

ROTARY CLUB OF HAYWARD

High  Gear

May 18, 2009
Volume 85, Issue #90
Editor: Norma Rees

No meeting next week - Monday, May 25th



Happy Memorial Day



President John Caldwell called the meeting to order, reminding us that it was the 42nd meeting of our 87th year! The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by **Bob Goetsch**. **Norma Rees** and **Chuck Horner** led us in God Bless America. **Sara Lamnin** gave us the Thought for the Day: “To regret one’s own experiences is to arrest one’s own development. To deny one’s own experiences is to put a lie into the lips of one’s own life. It is no less a denial of the soul.”

Visiting Rotarians: Lorin Gillespie, Nick Leon, Ruth Ashford, and – Bob Tucknott!

Guests: Alvin Camarena, guest of **Ed Bullok**; Sharon Van Brunt, guest of **President John**.

Norma and **Chuck** led us in Hello! and This Land Is Your Land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President John told us that the Hayward Rotary Foundation Board will meet this Wednesday at noon at **Tony Varni’s** office; the Board of Directors will meet Thursday evening at St. Rose Hospital (new members especially should attend, so let **Mona Diamantine** know if you plan to be there). The Rodeo was a great success, with a good turnout and a possible record for sales. **President John** thanked **Lee Tompkins** for providing the sound equipment to entertain 40 CSUEB international students after the Rodeo! Cliff Sherwood of the Castro Valley Club provided the food from the Rodeo, and all celebrated with a line dance!

President John asked Rodeo booth chairs to recognize the “heavy lifters” who did great jobs at the Rodeo: **Mona Diamantine** recognized the great workers at the West Booth, and the Interactors who worked very hard; **Tom Gratny** for workers at the Nacho Stand; **Dave Elkins** for everyone who did such a great job; **Brian Schott** for everyone at the Main Booth, who did great in spite of the heat and the broken fan, and those who worked on Friday and Monday as well; **Ed Mullins** for the money team and the security team, wow! **Pam Russo** for the workers at the Beer Booth, amazing!

President John reminded us that it’s all about service, and everyone was there to work or support the effort with whatever contribution they can make, so all deserve congratulations.

Nick Leon told us about the Interact fundraiser. This year’s project is HydrAid, water purification systems in villages that lack clean water. A delegation is going to the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham, so tickets were sold for a drawing to help defray their travel costs. There are now over 6500 Interactors, even more than Rotary members in our area!

Norma Rees reminded us that next Sunday, May 24, is our turn to prepare and serve dinner at the Salvation Army, so please sign up!

PROGRAM: **John Wilma** introduced our speaker, Brigadier General Nickolas P. Tooliatos, Commander, 5th Brigade (BCST), 75th Division (BCTD). General Tooliatos graduated from Santa Clara University and was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate. While completing Law School he joined the Army Reserve and served in a variety of positions. He completed Command and General Staff College, and later completed War College and received a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies. He deployed for a short tour to Iraq with the Department of Defense Inspector General to assess the readiness of a fledgling Inspector General system in the Iraq Government in 2007. While there, he conducted extensive analysis within the Iraqi Ministries of Defense and Interior and the Joint Headquarters of the Iraqi military.

General Tooliatos was promoted to Brigadier General on 19 October 2007, and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award with six oak leaf clusters and many other medals and awards.

Have you visited our Website lately? www.haywardrotary.org

As a civilian, he is a partner of Randick O’Dea & Tooliatos, LLP, in Pleasanton, a specialist in probate, estate planning, and trust law. A warm welcome for a citizen soldier!



General Tooliatos said it was a pleasure to be with us, especially because Rotary understands the concept of service to the local and global community. He told us about the operationalization of the Army Reserve and National Guard, which since 9/11 have made a tremendous commitment of time. Before that, these soldiers were used to step in if needed and train new draftees, but now they are fully integrated into the entire effort. Army Reserve and National Guard members can now expect to be deployed about once every five years for up to a year. He asked that employers support them, because they are needed and upon return bring enriched skills and maturity to their employment.

When he was in Iraq he was greatly impressed by these young men and women (and he won’t call them kids). There are now 1.1 million soldiers on active duty from both groups, mostly deployed overseas, and the number may go up as we ramp up in Afghanistan. They are not only combat soldiers but also the logistics people. General Tooliatos also spoke about the Surge, saying that he thinks it was a military success but not successful in other ways – it did not produce reconciliation in the Iraqi government or an oil-sharing agreement, because the Iraqi government was not ready. But he hopes the Surge will turn out to have set the stage for the progress of the fledgling democracy, which may take up to five years because our concept of democracy is not that of Iraqis. For us, the Surge taught us more about soft power and security, and helped get to know the people. Progress is still to be made on the political side.

Q: What about Afghanistan?

A: That is tough, very different from Iraq. There are only three main population centers but many villages and tribal areas, and the border with Pakistan is a special problem. We are in for a long haul in Afghanistan; it is not as lethal as Iraq, but even harder with respect to political issues.

Q: Will the military approach be successful in Afghanistan?

A: It is harder to protect the many outlying communities there. The people do not necessarily have strong national feeling. Our goal is to help the government.

Q: Will we be able to train the Afghan forces so we can come home?

A: We have done a good job of that in Iraq.

Q: Will Osama bin Laden be captured?

A: It’s hard to find a guy in a country where we can’t send troops, like Pakistan. Maybe that guy was not the whole thing; we should get al Qaeda out of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Q: What is the future for our military?

A: The military will have to do more with less, because of the current economy.

Q: Are the numbers sufficient?

A: They complement the active components. For now the numbers are okay, and recruiting is going well.

Applause for our speaker!

President John told us that there will be no meeting on May 25, so the next meeting is June 1. He thanked our speaker, and guests and visitors, and adjourned the meeting.

District website: *(copy and paste this link into your web browser)*

<http://www.rotary5170.org/news/08-09/09-03-rotarypride-09.pdf>

Hayward Rotary Club Calendar

- May 25 **DARK - Memorial Day.**
- June 8 **Jay Holcomb - international bird rescue San Francisco Oiled Wildlife Care & Education Center (SFBOCEC).**
- June 22 **DARK - Demotion Evening Meeting.**

Need to find or confirm a Location?

Visit the District 5170 Website @ <http://www.rotary5170.org>



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