roger Hirsch**, **Lori Gilbertson** and **Owen Martin**. Linda made a special surprise presentation to her selection of **Bruce Brenon** as "*Rookie Rotarian of the Year*". A fine choice of one of our newest members who jumped right in to help on numerous projects, already proving that he firmly believes in "*Service Above Self*". Congratulations Bruce! And so, even though 2008-2009 proved to be a difficult economic time for our country, Linda still managed to make her presidential year one of the finest for Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary. Many thanks Linda for your exceptional effort and congratulations on a job well done!

Last but not least, a special thanks to the following individuals who kindly attended our demotion/induction meeting so that we could present checks to their respective charity or organization: **Pete Hammer** from the 5th Marine Regiment; **Dan Stetson** from the Ocean Institute; **Cindy Bobruk** from Shea Therapeutic Riding Center

continued on page 4



Outgoing President Linda Hess getting her Past President badge from President Russell



Pres. Russell with Roger McGonegal



Bruce Brenon receives his Rookie of the Year award



Master Earl Wellner from Peaceful Warrior Martial Arts Academy receives MBSR Charitable Donation

President's Message

by Russell Kerr

To my fellow Rotarians and friends I say Giddy! I feel so much at home and so relaxed with you that my Kiwi greeting pops out from time to time! It is a term of endearment – to wish you well.

Fellowship draws us to each other. Membership commits us to each other. August is a very special month – it is Membership month, it is Leo – my birth month along with many of you. Imagine... if there were more of us! We could have more friends, even greater fellowship and serve more folks in our community. Who do you know? Have you invited all of your acquaintances to consider Rotary as their movement for fellowship and service? I wish many more of my friends were Rotarians. I have lots of inviting to do – how about you?

In June, Past President **Linda** and I had the delightful privilege of participating in the 100th Annual Convention of Rotary International in Birmingham, England. From the grand opening with all its pomp and ceremony to the closing with spectacular British entertainment, we joined almost 20,000 fellow Rotarians from all over the globe in celebrating what Rotary has accomplished and learned about new avenues of service that await in so many needy communities. We learned about taps, toilets and soap; about Peace Fellows; heard from Rotary Scholars; how with knowledge comes responsibility from **Mia Farrow** (a polio survivor) And to care for and learn from all living creatures with **Jane Goodall**. I came to appreciate it is by that which cannot be taken away that we ought to measure ourselves. **John Kenny**, our new

continued on page 4



The District Governor and the First Lady Visit MBSR

by Rod Eide

One of the many responsibilities of our District Governor early in his or her year of service is to visit every club in our District for the purpose of reviewing each Club's Service and Fellowship plans for the coming year, to discuss the many ways that the District staff can assist clubs, and to just get to know the Club Leaders and other Club members better.

Governor **Bret Gerdes** and First Lady **Natalie** paid their scheduled visits to our Club's Board of Directors meeting on Monday evening, July 27th, and to our regular Club meeting on Wednesday morning, July 29th.



Bret and Natalie Gerdes

The meeting was held at the home of **Rod and Nan Eide**. Following an hour of fellowship, snacks and libations, President **Russ Kerr** introduced all attendees to Bret and Natalie using a 24" by 36" version of the Club's ever present Organization Chart – explaining how the Club functions and who was responsible for what.

Director of Membership **Kelly White** opened the reporting by outlining her plans to increase net Club membership by 20 during the coming year. President Russ was particularly

pleased about that goal since the Club financial operations plan was based on a net increase of 10 members.

Kelly was followed by International Service Co-Director **Bruce Brenon**, who noted that the International Service Committee included members from countries including Columbia, the Philippines, Iran and Egypt, which has given them multiple opportunities to identify and implement worthy projects, with or without support from TRF Matching Grants.

As most of you know, we also have members in the Club from New Zealand, Canada and England.

Next came the Vocational Service Committee Report from Director **Zohreh Behbehani**. She focused her report on the Club's annual Career Day event and the "Students of the Month" program involving the monthly recognition of two outstanding seniors from the Dana Hills High School. This is followed by a special Dinner Event at school year end to honor the 18 students involved as well as their parents. She also covered the Club Scholarships program involving financial and mentoring support of four or five local High School graduates each year who would otherwise not be

continued on next page

September, 2009

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sep 2	Gary Spencer	Birthday
Sep 3	Martha Hoffmann	Birthday
Sep 6	Julie Lungo	Anniversary (Marty, 1980)
Sep 16	Cyndi Elders	Anniversary (Bob, 1995)
Sep 16	Doug Chotkevys	Anniversary (Susan, 1989)
Sep 20	Neil Burns	Anniversary (Martha, 1986)



Sep 20	Martha Hoffmann	Anniversary (Neil, 1986)
Sep 22	Chris Hawn	Anniversary (Terry, 1990)
Sep 22	Terry Rifkin	Anniversary (Chris, 1990)
Sep 23	Don Gonnevill	Birthday
Sep 29	John Rose	Anniversary (Maryanne, 1979)
Sep 30	John Hayden	Anniversary (Nancy, 2007)

District Governor, *continued*

able to continue their education. She noted that these Scholarships are for two years at a local Junior College.

Director of Community Service **Susan Marshall** then highlighted many of the annual 30 to 40 Committee Service projects planned again for the coming year – including support of the local Boys and Girls Club, the local YMCA, the Ocean Institute, Holiday Luncheons for local Seniors, Christmas gifts for the local needy, and major support to the families of Camp Pendleton Marines.

Club Service Committees Director and President-Elect **James Littlejohn** reviewed the operations of the Club Service part of the Organization. Taken all together, a clear indication of why MBSR has one of the outstanding Club operations in our District.

Finally, the Club Treasurer **Rod Eide** gave an overview of the Club's Financial Policies and Procedures, which over the years have enabled the Club to raise substantial funds for its Service Projects, to support many local Charities with needed funding, and to meet at the Ritz Carlton Hotel – the finest Rotary Club meeting venue in the world!

On Wednesday morning Governor Bret and Natalie joined the Club for that part of the Governor's annual visit. Following much fun and a typical MBSR small breakfast, Governor Bret made an outstanding presentation to the large crowd attending. His presentation covered important basic Rotary information as well as plans for exciting upcoming District and RI events for all to attend. He also outlined the many ways that members of the District staff are available to assist Clubs and Committees with any support they might need.

I'm sure that he and Natalie left with confidence that the Monarch Beach Sunrise Club is one that will represent Rotary very well during the coming year.



Bret with MBSR youngest Paul Harris Fellow, Garrett Jackson



Governor Elect Bret Gerdes receiving the MBSR Wheel of Chocolate

Ramblings

by Elizabeth Lozano

Out with the old and in with the new! At the rate **Russell** forgets things (happy bucks, greeting, fines), everything's new! I thought he was just mixing things up a bit as I sat with happy bucks in hand waiting to share some exciting news. But alas, I left the meeting, head hung low, and only shared the news with a few.

Before Russell's induction, we demoted President **Linda**. If any new members were hesitant about becoming Rotary President one day, Linda's roast certainly confirmed your fears! I decided I'd only become president if I never had to step down. Maybe Cubans historically "roasted" their past president, so Fidel never wanted to resign! Okay, okay, all in good fun. I loved all the wonderful things they said about Linda in the end. She did a great job and always looks beautiful.

All the committees are off to a great start and we look forward to all the wonderful club activities this year. It was a joy to see scholarship recipients **Soulmaz Zarea**, **Christopher Lopez**, and **Lao Noushadian**. What a wonderful program that has been so successful year after year. We are helping to shape and support the future of our world. I am proud to be a Rotarian! Ta ta for now!

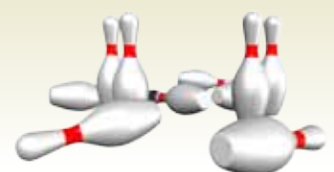
Elizabeth Lozano, MA was a scholarship recipient in 1998. She has come full circle with MBSR & become a mentor for scholarship recipient Soulmaz Zarea, a recent graduate of Dana Hills High School.

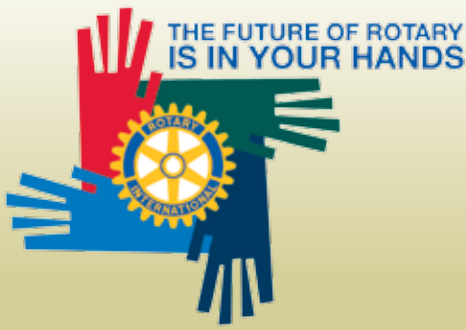


Save these dates!

- Fri 8/7:** Sunset at Salt Creek Beach – Mary Erickson Fundraiser
- Mon 8/17:** Board Meeting - Boys & Girls Club
- Sat 8/15:** MBSR Social Beach BBQ in Dana Point Harbor 4pm
- Sat 8/29:** District 5320 Day at Angels vs Oakland 6:05pm
- Mon 8/31:** Community Service Meeting - Susan Marshall's house
- Mon 9/21:** Board of Directors Meeting - Boys and Girls Club

- Fri 9/25:** District Rotarian Business Person of the Year Awards
- September:** Sign ups for MBSR Bowling League!





The 4-way test of things we think, say or do...

Is it the truth? • Is it fair to all concerned? • Will it build goodwill and friendships? • Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

SEPTEMBER IS NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Officers & Directors 09/10

President.....Russell Kerr
 Vice President Al Soley
 Secretary Nan Eide
 Treasurer/Foundation Rod Eide
 President Elect/
 Club Service James Littlejohn
 Imm. Past President..... Linda Hess
 Community Service Susan Marshall
 International Service Mitch Jackson
 & Bruce Brenon
 Vocational Service..... Zohreh Behbehani
 Membership Kelly White

Club Service Committee Leaders:

Website.....Alan Wickstrom
 Club Bulletin..... Sharon Baltzell
 Public Relations Cyndi Elders
 Photography..... Terry Rifkin
 Programs Alan Wickstrom
 Info/Orientation Rod Eide
 Song Leader..... John Hayden
 Fellowship Penny DiCaro
 Social Mary Jeffries
 Happy Bucks/
 Fine Master Joe Fitzgerald
 Sergeant at Arms Paul Lehrich
 Attendance John Rose
 Fine Master Joe Fitzgerald
 Song Leader..... John Hayden

Fundraisers:

Golf Tournament.....Neil Burns
 Children's Charity..... TBA
 RI President John Kenny
 District Governor..... Bret Gerdes

Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Make-Up Locations

TUESDAY

7:10am, Mission Viejo
 Casta del Sol Golf Club House
 7:15am, San Clemente Sunrise
 Talega Country Club Heritage Grill
 7:30am, Newport Sunrise
 Five Crowns, PCH
 12 noon, Laguna Niguel
 Savannah Chop House
 7:00pm, Coto De Caza/RSM
 Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club

WEDNESDAY

7:00am, Coto De Caza/RSM Del Sol
 RSM Bell Tower
 6:15pm, Newport-Balboa
 Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
 6:15pm, San Juan Capistrano
 Sarducci's Capistrano Depot

THURSDAY

12 noon, Newport-Irvine
 University Club @ UCI
 12 noon, San Clemente
 Iron in the Fire Restaurant

FRIDAY

12 noon, Laguna Beach
 Hotel Laguna

See website for more details



Kelly White with the Coastal Mountain Youth Academy receives contribution from MBSR



L-R: Past President Linda Hess, Patty Vogan, new members Elizabeth Lozano and Terry Mezen, Rod Eide and Gary Spencer

Transition Breakfast, continued from p. 1

and Dale Wood from Big Buddies of San Clemente High School. Each recipient took a moment to thank the club for its contribution and to speak of the good work that will continue to be done with the help of Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary.

All in all, the club knows that it was blessed to have concluded such a terrific year and we look forward to another round of great leadership, awesome projects and Rotary fellowship in 2009-2010.

President's Message, continued from p. 2

International President made it very clear that THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Let's invite – the world needs more hands. ■

