

The Strand

The Newsletter of PRLS

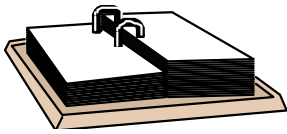


SERVICE Above Self

Volume 7 Issue 3

July 1, 2005

PRLS Calendar



- July 16 Basic PRLS, Mid-State Bank, Cambria
- Aug. 6 Master PRLS 1, (Public Speaking 1) The Hamlet, Cambria
- Aug. 13, 20, 27 Membership Seminars (San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Bakersfield areas)
- Aug. 20 Basic PRLS, Thousand Oaks area
- Sept. 10 Master PRLS 2 (Public Speaking 2) The Hamlet, Cambria
- Sept. 24 Master PRLS 4 (Situational Leadership) Mid-State bank, Cambria
- Oct. 1 Master PRLS 3 (Facilitation Skills) Mid-State Bank, Cambria
- Oct. 8 Master PRLS 1 (Public Speaking 1) Thousand Oaks area



Want to be an in-print author? Send your "Strand" contributions by e-mail to rbm717@adelphia.net.

Joy to the World (4)

Six months or so ago we were talking about bringing joy to the world, and we mentioned that there were three identifiable barriers to finding that joy: worry, boredom and selfishness.

For those who didn't see the original article, let me repeat what I wrote about selfishness:

Selfishness. Some say, "I have the means, I have the time, I have the energy to do anything I want to do. With the help of my friends in Rotary, I'm able to do meaningful things for others. That gives me pleasure, and in most cases pleasure is my only reward for all my work. I love it!" Others, who possess this barrier to joy big time, feel that humanity owes them, and they wait in their small negative worlds for the first payment. Know anyone like this? Can we—should we—expose them to these words spoken by Albert Adams in 1919-20? "The great thing that Rotary is doing for Rotarians is furnishing the opportunity and creating the desire to 'do something for somebody else.'" Is there a chance that selfish people would heed Adams' idea? Sure. Give it a try.

To our undeniable selfishness, Rotary brings friendship. We can't learn *not* to be selfish except through contact with others. Three months ago, as part of the continuing series of Club Management Tips, there was a piece entitled, "We Are Social Animals," giving ideas to clubs having trouble with their social calendars. After helping others, we become more interesting to ourselves. Rotary invites our contributions!

Do an active club social schedule and the friendships we make through our projects kill off selfishness? Not in this world! Do they help? Count on it.



New PRLS Graduates

Completing Basic PRLS just prior to the District Assembly in Camarillo in April were:

Judy Salamacha (Goleta Noontime), **Alice and Lee Gardner** (Ojai West); **Steve Adams, Mike Frederick** and **Keith Slocum** (Pismo Beach/Five Cities); **John Stipicevich** (SLO Daybreak), **David Velarde** (Santa Barbara Sunrise), **David Wyatt** (Santa Ynez Valley), **Jason Smith** and **Carol Schreiber** (Thousand Oaks)

Oaks), **Jan Feingold** (Ventura Marina), **Travis Guse** (Westlake Sunrise), **Kent Campbell** (Ventura South), **Mark Dickenson** (Simi Sunset), **Brigid McCarthy** (Santa Paula Ambassadorial candidate).

In addition, there were fourteen attendees from District 5260, which is gearing up to start that district's very first leadership program.

The instructors included **Steve Goad** (China Lake), **Kim Woods** (Westlake Sunrise), **Les Esposito** (Montecito), **David Rachford** (Santa Barbara), and **Jock MacKenzie** (Westlake Village).

The next Basic PRLS class is scheduled for July 16 at the Mid State Bank branch in Cambria, where the Site Coordinator will be **Bonnie Cameron** (Cambria).

Encouraging New Members

A young friend of mine, Bruce, had a birthday party for his three-year-old, and to entertain the honoree and his many age-similar friends, Bruce hired a professional clown, someone of great positive renown in our community.

When the clown appeared at the front door, dressed in his funny clothing and made-up features and ready for his show, though, the kids started to cry.

They were not only scared of the clown, they didn't understand what was going on.

Bruce was, of course, devastated that he had thought

to do something special for his son and friends, and it had all turned out wrong.

In a way, that's how it is for first-time attendees of District Assemblies, PRLS, Mid-Terms Membership Seminars and the other District-level gathering events. They're frightened of the process because they don't understand what's going on; they don't see what completion of the events means to them or to their clubs.

Since fear blots out all other emotion, and even some common sense, attendees at these District events lose the memory of why it was that someone encouraged them to go see what's going on. Until they get comfortable with the process about half way through any session, therefore, attendees take no notes and are easily sidetracked by any small interruption in the session. They don't understand. "We're here to help you" sounds too much like the cliché we've all heard concerning the IRS.

Good club leadership can turn that fear around into an active expectation of quality instruction and subject matter of solid value to the club. It takes just a few extra sentences coupled with a smile or two, and attendees at District events pay attention right from the start. They return to their clubs chock full of enthusiasm to start "their" year.

The Membership Seminars will be put on in August. There are the usual trite reasons for not attending. Just sitting here I

thought of four excuses. None of the excuses pertain, though – not "I've been to one of them already;" nor "It's going to be the same-old, same-old;" "I'm not going to be sponsoring any new members;" "I've sponsored 37 members. What are they going to show me that I don't already know?"

Make up your mind to go, whether those in club leadership positions ask you to or not. The Seminars aren't really about membership; they're about introducing you (again) to why you joined Rotary in the first place.

Master PRLS Graduates **Leigh Nixon** (Simi Sunrise) and **Kelley Gilliland** (Simi Sunset) are putting on the Seminars this year.

Go.

Tugged Again

We in Rotary are oftentimes torn between two tugs of war, each yanking at our resources. We're asked to donate our time and money to help mankind," while at the same time we're tugged by our jobs and families to help them.

Mary of us give Rotary none of what it expects; many of us are not that enchanted with what Rotary does with its resources. When was it any other way in any organized effort?

Our children are not uniformly beautiful, smart, athletically gifted or ambitious. Our employees or coworkers

are not always courteous, cheerful or organized.

In any effort to which we've pledged ourselves we run across challenges similar to the professional personal trainer who, when we're physically beat and can't lift even one more ounce, says "Now give me two more reps;" or says "Now let's go another quarter mile." And somehow, we find the strength and the fortitude to tough it out for the additional effort.

What do we do with the conflicting pressures? Well, we each set our own priorities. We all know that.

Are we torn sometimes over our ultimate decisions? Most times. Can we function anyway? Oh, yes!

And so our families thrive, our businesses prosper, and Rotary goes on to new heights of service.

That's the way it is, and that's the way we are — caring, careful people whose priorities are our own. From each part of our lives we find the strength to make reasonable decisions. Can Rotary help? Yes. Absolutely, yes.

May it ever be so.

New Master PRLS Graduates

There were two sessions of Master PRLS 5 (The Final Problem) in May — in Arroyo Grande and in Thousand Oaks. Completing the grueling full-year program of training were: **Sharon Ellenson** (Arroyo Grande), **Megan Cooper** and **David Migocki** (Camarillo),

Don Balfe and Nancy McKarney (Cambria), **Glenn Baldwin and Bill Mueller** (Cambria Centennial); **Roxanne Nomura, Wade Nomura and Janice Sugiyama** (Carpinteria Morning); **Rick Ferris** (China Lake), **Bill Shiells** (Fillmore); **Eloise O'Shields, Don and Ruth Gunderson, and Linda Roberts** (Fillmore Sunrisers); **Sue Reardon** (Lompoc), **Steve Bellamy** (Montecito), **David Bagwell** (Moorpark), **Bob Fonarow** (Paso Robles), **Lennie Confer** (Port Hueneme), **Amy Kardel** (San Luis Obispo); **Lori Brown, Ralph Kleemeyer and Phyllis Tewfik** (Simi Sunset); **Peyton Glover, Mark Jaffe and Sandra Schmidt** (Westlake Village).

The next Master PRLS session will be August 6 at The Hamlet in Cambria. Site Coordinator will be **Bonnie Cameron** (Cambria).

Making Use of Past Officers

The Wisdom of Rotary Presidents: "Let's make more use of our past officers..." (Will R. Manier, Jr., in *Rotarian* July 1936)

It's virtually a truism in every club: Not only do some past presidents desire *not* to be bothered with mundane jobs ("I've done my time; leave it to the younger folks."), they will not do a good job on something if you ask them; or they'll accept a club job, then not be active in the position.

It's *not* a truism, in most cases. In club after club, most past presidents were, are and will remain the backbone of Rotary and the solid rock of the club.

There are those, of course, who haven't yet come into this century. There are those who long ago decided that Rotary was a social event, not a calling. Every once in a while you run into one who wants the prestige of being yet again a member of the Board of Directors, but doesn't want to do any substantive work in support of his yet-again position.

What can you do? You can deal with them as individuals, not as a class of prehistoric artifacts. Separate out the ones who will work from those who won't; find out who wants a position, but doesn't want the labor that goes with the position; glean out those for whom Rotary is their entire social life, not to be confused with the responsibility of participating in club events of a non-social nature; finally, identify those who will work — *hard* — and whose Rotary principles are still intact.

Then, get on with it!

Is It July Already?

Our clubs are under new management. By the time you get this, the old rascals will have been thrown out and the new ones will be in office.

You don't like what happened in your club last year? Now's your chance to step in to fix what you perceive to be wrong.

You're really pleased with what your club was able to accomplish last year? Now is your chance to step in to continue what went right.

You're not at all impressed with those entrusted with this next year's leadership? Now is the time to step in to protect your club against the possibility of a bad year.

Whatever the case may be, make a personal decision to step in this year. Fix, continue or protect — when you get down to it, it's all the same thing in the end. You, personally, benefit no matter what happens. Your club benefits no matter what your motives might be. Service Above Self isn't just a wild slogan invented by some geriatric Chicago-area males one hundred years ago.

It's the way to mature in our lives, to age gracefully and gratefully, and to receive the (usually) unspoken regard and thanks of our fellow citizens.



How to Get Rid of a Disruptive Member

At one time or another, in most small clubs, one member “loses it” and decides, for whatever reason, to disrupt the club. There are a number of possible reasons for his decision, of course, among which can be:

1. He (so far in this district it's always been a “he”) determines by his own standards that the club “isn't being run right.” Procedures aren't according to what he's familiar with, and he wants the “old ways” returned.

2. A new member has been accepted by the club, the older member takes umbrage with the acceptance, and decides to be irritatingly and frequently vocal with his dissatisfaction.

3. He has proposed something to the club; the club has turned his proposal down, and he expresses his displeasure loudly and often, many times in open meetings.

In a small club, one member with his mouth open like that can cause others to become disappointed with the club leadership's failure to control meetings. The very vocal member can antagonize even the most patient of other members. The result will be, of course, that meeting attendance will drop, members will stop sponsoring new members to the club, and eventually even the most dedicated Rotarians will look elsewhere for their social and community activities.

What are you going to do? You're going to look in the Manual of Procedure, in the Standard Club Constitution, Article XI (Membership), Section 5 (Termination, Other Causes) and you're going to do what it says. Are you going to take heat? Count on it. Will the loud-talking member have friends who will leave if he's booted out? Yes, he will. Will it hurt the club in the short term? Absolutely.

But – BUT – will it be in the best long-term interest of the club to take that action? Well, that's the critical question, isn't it? There is precedent for getting rid of people who determine that Rotary is somehow their private platform,

that they have a Rotary responsibility to “stick up for their rights.” And that's true, of course—but not when it affects the survival of a club. Then, it becomes everyone else's platform and, with determination and adroit handling, the disruptive member is gone, never to darken the Rotary door again.



Changes in the Wind

It's not appropriate to let the month pass without recognizing some changes that will have happened by the time this issue arrives in your mailbox.

Though District Education and Training personnel don't rotate nearly as often as other staff positions, from time to time it happens, and this year's changes are a little more dramatic than ever before.

Leaving the PRLS Registrar position is **Mary Howard** (Camarillo), who has done this for two years and would only be leaving because she's now the President of the Rotary Club of Camarillo, and didn't feel she could be effective holding both jobs at the same time.

Replacing her is one of the new MPRLS graduates noted on page 3, above, **David Migocki** (Camarillo), who will also take up editing the PRLS Website.

Relieving the Southern Area Site Coordinator, **Jock MacKenzie** (Westlake Village) is **Mary Howard** (Camarillo), who will be donating six Saturdays of her life each year to seeing that PRLS events in her part of the District are staged correctly.

Bonnie Cameron (Cambria) will remain the Northern Area Site Coordinator for the PRLS program, and will also keep her Governor's Group Representative's job.

Assuming the PRLS Director's slot will be **Stewart Fries** (Solvang), vice **David Gore** (Goleta Noontime).

Sliding head-first into the job of being the District Education and Training Director will be **Steve Goad** (China Lake) filling the position held for three years by **Dick Wieler** (Thousand Oaks).

Moving into run Mid-Term Seminars will be Co-chairs **Dick Wieler** (Thousand Oaks) and **Tony Huff** (Camarillo Break-fast).

We've had some great years under the leadership of the outgoing office holders. Better years are coming. Count on it!

The Way It Is Now

Job changes on District Staff are not only inevitable, they're expected. Sometimes the new people do better than the old; sometimes not. But what happens when the outgoing office holders are the best we can imagine, and their replacements may be even better?

David Gore was only the second person to hold the job of PRLS Director. During his five-year tenure, we've seen the PRLS program, started by us in this District twelve years ago, grow from one district to seven. We've gone from about eight instructors to around twenty, and the curriculum has

improved tremendously. Roughly one-third of the District has passed through the program, and almost 300 of those have become MPRLS graduates. Most of the attendees at District events are PRLS graduates. Nearly every meaningful District job is held by Rotarians who have shown their commitment by completing MPRLS. Part and parcel of the visible successes of the program has been **David Gore**. We'll miss him in that position.

Dick Wieler was only the second person to hold the job of Director of Education and Training – three years of dealing with PETS, Mid-Terms, PRLS, PE's Retirements, Membership and Foundation Seminars, RYLA, MPRLS Graduates' Forums, District Assemblies and District Conferences have proven that one with both a family and a demanding job can do everything all at once! The complications and fine judgments connected with each of the named events would task Job himself. Dick has been a class act through it all. He moves on to become only the second District Personnel Director, a position still being defined.

Steve Goad is a legend. In addition to daunting community and personal responsibilities in Ridgecrest and other parts of the Naval world, in Rotary he has been everywhere and done everything in the District's leadership programs almost since their inception. He has taught nearly every different PRLS and MPRLS class. He

has led and/or participated in every leadership event the District has sponsored since we were the first in all of Rotary to start all these programs. As only the third person to hold this job in the history of the District, he will be a worthy successor to **Dick Wieler**, whom he replaces. One factor that probably won't change involves the thousands of miles he drives annually to help with the District's activities.

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