

The President's Corner



Happy New Year!

As we enter the third quarter of our Rotary Year 1999-2000, we have many plans and projects that will require the assistance of club members. We have accomplished much all ready this year, but have much remaining to do.

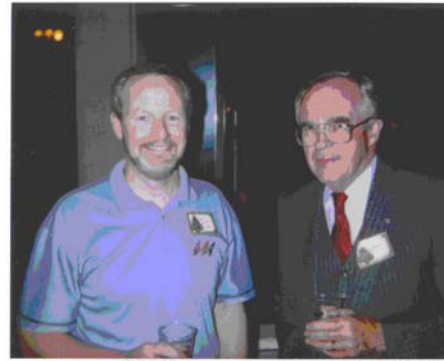
You don't want to miss the opportunity to meet and share with members of other service organizations on January 4th. The Mission Viejo Kiwanis and Lions club members will join us for breakfast where we can discuss the possibility of joint community efforts that will provide greater assistance for Mission Viejo residents in need of a helping hand. Kudos to Fred Buckhalter for arranging this meeting and the guest speaker.

Upper most activity on my mind at the moment is our main fund raiser, "A Night at The Improv". It is coming like a freight train on February 6th. This will require all members to not only sell tickets to the event, but to collect donations for raffles, door prizes, and/or auction. Without these funds many of our good deeds and plans will not be accomplished. This, for most of us, is a very difficult task. However, money is needed to continue the work of our great Rotary Club of Mission Viejo. So let's become motivated to support our major fundraising effort for the year.

Rise and Shine to the opportunities of this New Year. Set the tone with the kickoff meeting on January 4th with our fellow citizens. Support your Rotary Club fundraiser. Become involved in a "Service above Self" project.

Don

DID THE EYE OF THE CAMERA CATCH YOU AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY?



*A very enjoyable time for all thanks to Club Service Director Ed Heeren and his crew!!
¡Gracias!!*

Letter from Esperanza Students

Dear Rotary Club:
Thank you for inviting us to Chuck E Cheese's. We had fun playing games, eating pizza and drinking coke. We'd like to thank Santa Claus for giving us presents. It was fun singing "Jingle Bells" with Fred and his friends! Have a happy holiday from youir friends at Esperanza!

Dear Members of Mission Viejo Rotary:

Hello from a small village in Southwest Nicaragua. To begin, I must say Thank You' dearly from the heart for being one of the kindred souls who has helped with the the construction of the school in Cangrejo.

When we started building in the summer, I said that we would have the children sitting at desks by October. Quite a number of challenges have come our way since then. I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring you more up to date.

We started purchasing material for the project in mid August. Getting the material to the village alone was exciting. We had to use a combination of modern transportation like 5 ton flat-bed lorries and pick-up trucks, to less conventional means such as ox carts and horses. The land surveyed to build the school was clear and dry; the weather warm and perfect for laying the foundation. The owner of the land, "Martin Grando Narvaez" and his family, donated 3 acres of property around the school site for registration purposes needed by the Ministry of Education.

We made incredible building progress through the month of September. The whole community worked full time on the school. Over 100 sacks of concrete were poured, 3000 bricks were laid. One brick at a time the school took its form. A few weeks later we were able to start construction on the roof. Timing was of the essence now as we moved into October. Rainy season was in full swing; workers plunged forward against torrential downpours to finish the roof. This endeavor came during a difficult period with muddy waters rising and hungry mosquitoes feeding.

December finds the school three quarters complete. There remain many needs to finish the project before a new scheduled opening day in February. Classes in Nicaragua run between the months of February to December. Our goal now is to have the children seated at desks for the start of the new school year. Some of the needs include; more roofing, windows, doors, concrete for the floor, uniforms, desks, globe and a blackboard. One of our initiatives is to establish a small endowment fund to assist the salary of a teacher. Average monthly wages for a teacher in Nicaragua range from \$40-\$60. The endowment would insure the schools future for perpetuity. Two certified instructors have applied for the job of providing education for children.

Our greatest challenge to the project has been the constant need to raise funds while working in field. A kindred elementary school in Missouri is currently rallying up support through a Nickels for Nicaragua penny drive. It is inspiring to see young children in urban USA reach out to a small village far away in Nicaragua.

I would like to extend a warm greeting of gratitude from the community of Cangrejo to you especially for putting your brick in the wall. It is through you that this small village in remote Nicaragua finds itself with the lasting gift of education knocking at their door.

The world we live in, its land, sea and sky stretch beyond borders. You have demonstrated in your good spirit and positive energy the importance and joy of lending a hand to build a better world for all. May this update find you at peace with warmth love and contentment in your heart forever. Best wishes for a joyful and safe Holiday Season. Sincerely,

Eric Blackburn Project Director Proyecto Cangrejo, Nicaragua
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COMING EVENTS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- Jan 4 Joint Meeting with Kiwanis and Lions Clubs
- Jan 11 Craft Talks- Kathy Haze and Tim Taylor
- Jan 18 Project: Deaf India Update by Dr Raz Desai
- Jan 25 District Conference Preview- Ed Hardenberg

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Feb 6, 2000 Improv Comedy Club Fund Raiser
- Feb 12, 2000 District 5320 Foundation Dinner
- May 04 2000 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- May 4-7th District Conference
- Mission Inn , Riverside
- May 20th District Assembly
- June 4-7th R.I. Convention
- Buenos Aires, Argentina

BOARD MEETINGS SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACHMONTH
7AM WILE RESIDENCE

WHITE ELEPHANT

- Jan 4 James Peterson
- Jan 11 David Rukstalis, Jr
- Jan 18 Tim Strauch
- Jan 25 Terry Vuozzo

