



Rotary Behind the Scenes

By Spillway Reporter, Jennifer Finnegan

We all enjoy attending our weekly Rotary meetings, but not all of us realize just how much work goes into every single meeting. Who is it that makes sure the presenters are scheduled? Who gets their presentation visuals ready to play? Who figures out what recognitions are going to be shared that week? Who are those lovely people checking our names as we enter the room? Who is playing that live music? How does all of this happen every week without most of us realizing how much work it takes?

Those are excellent questions, I'm glad you asked!

Let's start with Programs: The Program Committee ("Programs") is responsible for selecting and coordinating the speakers for our weekly meeting and chaired jointly by PP Gary Burks, PP Ed Rullman, and Cindy Fisher. Unlike most committees, the members of this one are appointed by the committee chairs. Before this committee was formed in the 2016-2017 year, the weekly program selection was a job of the individual teams assigned that week. Sometimes there was a struggle to get a presenter or they were selected last-minute, which often led to less-than-exciting programs or not enough direction to presenters (as in the instruction that they not to solicit the club during their presentation).



"Gary and I got involved in having discussions with a lot of different Rotarians [about our weekly programs]," Ed reported. "We proposed to take a shot at making a committee that would vet the programs more than the teams could do individually."

Programs is tasked with finding entertaining and educational presenters to share their thoughts and ideas with us each week, and instructing those presenters on what is expected during those presentations. They also provide logistical information to help each presenter prepare for their program.

Scheduling programs is a year-long process which starts at the end of the previous Rotary year and continues as schedules change throughout the current year. To give you an example, the program

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schedule for the 2018-2019 year is already half-way booked, and we haven't had our first meeting of the year yet! If you know of a person or organization that you think would make a great topic for a weekly program please contact one of the Programs committee chairs.



Teams: Now that our weekly meeting is booked, let's look at the weekly prep-work needed to make sure all the cogs in the Rotary wheels are moving smoothly. Each week one of our club's seven teams is tasked with appointing Rotarians to help with the grunt work. Each team designates folks to stand at the door and greet people as they enter, someone to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, two Sergeant at Arms to run around with microphones, a donated gift for the drawing,

which Past President (PP) will welcome guests, and persuading folks to dish on their friends or themselves with a good Recognition story for the week. Team Captains are tasked with reaching out to their teams prior to the meeting to identify who will volunteer for each duty that week, making sure everyone reports for duty as assigned, and then announcing who those volunteers are at the start of the meeting.

Audio Visual Committee: Once the presenters are selected and the rest of the duties are assigned, it's up the Audio Visual Committee ("AV") to make sure their slides, PowerPoint presentations, and videos are cued up and ready to play. This year AV will be chaired jointly by Todd Davis and Mary Brace.



"The day of the meeting is a three-hour job for the AV team," Todd Davis reported. Throughout the AV converts files received from Rotarians, speakers, Facebook, etc. to use during the meeting. File types vary from Adobe to Google, and dealing with the infrastructure at Riverview including hardware and internet can be a daunting task.

Todd illustrated the point, "Imagine you have a meeting that starts at noon, you have worked throughout the week to collect files and get them properly formatted, and the when you arrive at the meeting a Rotarian texts you a photo to use during Recognitions." If you've ever used a computer before, you know they don't always work out the way you planned. Thank you to the entire AV Committee for putting up with technology's pitfalls and putting on an excellent show each and every week!



Sergeant at Arms: What about the Rotarians who sit at the back table and help out Kim before each meeting? Chaired by Gene Poch, the Sergeant at Arms Committee tracks members as they arrive and record the names of our visiting Rotarians. According to Gene the committee name predates our club's current committee structure!

"Basically we check the members in because the computer isn't always reliable," says Gene, "it's a double-check on the member attendance".

Gene also tracks the books donated in honor of our speakers for that week. He then takes the book plates and check to purchase those books to the Friends of the Shasta County Library each month.

Sunshine, Inspiration, and Invocation: Chaired this year by Mark Rincon, this committee is tasked with sharing important health news on our fellow and past Rotarians as well as giving the invocation (prayer) before each meeting commences. This is a Rotary tradition and involves connecting with fellow Rotarians on a deeply personal level and bringing joy and reflection to the start of every meeting.



Music: We often enjoy live music played before the meeting by members of the Music Committee. Chaired this year by myself, Jennifer Finnegan, I’m joined by Rick Hill and Marjeanne Stone in sharing our love for music with the club each week.

Dr. Bill Howland was the committee chair who paved the way for the three of us. He did some research and found that Chet Moore (PP 1984 -1985) started the music committee. In the 1998-199 year Chet Moore chaired the committee with Jerry Drennen and was joined by PP Max Elliot, PP Bill Kipp, and Doug Treadway. The committee was an inspiration of PP Chet Moore because he was an avid musician who played both the piano and trumpet. “We used to go to his house on the river and, for years and years, he would play the trumpet for us,” Bill recalled.

Spillway: Finally, after the meeting has concluded the Spillway Committee (“Spillway”) takes over. Chaired jointly by Tom Stovall and Bret Christensen, these committee members take turns writing up a monthly (Spillway) or weekly (Spillway Express) newsletter reporting on the week’s happenings and what to expect in coming weeks. They take copious notes during the meeting and more photos than you care to know in order to produce these weekly gems. You are reading a Spillway Express right now, so you know the product of their efforts!



Who is it, you ask, that gets to make sure that all of this actually takes place? Well that’s up to President Greg Dunbar with the help of our fearless staff member Kim Christofferson. As you can see, it takes quite a lot of work each week to put on one of these meetings. When things run smoothly and look easy, then everyone is doing their job well.

If any of these weekly activities sound like something fun that you want to be part of, please contact the committee chair for that portion of the meeting and express your interest.

“Many hands make light work!”

Calendar

July 12th	President Greg Dunbar’s Installation
July 19th	Bruce Dean: Coffee Growing in Nicaragua
July 26th	Olympic Medalist
August 2nd	Lane Carlson: California Heritage Youth Build Academy

New Members This Quarter

rMember Name	Member Type	Start Date	Sponsor	Classification
Dickens, Wendy (WENDY)	Active	05/24/18	Peggy O'Lea	Executive Director,
Knight, Levi Richard (LEVI)	Active	05/24/18	Joe Ayer Mark Woodward	Non-Profit District Executive
Potter, Arden Dee (DEE)	Active-R85	05/10/18	Jeff Avery Harry L Grashoff Thomas L Stovall DVM	Outfitter

Exiting Members This Quarter

Member Name	Member Type	Term Date	Start Date	Sponsor
Drennan, Gerald M (GERALD)	Active-R85	6/29/2018	11/1/1979	
Fowler, Patrick (PAT)	Active	6/15/2018	1/18/2018	Harry L Grashoff ,Charles W. Ryan
Gifford, Richard (RICH)	Active-LOA	6/15/2018	1/5/2017	David Kehoe
Harrison-Smith, Betty (BETTY)	Active-R85	6/29/2018	9/1/2000	Lou Gerard
Jeter, Lisa (LISA)	Active-LOA	6/29/2018	7/1/2009	Scott Putnam
Malotky, Richard (RICHARD)	Active-R85	4/21/2018	5/19/1988	Bob Jones
Preston, Tobias J (TOBIAS)	Active-LOA	5/8/2018	1/19/2006	Mike Boswell
Preston, Tracy (TRACY)	Active	6/13/2018	2/5/2009	Bill Howland
Wilkinson, Troy (TROY)	Active	6/29/2018	11/16/2017	James Schlueter





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