



THE RIO

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riovistarotary.org

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

THOMAS EDISON



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

Rotarian

"Having fun helping others... watering the rosebuds"

DR. TED SCHULZ

Bob Bard, Ed.



Photo: Jim McCracken

Clockwise from above: those who protect us and grow our food enjoy dinner and camaraderie at Appreciation Night, Wednesday at the firehouse; Gene and Dave help Eddie (center) smoke the New York strips; and firefighters gather before dinner. Photo at left shows Al Hartford, right, congratulating Bobby Blanco, Firefighter of the Year, at Rotary's Night of Honor, last Friday in Fairfield.





Above, Jim and Sue McCracken arrive for an evening to honor our first responders and our farmers.



Above from left: Rotarian Gary Lazdowski, guests Myron Cabral and his son, Chad, and Rotarian Jim Lira

Pres. Jim calls us to order, welcomes farmers back

Unceremoniously clanging on a faux bell with a harsh tone, our leader gets our juices flowing, paying tribute to our guests, the farmers and first responders. Thanks are given

Jim Mac recognizes Student Rotarians, who helped us serve the dinner, as well as all Rotarians who helped make the event possible.

What the heck is Rotary, anyway?

One of our guests asked your editor, much to his astonishment, "What is Rotary?" We passed the query along to Pres. Jim, and he explains to the audience that we are a charitable organization with many local chapters worldwide, established in 1905 to raise funds and help those in need, everywhere.

Our Pres. waxes nostalgic

Jim Mac lauds Evelyn Wilson on 50 years of service at the Bank of Rio Vista, noting that it was founded in 1904, long before Evelyn was hired. On a roll, he says Gary has worked 46 years for Rio Vista Sanitation, noting that Gary thinks garbage smells like money. Then, he says that Harvey worked 66 years for the local school district, 45 years teaching and 66 years smithing locks.

Thank you, and again we thank you

He thanks our farmers for growing our food and fiber. Then, he praises our first responders: Chief Greg Bowman, dispatch lady Gale Bowen and former Chief Bill Bowen for their parts building community trust in our Police Dep't. Then, he thanks Fire Dep't. leaders Al Hartford, Joe Rosewall, Dan Schindler, Stan Simi, Scott Baroni, Randy (Sheriff's Dep't) and the many volun-

teer firefighters who protect us every day.

USCG's walk for sexual harassment & assault awareness

Jim thanks Coast Guard personnel and reminds us to attend walk from the foot of Main St. to Lira's and paint the town teal, tomorrow, Saturday, April 4 at noon. Chief Jason Miller is prime mover for this event. Jimmy Dolittle Museum, Nut Tree Airport

Pres. Jim mentions new aviation museum at which he assisted placement of a Huey helicopter, and he paraphrases Dolittle's credo that there's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.

What? No keynote speaker?

The room erupts with applause when Jim Mac says that our speaker cancelled out. *Humph.*

Announcements

- 7th All GM Car Show (especially Corvettes) May 16, 10:00-2:00, Abel's
- Hog August Bites (Car Show, Soap Box Derby, food, vendors, music, Sat., Aug. 22)
- Hog August Bites fundraiser dinner at Foster's, April 10, 6:30 p. m., Steak & Prawns, wine tasting, \$50/ticket
- Tequila Y Más, Sat., July 25, Delta Club, Trilog, \$35, all proceeds to RVHS scholarships
- 15th Annual Marta Dron Memorial Golf Tournament, Wed. May 13, Trilog Golf Course

Lee Williams lauded

Pres. Jim thanks Lee for chairing this year's Appreciation Night. *Great job, Lee! Better thee than me. Ed. Most of all, we appreciate America!*

Jim closes our meeting as he reads a thoughtful message defending the magnificent symbol of every value to which we all subscribe, our Statue of Liberty.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER/EVENT</u>	<u>PROGRAM CHAIR</u>
Friday, April 3	No meeting	No program, either
Friday, April 10	Bill Giles "Audiology"	Linda Lannon
Sunday, April 12	Beach Blanket Babylon	Hector De La Rosa
Friday, April 17	"I" Programs: Cole Felt, Alan Hartford, Jamie Wilson	Kelley Graupensperger
Friday, April 24	Rio Vision	Kelley Graupensperger