

ROTARY CLUB OF HAYWARD

High Gear



July 14, 2008
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Phyllis Moroney with Sergeant at arms pin



Phyllis Moroney puts Lamé Duck hat on Past President Ed Mullins



President John Caldwell with guest speaker D-Day historian Dave Behring.

The D-Day beaches of Normandy



L-R: President John Caldwell welcoming new member Bob Goetsch. Ed Mullins & Phyllis Moroney.

“Welcome aboard Bob”





Monday, July 14, 2008: The meeting of the Hayward Rotary Club was called to order by **President Caldwell** at 12:17 PM. **Wayne Wright** led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. **George Famous** led us in singing *America the Beautiful* and *Over There*, accompanied by **Anna Powers**. **Chuck Horner** provided a quote from Abe Lincoln: “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test his character, give him power.” **Andy Krake** introduced our visiting Rotarians – Dublin “President Extraordinaire” and electrical contractor Bob Tucknott, and RI strategic planning expert Ed Sanders from Pleasanton.

Norma Rees asks us to consider volunteering to prepare and serve dinner at the Salvation Army on Sunday, July 27th. We help provide a nutritious meal to many disadvantaged Hayward residents the fourth Sunday of each month. Look for the sign-up sheet next week. **Jim Wieder** invites us to join the Chamber of Commerce for a nine day post-Olympics adventure to China, beginning October 28th; a great value at \$1,599 featuring top rated lodging, meals, airfare, and tours. Contact tour director Caroline Sandoval at 510-415-4984 or carolinessandoval@gmail.com for more details. **Chuck Horner** shared information on the PC Clubhouse, a group dedicated to closing the digital divide. If you have any old computers, they are happy to take them for refurbishing and distribution to the community.

We are happy to welcome our first new member under Prez. John’s watch - **Robert (Bob) Goetsch**, classification Education Consultant, sponsored by **Past President Ed Mullins**. He was presented with a Blue Badge for his previous years of Rotary service.

President John recognized **Becky Avelar** for 6 years of Club service (\$6) and **Anna Powers** for 2 years of service (\$2). All members not wearing their Rotary pins paid \$3. We wished a happy anniversary (for the 2nd time) to **Don** and **Karen Mai**, with an apology for not recognizing Karen in the last *High Gear*. **Don** gave \$500 to the Polio Plus campaign, matched by **Phyllis Moroney** (\$100), **Anna May** (\$200), **Tom Gratny** (\$100), **Lee Tompkins** (\$100), and **Ken Meirovitz** (\$200), for a total of \$1,200, which satisfies the Club’s RI contribution for this year.

President John thanked all the members of the Demotion Dinner Committee for their hard work – it really paid off. **Phyllis Moroney** was elated to receive a Sergeant at Arms pin from **President John** – look out, there’s a new sheriff in town. She felt badly about not being able to attend the Demotion Dinner, so she presented **Past President Ed Mullins** with a lame duck hat he can wear with pride and wings flapping.

World War II vet **Nels Nelson** introduced today’s speaker, D-Day historian David E. Behring, pointing out that you really have to search for a WWII vet in our Club these days compared to when Nels joined.

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



There was a round of applause for the half dozen WWII vets in the room. Dave is President of the Wheelchair Foundation, since 2003, President of the Blackhawk Museum, Vice President of the Blackhawk Corporation, Past President of the Seattle Seahawks, and Past President/CEO of Great Bear Construction (go Bears!). Dave earned a degree in History at Princeton, where he cultivated his passion for military history. He also enjoyed playing football and rugby. He later studied law and became a member of the CA State Bar.



Dave Behring shared his vast knowledge of D-Day, as he took us on a fascinating tour of the beaches, battle sites, and memorials of the most important military offensives in history. During his research he traveled to Normandy and London, participating in D-Day re-enactments, interviewing veterans and other enthusiasts, and visiting every historical landmark imaginable. He mentioned that 1,200 WWII vets die each day, and recommends visiting the National WWII Museum in Normandy to help keep this vital history alive.

Dave shared his unique perspective on the military strategies used by all sides of the conflict, and how things could have changed direction had circumstances and subsequent decisions been different. For example, the weather was a big factor in determining the exact day of the June 6 landing. The allied forces used covert operations aimed at keeping Hitler guessing, such as fake broadcasts and Patton's phony army. This helped counteract Germany's technological superiority. Eighteen medals of Honor were awarded to US troops during this battle. Dave also showed us differences in several countries' D-Day memorials, with Germany's unmarked graves and black crosses; to France's descriptive, white markers; to the US's immaculate cemetery and grounds.

And now a little history from the Eisenhower Archives... The D-Day operation of June 6, 1944 brought together the land, air and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest invasion force in human history. The operation, given the codename OVERLORD, delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the codenames UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO and SWORD. The invasion force included (20,000 paratroopers, 11,000 aircraft, 6,000 ships, and 2 million troops) from eight allied countries. Almost 133,000 troops from England, Canada and the United States landed on D-Day. Casualties from the three countries during the landing numbered 10,300. By June 30th, over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on the Normandy shores. Fighting by the brave soldiers, sailors and airmen of the allied forces western front and Russian forces on the eastern front led to the defeat of German Nazi forces. On May 7, 1945, German General Alfred Jodl signed an unconditional surrender at Reims, France.

Our next meeting will feature Bernie Rosner, Retired General Counsel for Safeway, presenting "An Uncommon Friendship". Hope to see you on July 21.

Hayward Rotary Club Calendar

- July 21 **Bernie Rosner, Retired General Counsel for Safeway “An Uncommon Friendship”**
- July 28 **Past RI President Cliff Dochterman, When did you become a Rotarian?**
- Aug 11 **Dick Callahan, the voice of the Golden State Warriors.**

Need to find or confirm a Location?

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



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June 1, 1922 • California
Club No. 482

www.haywardrotary.org

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