


February 27, 2014

This Week
The 4-Way Test
Speech Contest
Club-Level Competition
Guest Program Host:
Kevin Moore

Yes, it is that time of year again when esteemed Altadena Rotarian, Kevin Moore, makes his annual trip back to Altadena Rotary to host the Four-Way Test Speech Contest. This year we will have four contestants participating — two from Maranatha HS and two from Blair HS. These contestants, as well as local level contestants from the Pasadena, Sunrise and the After Hours Rotary clubs were selected after the four Rotary Clubs held preliminary rounds in January where approximately 50 contestants competed to advance to these local-level contests.

As with past years, this year's speech theme is based on this year's theme of Rotary International: *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*. Contestants will share their perspectives on the Four-Way Test as well as this year's theme.

Understanding, appreciating, and expressing the true meaning of the Four-Way Test is the most important aspect of each speech. Many times the contestants' thoughtful speeches unravel the complexities of the Four-Way Test in new and innovative ways.

The winner of our local-level contest will move on to compete at the Group Level Contest to be held at Pasadena Rotary in March. 




Dollar & Sense
 by President
 Dennis Mehriinger

Our Club is suffering from an Epidemic!

Beginning in June 2013 a fast spreading disease infected many members of our club. For in June 2013 the American Medical Association labelled obesity a "multi-metabolic and hormonal disease state." In other words many of our participants in the biggest loser fund raiser contracted a disease. No wonder the results were less than astounding.

There might be some benefits to this new classification for an age old problem. According to a study recently published in the journal of Psychological Science, on the positive side, the obesity-as-disease message increased body satisfaction among obese individuals because it removed the shame of obesity as a moral failing. I for one — as a practicing Catholic — no longer ask for forgiveness for being fat when I go to confession. It has also removed the delay I experienced while waiting for the confessional of the fattest priest to become available to avoid a heavy penance.

However, there is also a significant negative consequence. Suggesting that my weight is a fixed state — like a long term disease — make attempts at weight management seem futile. This undermines the importance of health focused dieting and concern for weight.

Therefore, let me apologize for ordering the delicious high calorie cake for our anniversary celebration on February 13. Now you understand why I have accepted my disease and no longer think there is anything I can do about it. Unless of course, the development of a crack-based diet pill. 

Greeters

February 27
Santosh Srivastava
 March 06
Charles Wilson
 March 13
Hal Yorke

Program Review



What do you Mean . . . It's More Complicated than School House Rock?

If only it were as simple as School House Rock — those fun little cartoons from the 70s that taught us how the government works (<http://youtu.be/x5M50xBz1cU>). Dr. Kenneth Wagner, Professor Emeritus Constitutional Law, discussed Article II of the Constitution and the powers of the executive. It turns out that the lines separating the three

branches of our government are not as clear as we were led to believe.

In what has been called *the miracle in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787*, a secret convention that hammered out our Constitution. George Washington acted as chairman. Everyone felt that Washington was going to be the first President. The sections of the constitution that lay out the powers of the President are surprisingly general. For example, the number of terms a President would serve is not determined. Washington made sure that, at the end of two terms, he was gone. This tradition held until Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In 1951 the 22nd Amendment is ratified limiting the number of terms to two. Over time power has flowed to the executive.

Section 1, Article 8 of the Constitution contains the oath of office for the President. This includes the words: "to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Can the President take extra constitutional actions to



uphold the oath? Sometimes these emergency powers are determined to be constitutional — sometimes not. For example, when Lincoln blockaded the southern ports, the Supreme Court found these actions to be unconstitutional. The same thing happened when Truman ordered

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

Chartered: February 14, 1949
P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003
www.altadenarotary.com
Meets: Thursday, 12:10p
Altadena Town & Country Club
2290 Country Club Drive • Altadena, CA
626-794-7163

Rotary Int. Pres. Ron Burton
Dist 5300 Gov. Miles Petroff

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Mike Zoeller Youth Projects
Ray Carlson Vocational
Steve Cunningham Membership
Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics
Photography Jacque Foreman

February

World Understanding Month

February 27 - Club-Level 4-Way Speech Contest - Program Host: Kevin Moore — Special Location: American Legion Post 13, Pasadena

March

Literacy Month

Program Chair, David Smith

March 06 - To be Announced
March 13 - To be Announced
March 20 - To be Announced
March 27 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



02/02 - Julie Gustafson
02/07 - Freddy Figueroa
02/08 - Mike Zoeller
02/10 - Julius Johnson
02/14 - Ruth Reeder
02/16 - Joan Frykenberg
02/28 - Wendy Davis Noll



Anniversaries



02/03 - Susan & Don Applegate
02/17 - Ed & Mona Jasnow



We have found the Enemy . . . And They is Us!

We're not as influential as we used to be. We are not as powerful as we used to be. We are not as credible as we used to be. We are not as influential as we once were. We are not as ethical as we used to be. We are not as wealthy as we used to be. We are no longer the arsenal of democracy. We are no longer the center for world manufacturing. We are no longer the most socially upward mobile society in the world. And we have no perceptible foreign policy. The list goes on . . .

We now duck responsibility in Libya, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Israel and Afghanistan — just a short list of our foreign policy failures. No consequences. No one fears a nation in retreat. Our enemies no longer fear us. Our friends don't believe us. We are weak; a shadow of our former greatness.

Our Secretary of State says that *climate change* is more dangerous than terrorism and is the worst weapon of mass destruction the world has ever seen. (*John Kerry needs to resign and return to his ketchup heiress*).

The Administration now uses Federal Agencies (IRS, FCC, EPA, AG, etc.) to target anyone who disagrees with them. It is only a matter of time before they come after Rotary International and each one of us if we are not cautious in conversation and affiliation. (*Evangelical churches have now been designated as potential terrorist organizations in America.*)

So, what happened? Paranoia? Corruption? Poor leadership? A different world

view? The Ministry of Truth? Greed? Social justice? All of the above?

I don't even know what a \$17 Trillion debt means. Poverty? Certainly it does not mean poverty for everyone. Seven out of nine of the wealthiest counties in America are now in suburban Washington DC. Where did the money come from to build this new bureaucratic elite class? . . . I wonder.

I ponder the message we are sending to the world. Hypocrisy? Incompetence? Weakness? Insincerity? Decay from within? (*Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire?*)

There is no guarantee our fragile representative republic can or will survive. There is no guarantee our **Rights** as a free people will survive. There is no guarantee the dollar will not collapse. We can see our rights to free speech, right of assembly, worship, right to bear arms and petition our government eroding before our eyes.

Doubts anyone? Look around. The National Security Agency and FBI are monitoring your phone calls, looking at your bank account, watching you in public spaces (*even restrooms in Airports*). A recent book has been published by a former employee of the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) about all the laughs TSA Agents got observing you and your family on X-ray machines.

Despite the doom and gloom, many of us care. Rotarians care. They believe in their communities, in ethics, in honesty, integrity, in reaching out to others, in friendship and veracity and compassion.

And as such, we as Rotarians have an obligation to call out falsehood, the failures of leadership, the lies and deceit we find in government, in Wall St. and in our own communities. Clearly, some of the greatest lies ever foisted upon our society include the recent *Affordable Care Act* and *Troubled Asset Relief Program* (TARP), the axiom that Al Qaeda is dead or that the Muslim Brotherhood would bring hope and peace to Egypt, ad infinitum.

There is no great moral here or profound disclosure, only a simple reminder that we have a duty to use our talents and abilities, our moral courage and treasure, our good sense and our eyes to what is going on around us and to say ... **ENOUGH!**

Other countries have been down this road before. People have looked the other way. They have abrogated their responsibilities and their values to *get along* and to *go along*. We already know where these attitudes lead, and we don't want to go there.

It has been our privilege as a Club to reach out to young people in Nigeria and to offer hope in "Making a Job" where there are few and to promise mentorship and our best efforts to show that we care in spite of Boko Haram and the destroyers out there. We would like to believe that we not only care but that what we do matters. It would be nice to come representing a country that is not duplicitous, devious or self-serving. I for one do not wish the United States to turn away from the values that have made our nation great.



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update In The News

Retail sales fell 0.4 percent to \$427.8 billion in January. This follows a revised 0.1 percent decrease in December. Compared to a year ago, January retail sales have increased 2.6 percent.

Wholesalers increased their inventories 0.3 percent to \$517.9 billion in December. Sales at the wholesale level rose 0.5 percent to \$442.4 billion in December. On a year-over-year basis, sales were 5.8 percent higher than December 2012. The seasonally adjusted wholesale inventories/sales ratio in December 2013 was 1.17.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending February 7 fell 2 percent from the previous week. Purchase volume fell 5 percent. Refinancing applications decreased 0.2 percent.

Total business sales increased 0.1 percent to \$1,317.7 billion in December, up 3.8 percent from a year ago. Total business inventories rose 0.5 percent to \$1,707.9 billion in December, up 4.4 percent from a year ago. The total business inventories/sales ratio in December was 1.3.

Industrial production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities fell 0.3 percent in January after a 0.3 percent increase in December. Compared to January 2013, industrial production has increased 2.9 percent. Capacity utilization fell to 78.5 percent in January from 78.9 percent in December.

The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for February's

initial reading rose to 81.2 from January's initial reading of 80.4. The current conditions component took an expected weather-related dip down 2.8 points to 94. The expectations component rose to 73, the highest reading since August.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending February 8 rose by 8,000 to 339,000. Continuing claims for the week ending February 1 fell by 18,000 to 2.953 million. The less volatile four-week average of claims for unemployment benefits was 336,750.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on the housing market index on February 18, housing starts on February 19 and existing home sales on February 21.

Product Focus

Buyers Get a Second Chance to Own a Home Even After Foreclosure, Short Sale or Bankruptcy!

Possibly the biggest news in home lending these days is an opening up of credit to people who have experienced a bankruptcy, foreclosure or short sale due to an *economic event*. Prospect's Second Chance Mortgage™ can give you a new shot at adding more deals to your pipeline.


Second Chance Mortgage benefits:

- Previous bankruptcy, foreclosures and short sales okay
- Only a 12-month waiting period
- Low down payment of 3.5 percent
- No income restrictions
- Gift funds permitted

To qualify, buyers must have experienced an economic event, defined as any occurrence beyond their control that resulted in a loss of employment, loss of income or a combination of both. The event must have caused a reduction in household income by 20 percent or greater that lasted at least six months.

Extending credit to consumers impacted by a job loss or other significant, negative economic event beyond their control will help people get back on track with their lives — and give you a new avenue of potential buyers!

In addition to reestablishing a one-year history of good credit practices and financial recovery, buyers must also attend housing counseling from an approved HUD Housing Counseling Agency for a minimum of 30 days, but no more than six months, prior to submitting their loan application.

Contact me to learn more about the Second Chance Mortgage. 

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>

> > NEXT BOARD MEETING < <

**TUESDAY, MARCH 06, AT 6:15p
260 S. Los Robles, Pasadena
3rd Floor Conference Room**



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 5300
GARBIS PEACE INSTITUTE
25TH ANNUAL
PEACE
CONFERENCE



- ▶ Art for Peace Contest and Exhibition
- ▶ World Peace Media Awards
- ▶ Peace Essay Contest
- ▶ Salute to Young Leaders Award
- ▶ Peacemaker of the Year Award
- ▶ District 5300 Peace Ambassador Award

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2014
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
(Doors open 8:00)

University of La Verne
1950 3rd Street, La Verne CA (park in Lot D)
Check-in at Abraham Campus Center
Moran Auditorium located in Founders Hall

"UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY"



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Anne L. Matthews
Vice President
Rotary International



District Governor
Miles Petroff



ROTARY PEACE SCHOLAR
PRESENTATION: **Chantelle Doerksten**

PANEL DISCUSSION with Past District
Governors Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, Gene
Hernandez, Dr. Sunil Shrivastava and Youth
Leaders Hector Santos, Phillip Haino, and
Ariel Jones

Peace Concert
8:30 – 9:30 am
Ralph "Rafael" Dudley

Followed by:
OPEN FORUM Q&A WITH AUDIENCE



Distinguished Guest Speakers
Honorable Samuel Der-Yeghian
Federal Judge
United States District Court



Mattias Sundholm
Communications
Advisor
United Nations
Secretary General
Envoy on Youth



Conference Chair
Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian, PDG



Conference MC and
Panel Moderator
Michael D. Driebe

FOR REGISTRATION GO TO WWW.DISTRICT5300.ORG or
contact Raghada Khoury
Email: Raghada@khouryent.net
Cell: 760-559-3244

Admission: \$20.00 Adults / Students \$5.00 per person
(includes continental breakfast)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: RI District 5300
Foundation. In the memo field indicate Peace Conference.

AND MAIL TO:
RI District 5300
1930 Village Center Circle #3-396
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Multicultural Peace Festival: Saturday April 27, 2014 Victory Park, Pasadena CA
For further information or sponsorship opportunities contact Lu Arredondo, 626-703-3041 or via email at rotarylu@gmail.com

DISTRICT 5300, 2014 PEACE CONFERENCE — March 01

Program

Continued from p.2

the seizure of the steel mills (Taft Hartley was passed over his veto). Typically, if the executive acts counter to the legislature — the executive is in a weak position; if aligned with Congress he is stronger.

Section 2, Article 1 makes the President Commander in Chief. A civilian was to be in charge of the military, but how far does that power extend? Congress alone can declare war or support and maintain the military. But the military has been deployed many times without a dec-

laration of war. In 1973, over the veto of President Nixon, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution (also known as the War Powers Act) to limit the powers of the president to deploy forces without congressional approval. Since then Presidents have not followed the law.

Section 4 provides the ability to remove a President from office on impeachment for, and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors. There is no clear cut standard for an im-

peachable offense. The threat may limit the President. But, because no one has been removed from office with impeachment, there is some question to how effective it is as a check on the office.

For the checks and balances envisioned by the founding fathers, each branch of the government must protect its powers and push back against overreach from the other two. It is not simple or easy, and the struggle is never finished.

Craig Cox ☉