

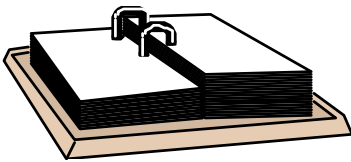
# The Strand

The Newsletter of PRLS

Volume 7 Issue 4

April 1, 2007

## Calendar



### April

- 03 Master PRLS 3, Kern Bridges Youth Homes, Bakersfield
- 14 District Assembly, Bakersfield
- 21 Master PRLS 2, Kern Bridges
- 28 District Assembly, Oxnard

### May

- 12 Master PRLS 4 (Situational Leadership) Kern Bridges
- 12 DGN 2009-2010 Interview/Announcement, Santa Barbara
- 26 MPRLS Graduates' Forum, Location, times TBA



## Change of PRLS Directors

Simultaneously the good and the bad news to hit the PRLS program in February was the news that the directorship of PRLS was changing.

The former Director, Stewart Fries (Solvang) is moving onward and upward to act as one of the Executive Assistant Governors for District 5240 Governor-Elect Jane McClenahan. He has been acting in that position for over a year already, but

responsibilities have been stepped up significantly during this preparation phase of Jane's gubernatorial year. Stewart has been, at one time or the other, a President of the Solvang Club (Best large club in the District during his presidential year), a governor's Group Representative for Group 9, an Assistant Governor for Groups 8 & 9, a District Conference Chair, a multi-class PRLS and MPRLS instructor, the PRLS Director and, this year, the District Education Committee Chair. In 2006 he was named "District Rotarian of the Year" by DG Jan Lindsay. He remains a PRLS instructor. As he says, "it's one of the nice things I get to do in Rotary."

The incoming PRLS Chair, Bonnie Cameron, has been President of the Cambria Club, a governor's Group Representative for Group 11, an Assistant Governor for Groups 10 & 11, and a PRLS area Coordinator for the northern tier of clubs. Coming into her new position, she is the first female PRLS Director, and the first who did not come from the instructor ranks. She is only the fourth PRLS Director since the

program started fourteen years ago.

Her husband, Dick, is also a past president of the Cambria Club. He is the incoming governor's Group Representative for Group 11. Like his wife, he is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Foundation Benefactor and, of course, a PRLS and Master PRLS graduate. As the new Registrar, he takes the place of Alan Hitt (Solvang).



## Master PRLS Graduates

Joining the ranks of the Master PRLS Graduates on February 10 in Camarillo were:

- From Arroyo Grande: Peggy Hoobery,  
Clay Watkins
- From Bakersfield Breakfast: Jim Bell
- From Cambria: Patrick Hampton,  
Clair Harlow
- From China Lake: David Saint-Amand
- From Conejo Valley: John Ecklund
- From Ojai West: Jack McClenahan
- From Santa Paula: Bruce McGee,  
Mitch Stone
- From Simi Sunrise: Arvid Krueger,  
Maggie Kestly

From Simi Sunset: Mark Dickenson  
 From SLO de Tolosa: Mark Furia  
 From Solvang: Sherry Thore  
 From Thousand Oaks: Vicki Arndt,  
 Frank Randak  
 From Vandenberg Village: Judilee Smith  
 From Ventura: Jim Deardorff  
 From Ventura East: Deborah Pudlewski, Gene Cherry  
 From Westlake Village: Berci Benedek  
 From Westlake Sunrise: Cecilia McBurnie  
 By and large, we can all expect to see many of these recent graduates in leadership positions in the district, once they complete their presidential years.



**Communication**

There's a segment of Basic PRLS entitled "Communications." In it, among many other tips, club avenues of service chairs are urged to communicate better, both with the club president and with the other so-called "weaker" members of the club's board of directors. How do they do that? Ah, there's the problem.  
 OK, you're an avenue of service chair, with responsibility for, say, Vocational Service. Of what possible use can "Communication Skills" be to you? Well, you have an ethics and leadership forum to run at a local high school. Is that a Community Service Function? Is that a New Generations function? How can you work it out so that all three of those avenues of service can share the load and, by the way, share the

labor? Talk to the other chairs. Odds are that they'll see the forum as your overall responsibility, but that they have some obligation to help with the details, since they will be getting part of the credit.  
 If you're the club president, and you have an avenue chair not doing what you'd hoped would be done during "your" year, what can you do? You can schedule a sit-down meeting with the chair to review the status of the pertinent objectives for the year; then, if you see recalcitrance, you can volunteer to help with a stalled project. If that doesn't work, you can gently move the chair on to a less active role in your administration; then, you can find a replacement. How is that part of "Communication Skills?" Well, you've solved a problem without raising waves of resentment. You've seen to the success of "your" year without alienating the person who will be sitting next to you "out there" next year.  
 That's what the Communications Class does. Do the above examples sound like merely common sense? Well, they are, but sometimes people need to be reminded of how easy it is to avoid conflicts while seeing to the completion of goals.



**Save Your Forks!**

In our house, when I was growing up, we used only three implements at the dining table—knife, fork and spoon.

My dad was always watching his weight, and we seldom had dessert. So when my mother said, at the end of a normal meal, "Save your forks," the four of us children knew that she'd done something magical in the kitchen during the day, and we were going to get a treat. The best was yet to come!  
 I like to quote that famous French philosopher and western writer dude, Louis L'Amour, who wrote, "Life is a worrisome and anxious thing." What are we anxious about? What's coming up in our lives that might throw us for a loop? Read on.  
 Most of us, I'm convinced, put boundaries around our lives. Rotary helps expand those boundaries, as do travel, education, television, voting, conversation or taking kids to shop in Farmers' Markets. Expanding our boundaries is worrisome and causes anxiety, because our minds are having to deal with unknown places, and most of us don't like the unknown.  
 I'll tell you what's not unknown at all. What we do in Rotary is reshape the lives of those people who are receptive to our help. We encourage people to live better lives. We recognize what Rotary has done in our own lives through the new friends we have and the way we're able to combine with our friends to help improve the world. Most of us let Rotary move us forward, and we are grateful for the experiences. Someone told me one time, "If you're grateful, you're rich. If you're not grateful, you're not

rich.” That’s easy, it seems to me.

Want to expand your lives exponentially? Stepping into leadership positions in our lives—whether in the United Way, in a Boys and Girls Club, or in Rotary—gives us the best shot to grow in ways we never knew were possible. It’s true that it gives us a great chance to *increase* our worries and anxiety, but the result is that we’re able to strengthen our ability to deal with both. After a stressful leadership role, we gain an internal pleasure by knowing we’re better able to cope with the inevitable problems that crop up in our lives.

Move forward! The best is yet to come! Save your forks!



## Taking Credit

Bud Biery (China Lake) teaches the *Leading With Vision* class in Basic PRLS. To an attentive group in Bakersfield a couple weeks ago, he said that maybe the biggest mistake a leader can make is to take too much credit for the actions started or completed during his or her year in the barrel. In fact, a good leader never takes credit.

Bud has had a lifetime of one kind of leadership position or another, and he knows that the people who most quickly gain trust, loyalty, excitement and energy in an organization are those who pass on the credit to the people who have really done the work — even though the ideas may have come from

the fertile brain of an imaginative club president.

I read somewhere once that giving credit to others is the only personal thing we can do besides raising good kids that will bring us automatic rewards. The credit one passes out comes back ten-fold!



## Deeds

### The Wisdom of Rotary

**Presidents:** “Rotary is a social mechanism that enables many men who will never be known to fame to translate into deeds their soul’s sincere desire.” (Armando de Arruda Pereira, *The Rotarian* Feb. 1941)

It’s easy for most people to tell exactly when they first became a *real* Rotarian, as my second Rotary Club president often said. Sometimes it happens at a District Assembly (as it did to me), at a District Conference, out of the blue during a regular club meeting, while visiting a potential Rotary project in a foreign country— wherever and whenever it happens, it’s something most of us remember forever.

Furthermore, once you’ve caught the Rotary “disease,” chances are you’re never going to lose it. Sharon Girod (China Lake), during her *Communications* class in the Basic PRLS session in Bakersfield last month, called it an “Aha!” moment.

Catching the fever and doing your first overt deed to help someone else are sometimes

synonymous in time and location. For the truly lucky ones, that’s the way it is. One my club members made a trip to Honduras earlier this year with some Rotarians who were already bitten with the “deeds” virus. He told me when he returned that he felt he had been wasting his time in Rotary all these years, because when he “got it,” it was a big time conversion.

What’s all this have to do with leadership? Well, the Honduras traveler was my club’s president a few years ago. The following year’s president went along, too but he had been converted years ago and didn’t need any further activation of his Rotary glands.

My club alone, never mind all the other clubs lucky enough to have the same sort of situation, had two great years of motivated leadership. That translated into, well, I don’t know, District Awards? A membership increase. The retention of some of our members who might otherwise have left us.

When anyone gets a chance to “translate into deeds their soul’s sincere desire,” watch out! You’re looking at a pot waiting to boil over and blow off the roof!!



## Kindness

Kindness is overrated. The Bible says (Colossians 3-12) “...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Well, I'm not going to take on the whole world of goodness and compassion, but I do have a word or two to say about "kindness."

It seems to me that if you're kind:

- People will first see you as a mark.
- People will try to take advantage of your character.
- People will make inappropriate demands on you.

On the other hand, kindness creates a nicer community. By being what we are, we lead the way by setting the example and the standard for others. I see that as Rotary being the world model for how we deal with other people in other countries.

A kind person is probably:

- Sensitive. A kind person notes the hopes, goals and dreams of others more readily. One of the reasons we have such a hard time finding new members is that we don't think we're able to ask, "What do you want Rotary to do for you?"
- Sympathetic
- Truthful
- Responsive. This is maybe the biggest enemy in business. There's an opportunity, and we miss it.
- Supportive. We're normally at a loss for an opportunity to compliment someone.
- In most cases, we are a model for kindness because we, more than most, understand what it means to others.



## New Basic PRLS Graduates

The sight appearing before PRLS Director Bonnie Cameron (Cambria) and her husband Dick (Cambria), the incoming PRLS Registrar, and Site Coordinator Mark Hahs (Bakersfield West) was a room full of eager faces.

On March 2, at Kern Bridges Youth Home's classroom in Bakersfield, instructors Bud Biery (China Lake), Sharon Girod (China Lake), Kim Woods (Westlake Village Sunrise), Stewart Fries (Solvang) and Jock MacKenzie (Westlake Village) passed on some of their Rotary knowledge to the now-graduates.

A highlight of the day was the receipt by Bud Biery (China Lake) of his PRLS Instructor hanger. Bud joins the chosen few who are licensed to drive hundreds of extra miles, give up more and more weekends, and impart "the Word" to the fresh faces of those in attendance.

Completing the one-day course covering such basics as Leading With Vision, Communi-cations; Rotary, Your club and You; Leading a Meeting; and Introduction to Public Speaking,

were the following:

- From Bakersfield: Howard Eddy, Marlene Heise
- From China Lake: Barbara Butler, Jennifer Kuhlman
- From Frazier Park: Judy Cadman, Deborah Turner
- From Tehachapi: Sherill Cruz, Karen Hazelhurst, Jerry Hildreth, Tim McLaughlin
- Mark Moore, Tim Trujillo

From Pismo Beach: Terry Fibich  
 From Tehachapi Interact: Paige Halstead, Blaine Hartsock  
 Dylan Welch  
 In a short ceremony, PRLS Director Cameron awarded Rotary pins, each containing a pearl as a center insert, to the new graduates.



## Why I'm in Rotary

By Sherrill Cruz (Tehachapi)

*Editor's note: Sharon Girod (China Lake), in her PRLS class on "Communications," asked her students to "tell your Rotary story." This is one of the submissions.*

I am a Rotarian because every successful person I've ever encountered proudly has the words "Rotary International" in his/her resume or biography. The community service element is an incredible worldwide connector.

I am proud to be a Rotarian because of its ethics and Four-Way Test as a way of living.



## Master PRLS Graduates' Forum

After a short hiatus, the Master PRLS Graduates' Forum has been rescheduled for May 26, with the specific times and location yet to be determined.

This annual gathering of Master PRLS Graduates, comprised arguably of the most avid Rotarians in the world of Rotary, will help determine the

course of our district over the years.

Typically, every past gathering has come up with innovative solutions to some of the most vexing problems we have. As a result, district policies have been changed, additional training and educational events have started, district leaders have been motivated to stretch their wings further than might otherwise have been the case.

There are Master PRLS graduates belonging to clubs in the districts surrounding us. They will also be invited, giving everyone a chance to cross-pollinate

Saving the best for last, the gathering is totally funded by the PRLS program – the only district-wide event so endowed.

**What will we talk about?**

- The results of this year’s Rotary-wide Council on Legislation, held in Chicago 22-28 April, with our own PDG Brenda Cressey as this district’s representative.
- The 2008 Los Angeles International Convention, shaping up as one of the best ever, anyplace, anytime.
- “Where Rotary is Going”
- “Where The Rotary Foundation is Going”
- Where We’re Going Next Year”
- “What We’ve Done This Year”

**Who will be there?**

- Rotary leaders representing the last ten years in our district.
- Rotary leaders representing the next three years in our district.

- Though they have yet to be asked, never mind accepting the invitation, we’re trying to get one past RI Director and the incoming RI Director for the West Coast to attend.
- Though he has neither been invited nor has he accepted (of course), we will be trying to get a current Rotary Foundation Trustee to attend.

**What will it amount to?**

Maybe not a hill of beans. Probably, though, as did its predecessors, this iteration will change our district and, with any luck, Rotary itself, for many years to come.

Come be a part of this self-determining day, and get a leg up on the future of Rotary in this part of the world.

At the most recent District Team Training Seminar, in trying to answer the question, “What can we do to improve attendance at district events?” one discussion group answered, “We’ve been announcing the events. What we should be doing is *promoting* the events.”

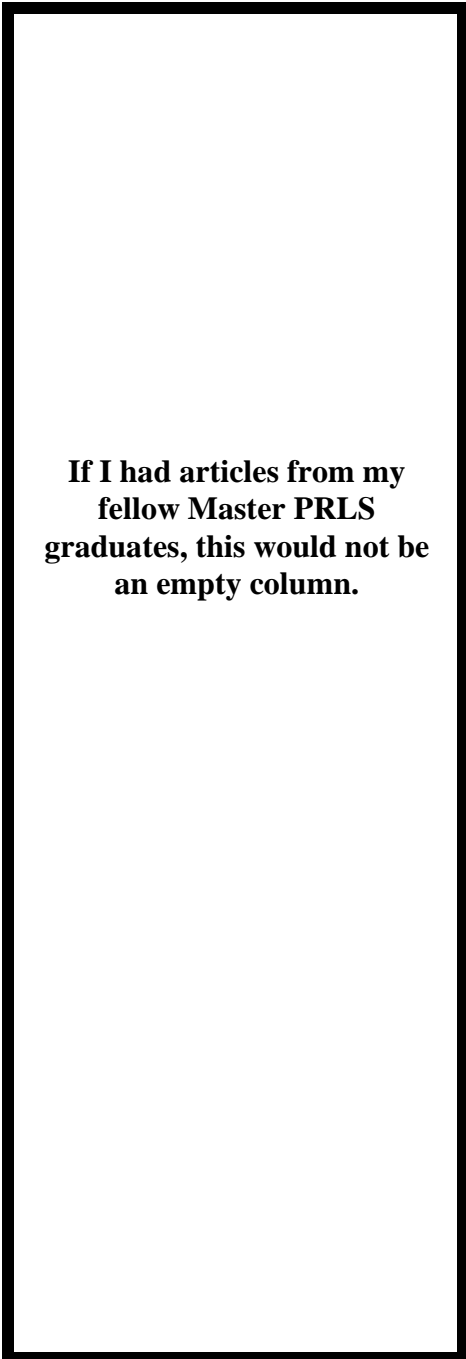
Consider this as the first phase of promoting the event.



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**If I had articles from my fellow Master PRLS graduates, this would not be an empty column.**