

# **SANGER ROTARY NEWS LETTER JULY 2011**

## **Random Rotary Thoughts**

*By Dick Sheppard*

What an honor!

I'm way too modest to bring it to the club's attention. But, thanks to Grant, everyone knows the President of the United States and I have already been compared on National TV. Just about to take office, haven't done anything yet. But, obviously, great things are expected because, Mark Halperin, editor at large at Time, author and political analyst for MSNBC, called President Obama "a dick" on MSBC's "Morning Joe." Needless to say, I'm flattered and, of course, challenged to live up to such high expectations. I love this club. But, even after several years of increasingly active membership, I'm not sure I completely understand it. It's different than other service clubs I've belonged to over the years. Better in many ways.

Good things just seem to happen, almost automatically. I'm not really sure how necessary it is for this club to even have a president because we have so many great members who have been involved with so many key projects for so many years they just don't let a less than involved president get in their way.

On the other hand, we've already lost some of those great, long-time, active members and it probably won't be long before others decide it's time to go on the inactive list. What then? No more automatic. I'm hoping, without trying to fix things that aren't broken, we can begin to put in place structure and processes that will help newer, less experienced members continue to run a great race when it's time for our Rotary veterans to pass the baton.

The first step, I believe, is to take a look at our club's strengths and weaknesses and at the opportunities that might be created by our strengths and the challenges we face because of any weaknesses.

Hopefully, we can almost immediately find ways to turn our strengths into effective responses to obvious needs in our hurting community, where there is an unemployment rate of between 25-30%, homeless living in parks and nearby orchards and vineyards and, for several years, businesses have been leaving town to escape the second highest tax rate in California and the highest fees for city services in Fresno County. Hopefully, we can agree on ways to fix a few things that appear to be weaknesses: club membership and attendance numbers are at a five-year low; our major fund raiser doesn't; the Rotary Field concession stand is labor intensive and netted only an average of about \$54 per member last season; vertical and horizontal communication within the club appears to be limited to word of mouth; and – I'm not sure whether

this is a strength or weakness – standing committee structure, or lack of it, only slightly resembles our org chart and is almost impossible for new members to get their heads around – maybe, not change it, because it seems to work so well, but define and refine it a little.

Bottom line is our club has waaaaay more strengths than weaknesses and there are waaaaay more opportunities than challenges. So, it's gonna be a great year if I can just stay out of everyone's way and let 'em do the job they've been doing so well for so long. The priorities for the year are: have fun; do some good; get a little more organized; have fun; grow our membership; have fun; improve attendance; and, have fun.

### **Many thanks go to Dick for his Random Thoughts**

The “debunking” of our own Queen Mum was an event filled with the pageantry one could expect from Royalty. The catering provided an excellent meal with close to half of the club in attendance.

One of the major highlights of the evening was Bernie Hinson in “drag”, David Sulenta as “The Fairy God Mother” and our own Grant Mitchell as a rapper. The movie “White Men Can't Jump” best describes Grant's rapping abilities, but the sagging pants were authentic.

Queen Mum looked relaxed, while the newly crowned Dick Sheppard appeared less comfortable in his royal gala. I believe the Monarchy has left the building for this new administration.

### **Important dates:**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>** – Directors will give a brief overview for the coming year. This is an opportunity to make a difference in making the year a huge success.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** - Board Meeting  
7 – 8 am and Sequoia Chevrolet.

### **July birthdays**

7-9 Janet Sterling  
7-10 Janice Kebo  
7-11 Sky Hannigan  
7-14 Roger Van Gronigen  
7-16 Caroilyn Branch

### **July wedding anniversaries**

7-9 Bob & Mitzi Virden (29 years)  
7-22 Clarence & Marjie Harvey (37 years)

### **Rotary anniversaries**

None

### **July programs**

7-1 Eat 'n' Run (Independence Day weekend)  
7-8 Club Assembly - Ascertainment of community needs + Club Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat Analysis = strategic plan for 2011-12 Rotary Year  
7-15 Kathy Chung, Sr. Regional Planner for COG - Census stats and what they mean for Fresno County  
7-22 Sam Iacobella - Development of the B-1 Bomber

### **Until next month's news, be kind to each other.**

**News and other trivia by:**

*Darlene Brown*