



Annual Reunion of Rotary International Past Officers San Diego, 16-18 January 2016

San Diego Rotary International Assembly - 18-24 January 2016

The Reunion Wheel

Saturday, January 16, 2016

Annual POR Banquet

The 14th Annual POR Banquet was called to order at 1900 hours by PDG Dick Thorn. He introduced POR Chair PDG Philippe Lamoise who then welcomed over ninety banquet attendees, followed by PDG Marty Peters' Thought for the Day: The Fruit of Silence is prayer; the Fruit of Prayer is Faith; the Fruit of Faith is Love; The fruit of Love is Service; the fruit of Service is Peace (Mother Theresa from Calcutta, India).

After dinner, past RI Director Ron Beaubien, Aide to John Germ, RI President-Elect, introduced John:



Germ joined Rotary in 1976 and has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, aide to the Foundation trustee chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, RI Board Executive Committee member, RI president's aide, Council on Legislation representative and chair, membership zone coordinator, chair of numerous committees, area coordinator, RI training leader, and district governor. He is a recipient of the Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award and the Arthritis Foundation Circle of Hope Award. In 2013, the White House recognized him as a Champion of Change.

Germ has received RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are Benefactors and members of the Arch Klumph Society of The Rotary Foundation.

John spoke about the need to build the future with action and vision, noting that Helen Keller once was asked what her feeling were about being blind and responded that "the worst thing than blindness is to be able to see without having vision." Noting that Rotary is all about Service, John said that we Rotarians should be looking forward to an exciting year ahead in 2016, since it's the year when we all can celebrate the last case of polio. This year represents a great opportunity for us Rotarians to be able to talk about when it was Rotary's idea to eradicate Polio. We promised the children of the world that we would eliminate polio so that no child would ever have to fear being

crippled. This Rotary year represents the 100th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation, an endowment created by Arch Klumph for the purpose of doing "good" in the world.

As Rotarians, we have to continue to find ways of being creative; needing to "think outside the box." We have to find ways of giving Rotarians opportunities to form new clubs; to show Rotarians ways and means to give back to our communities. As John pointed out, each of us became a Rotarian because some Rotarian believed in us and invited us to join him at a Rotary meeting.

Concluding his remarks, John stated that each of us doesn't have to travel very far in our communities to see that there are people who cannot read nor write or that their children are cold and hungry. We Rotarians, he said, need to commit to a stronger involvement of our club's involvement in the community in order to become more successful and to guarantee continuity of this success. We PDG's in attendance here need to provide the guidance and leadership to newer Rotarians to guarantee continual membership growth and participation in local projects. He thanked all PDGs for having been involved now and that he hopes that we would continue to be involved in the future.

Introduced by PDG Jim O'Meara, Violetta Petrova, concert pianist from Bulgaria and Rotarian who now lives in District 5340, provided the after dinner entertainment playing two Chopin pieces.

The evening's program concluded with two in Memoriam presentations moderated by PDG Philippe Lamoise.



PDG Anne Fisher gave a tribute to Tony Brockington, who "...passed in March 2015, after an illness that showed itself in 2013. He worked the POR when it was still in Anaheim and continued to San Diego, meeting monthly with the planning team. I worked for Tony for 22 years – and I will share with you he was not a Common Man." From a plaque hanging behind Tony's Office Desk:

"It is my right to be uncommon...if I can; I seek opportunity...not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed.

I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the state of utopia.

I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout.

I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat.

It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself; enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done.

All this is what it means to be an American. ---Thomas Paine, Author of "Common Sense"

The Memorial Plaque was graciously accepted by Ruth Brockington.



Tribute to Barry Smith by PDG Ed Charlesworth:

Editor's note: the following [obituary](#) was submitted by Sandy Springs Chapel.

J. Barry Smith: January 26, 1936 – November 24 2015.

Barry was born in Manchester, England, and married his beloved wife Vivian on Sept. 13, 1958, and they were married for 57 wonderful years filled with love, adventure and happiness. In November 1958 they immigrated to Canada.

Barry soared with the eagles as he rode the thermals in his glider. He explored many exciting places as he flew his Turbo Lance to as far away as Mexico and Alaska and rented a plane in Australia where he climbed Ayers Rock and dove on the Great Barrier Reef.

Barry was an electrical engineer and in Canada he worked for Brook Motors and then was transferred to Chicago Illinois. Later he was employed by Fairbanks Morse as regional manager in Philadelphia. In 1970 he moved back to Chicago to work for Toshiba where he made many friends on his visits to Japan. Finally in Chicago he was vice president and general manager for Leroy Somer.

While in Chicago he became a proud citizen of the United States. A great change came in 1976 when he formed his successful business, Power Systems Engineering, which he headed for 39 years. His spiritual journey in the U.S.A. began at St. Giles Episcopal Church in Northbrook, Illinois, where he served on the Vestry.

Upon moving to Atlanta he was senior warden, Sunday school teacher and Lay Eucharistic minister. Presently he is a Deacon at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church where he joined many friends on Mission trips to Mexico and worked at Thornwell Home for Children in South Carolina.

As a youth in England he was a Boy Scout and in Canada as a Scout Leader. In Chicago he served as assistant district commissioner. He earned his wood badge and the family visited Philemon Scout ranch in New Mexico where he took more training in leadership. His greatest passion, after his family, was Rotary International where as a member of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs. He served as president and had perfect attendance for 37 years.

He served as district governor in 1995-96 and the theme for that year was "Act with Integrity, Serve with Love and Work for Peace." He certainly lived up to those principles. As a representative of Rotary he was co-chairman for promoting literacy throughout the world. He also visited orphans in South Africa and served on a medical mission in Kenya. He was awarded Rotary's highest honor, the Service above Self medal.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vivian; daughters Jacqueline (Kory), Christine (Allen) and Deborah Rachel (Garrett); 12 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; his sister Jennifer; brother Neville and brother and sister-in-law, David and Brenda.

The Memorial Plaque was graciously accepted by his wife, Vivian, with moving remarks about Barry.