

LA MESA



Rotary Club of West El Paso

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CLUB MEMBERS BOOST VOCAL CAMP FOR EL PASO YOUTH CHOIR

By Wes Schotten, La Mesa Editor

West El Paso Rotarians continued their penchant of having a soft spot in their hearts for El Paso's children and youth at last Monday's Club meeting – over \$300 was raised from on-the-spot donations from Club members after a presentation by Sally Rutledge Souers, the founder and Executive Director of the El Paso Youth Choir. The funds gathered will be used for "scholarships" for deserving and talented El Paso youth to attend the upcoming five-day vocal camp conducted by the El Paso Youth Choir. Sally commented to the Club that although last year's vocal camp was well-attended, attendance was down somewhat for this year's camp. She stated this may be attributed to the soft economy we are experiencing. The cost for each camp participant is \$150. This helps defray the cost of the three PhD's that will conduct the camp for the youth participants.

This year's Vocal Camp will be held from July 14th to 20th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 1000 Montana in El Paso. The camp consists of five days of intense vocal workshops, capped by a two-hour summer camp community rehearsal followed by a community concert and fundraising barbeque on July 20th.

El Paso Youth Choir itself is open to students between the ages of 8 to 18. Practice sessions are held at 4:45 PM on Tuesdays at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and free concerts are held in December and May.

THIS YEAR IN ROTARY:

By Jesse Allen, Rotary Club of West El Paso President



This year in Rotary, there are two major issues facing the Rotary Club of West El Paso. These are Fundraising and Membership

FUNDRAISING

In the history of our club there have been many fundraisers: coupon books, raffles, golf tournaments, rodeo programs, air show chalets, garages sales and many more. Several years ago, there was a desire to simplify our fundraising activities and have only one event in a year. This desire led to our Futures golf tournament, which accomplished the goal of having only one fundraiser, and had the benefit of being quite good for us financially.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to continue this event and are now faced with the challenge of finding a new direction.

One suggestion that was discussed in some of the latter golf tournament meetings is that we can still hold a golf tournament, but in a different format. A golf tournament has the advantage that it can bring in good money, and we already have good contacts from our pro tournament. In addition, if we pursue an amateur event, this could be done with much less manpower than was needed for the professional event - no housing, spotters, timers, real time scoring, leader boards, etc. Probably the biggest challenge with a golf tournament is coming up with a twist that will make it stand out from the crowd of existing tournaments.

Another concept that has been presented is that we could do a 3 man basketball tournament. This has an advantage that there are not other such tournaments in our immediate area and the theme would be consistent with our overall club mission of pursuing activities related to youth and quality of life issues in our area. Other ideas have surfaced including the expansion of our parade to be a fundraiser, a foot race, a Valentines Day Flan Sale, a putting contest (somewhat like our million dollar shootout), and selling raffle tickets.

I will be focusing the board at the beginning of the year on this question, but I would like all of our members to help us with ideas and give us feedback. Questions I have for all of you:

- How do you feel about the proposals presented so far?
- What other ideas could we pursue? Particularly what fundraisers could we do that would be big enough to be our only fundraiser, would be fun to do, would be easy to sell, and would set us apart from everyone else.
- Do we still want to limit ourselves to just one fundraiser per year?

MEMBERSHIP

From data we saw at PETS and District Convention, it is clear that membership is a challenge to Rotary worldwide. Rotary is expanding internationally because new clubs are being formed in countries where there have been few clubs. For existing clubs, however, particularly in the United States, there has been a steady decline in membership for several years. This trend is not unique to Rotary. It affects other service clubs as well.

Our club is not immune to these challenges. As recently as 2000, our club had a membership of 88. Currently we are in the range of 60. Raising our membership is important for several reasons. Financially, it is easier for a club that has more members to cover fixed expenses of the club. From a project perspective, it is easier to run a major event, such as our parade or our golf tournament with a larger membership. Also, with a larger membership, it is easier to fill the board of directors.

Already this year, we have two new members. Carol Waltersheid has been nominated by Jim Maxon and has been approved by the board. Ellen Speights proposed Gail Logan who has also been approved. Both of these members will be inducted into the club on Monday, July 14. In addition, Ken Slavin has proposed a new member that will be voted on soon.

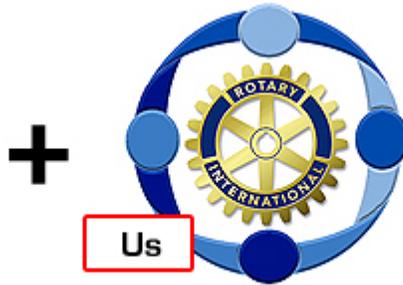
What a great start to boosting our membership! Everyone can help in this. Bring a friend to Rotary. If you have any concerns or questions about the process, just ask. The process is not difficult. The key is that it starts with all of us asking a friend to come share Rotary!

Jesse Allen
President, Rotary Club of West El Paso

West El Paso Rotary Upcoming Programs

(Note: Some Programs and dates are tentative!)

- ✓ July 14th – Sun Metro Director Tim Omick and PIO Cynthia Grajeda
- ✓ July 21st – Secrets of a Disney Cast Member – Elyse Wieland & Christina Snodgrass
- ✓ July 28th – El Paso Community Foundation Executive Director, Eric Pearson
- ✓ August 4th – Classification Day/Everything we didn't know about our fellow Rotarians
- ✓ August 11th – Texans for Lawsuit Reform – Bob Hoy



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Join Rotary Today!

Rotary Websites

Rotary Club of West El Paso
www.rotarywestelpaso.org

Rotary District 5520
www.rotary5520.org

Rotary International
www.rotary.org

eClubOne
<http://www.rotaryeclubone.org>

The 4-Way Test

Members of Rotary use a simple test to guide their actions in life. Here it is:

“The 4-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1st Is it the TRUTH?

2nd Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3rd Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4TH Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”



REMEMBER TO BRING CANNED GOODS TO THE JULY 14TH MEETING WHICH WILL BE DONATED TO THE EL PASO RESCUE MISSION.

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR Wes Schotten

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