



La Mesa - Volume 47 – Number 5 – September 28, 2009

Proposed New Member

Jaime Vela – Jaime is the District Manager of Farmers Insurance Group. His responsibilities include recruiting, training and support of agents for the organization. He was previously a member of the McAllen, TX Rotary Club and has recently relocated to the El Paso area. He is an active fundraiser for the March of Dimes, a contributor to Child Protective Services – Rainbow Room. He is being sponsored by Ingo Klein.

The First Tee Desert Classic Golf Tournament

Last weekend, September 19th, was the date for the first annual First Tee Desert Classic golf tournament presented by Bank of the West. This tournament was held at Underwood Golf Complex on the Sunrise course, and there were 27 teams that participated in this tournament (108 golfers total). Thanks to the hard work of many of our members, this tournament was a huge success. Not only did all the participants enjoy a great round of golf on a beautiful day, but everyone left with a goodie bag including a tournament shirt and sleeve of golf balls along with a prize of some kind.

As a part of this tournament, we also raffled off a trip for two to the President's Cup professional golf tournament in San Francisco, CA next month. Airfare, hotel, car rental and tickets to the event are all included in this package, and Chris VanPelt was the lucky winner of this trip.

While we are still finalizing our revenue and expenses, it is estimated that this tournament raised at least \$23,000 net. Once a final amount is determined, we will split the proceeds with the First Tee of Greater El Paso. Our 50% will go to support the various quality of life and youth initiatives of our club – many of which are part of our matching gift program.

For anyone that has an interest in this tournament or would like to become involved in future tournaments, we are holding one final committee meeting on Wednesday September 30th at 6:00pm in Carol Lewis's office (Lewis Realty -7338 Remcon Circle, Suite 100) to wrap up any outstanding issues and discuss future improvements and changes for next years event. All members are invited to attend.

New Club “Hotline”

The Rotary Club of West El Paso has a new contact source – a local telephone number **(915) 239-3116**. Anyone interested in joining our club or learning more about our projects, parade, golf tournaments, or about Rotary in general, can call this number and leave a message with their name and number. These messages will be checked daily and forwarded to the appropriate member of our Club’s Board to respond. The device that allows this to occur is called Magic Jack <http://www.magicjack.com/1/index.asp> and its connected to the home PC of our Club Secretary – Carey Beamesderfer – who will be responsible for ensuring any messages get to the appropriate Board member for action.

Group Study Exchange (GSE)

The [Group Study Exchange](#) Program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity. The program provides travel grants for teams to study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. The 2009-2010 District 5520's Group Study Exchange program (Inbound & Outbound) will be with District 3870 in the Philippines which consists of 34 clubs from Northern and Central Mindanao, and also includes 11 active Rotaract Clubs.

Lisa Witt, Rotary Club of Albuquerque, was selected to lead District 5520’s GSE Team to District 3870 in the Philippines next spring. Lisa moved to New Mexico in 1995 and started her business, Avista Video Histories, in 1996. Avista Video began by creating family history videos, but has expanded to include documentaries and commercial video productions. Lisa is on the list of New Mexico Women Owned Business and Avista has won 17 National Telly Awards for its video work. Prior to moving to New Mexico, Lisa earned a BA in International Relations from the University of Michigan, an MS in Foreign Service from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service. She worked for the Office of Management and Budget, and was appointed by President Clinton as Chief Economist, Policy Planning Staff, for the U.S. State Department. Chavi Peter from the Rotary Club of Taos was selected as alternate Team Leader and will play a vital role in developing the District 5520 outbound team.

The Rotary Club of West El Paso will be one the first club in our district to host the Incoming GSE Team from the Philippines, during the period from Saturday, April 17, 2009 through Wednesday, April 21. Our own Lorraine Huit will be coordinating this event and looking for host families for the five (5) Philippine Team members. Stay tuned for additional information on this event in the future as Lorraine’s committee begins their work.

Paul Harris Fellows

A Paul Harris Fellow is an individual who contributes \$1,000 or in whose name that amount is contributed. Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, medallion and a

certificate when he or she becomes a Fellow. This identifies the Paul Harris Fellow as an advocate of the Foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding.

Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the Foundation's charitable and educational program.

Several members of the Rotary Club of West El Paso will be receiving their PHF award in the next several Club meetings. Please join us to welcome our latest award recipients and to congratulate them for their support of the Foundation.

Social Meeting (Happy Hour)

At the Monday, September 21st meeting, President LuAnn Wieland announced the forming of our first monthly social meeting (Happy Hour). What a great way to get to know our fellow Rotarians better and have a great time. Spouses are invited too!

The 1st Wednesday of each month. 5:30 - ? October 7th - Brick & Mortar - Downtown in the new arts district. 5:30 PM. No need to RSVP -- just join us. (Unfortunately, this can't be counted as a make-up, just a fun time!)

Matching Grant Waiting Approval

Community Partners of El Paso Rainbow Room (\$17,000): The Community Partners of El Paso is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers dedicated to enhancing the lives of abused and neglected children who have an open case with (CPS) Child Protective Services. This organization does not get any funding from the city or United Way. All the money comes from private donations. The Rainbow Room allows Child Protective Services caseworkers to give comfortable protection and basic living needs to victims, improving their lives immediately. The Rainbow Room is one step along a difficult and complex road to help preserve the family and break the cycle of abuse in our community. The Rainbow Room is a store-like setting that provides basic living needs such as diapers and formula. Some of the items that will be purchased with this grant are durable goods such as car seats, cribs, and back packs. These items can be re-used.

Websites:

Rotary Club of West El Paso - www.rotarywestelpaso.org

Rotary District 5520 - www.rotary5520.org

Rotary International – www.rotary.org

eClubOne – www.rotaryclubone.org

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?

and 5th – Will it be fun?

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Officers & Directors of the Rotary Club of West El Paso

President: LuAnn Wieland

Vice-President: Bob Peterson

President-Elect: Lorraine Huit

Executive Secretary: Carey Beamesderfer

Treasurer: Joanne Latimer

Sergeant-at-Arms: Marisa Guerrero

Immediate Past President: Jesse Allen

Director – Club Services: Sandy Boswell

Director – Community Services: Marcos Lizarraga

Director – International Services: Chava Gonzalez-Barney

Director – Public Relations: Jim Weddell

Director – Vocational Services: David Veloz

Director – Youth Services: Gail Gale

Newsletter Editor: Joey Espinoza