

# Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Newsletter

June 19, 2017

## “Randy Gabe/Southwest Gas” – “From Wellhead to Burner Tip”

Presiding: President Rebecca Collett (FOR THE LAST TIME – YES, IT IS TIME TO TURN OVER THE REINS TO THE INCOMING PRESIDENT. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT HER PRESIDENTIAL YEAR WAS AWESOME AND ENDED WAY TOO FAST!)

Conducting: President Rebecca Collett

Invocation/Pledge: Ron Reynolds

Photos: Ted Henderson

Mr. Mic: Karl Maisner

Newsletter: Obadiah Dogberry

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PHOTOS FROM THE MEETING – Thanks Ted!

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### VISITING ROTARIANS:

None.

### GUESTS:

**Adrienne Cox** introduced her guest, Brian Forest (a former Rotarian from Texas), who is the west region representative for an orthopedic stem cell company.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Keith Thomas** announced that the club directors had approved a \$1,500 donation to assist in the fire debris cleanup in progress at the Zion United Methodist Church at Lake Mead and H Street. The church was destroyed in a fire on 6/6/17.

**Eric Colvin** announced Rebecca's debunking will be held Friday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Horse arena of Karen Goff's Home with a "Western" theme. NO HEELS (unless they are on cowboy boots!) RSVP by June 19. Anyone with good stories, please contact Eric ASAP. Valet parking available.

**Karl Maisner** announce that the Satellite Club meeting on Thursday has been postponed to 7/13 because of the debunking.

**Hank Falstad** announced that Rachel and her robotics team continue to receive accolades and will be competing internationally in the very near future. Our club has supported the team.

**Bruce Pope** announced that Tom Martin's knee replacement is now behind him (below him?) and he is recuperating nicely at home. Donna, wonderful person that she is, is probably spoiling him rotten. President Rebecca suggested a text bomb and Tom was flooded with good wishes.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**Ted Henderson** was presented with an award presented at District Conference (which unfortunately he was not able to receive at District Conference since he was unavoidably detained, or better said, alternatively occupied. But, we know Ted, and if he could have been there, he would have been there.) In any event, congratulations Ted on being named the Foundation Rotarian of the Year! (I'm not sure if that was just for our club, or for the district, or for the region, or for the whole world. Probably the whole world.)

**Cliff Silverstein** was recognized for an upcoming cruise to the Baltic States. He will be gone for 18 days, but will not pass "Go" and will not collect \$200. Unless, of course, he lands in the "Mediterranean".

**Ron Reynolds** was thanked for hosting (well, Manpower hosted, but Ron conducted) the annual board retreat to plan for his upcoming year as president. A great time was had by all (although I don't think I can say much about the Aloe Vera drink!) Lunch at Le Thai on East Fremont was a treat (although I don't think I can say much about the 5 mile walk to get there in the 115 degree heat!) President Rebecca also fined him \$100 for the huge article in the RJ about his son Dan/Imagine Dragons which just received an award in Canada for Best International Band and which will be appearing on 6/20 on the Jimmy Fallon show. The fine was offset somewhat by the presentation to Ron of a Rotary key chain.

President **Rebecca** thanked the club for wearing Rotary pins or Rotary shirts or otherwise displaying some Rotary insignia and asked if anyone was missing said paraphernalia. Seeing none, she thanked everyone for their diligence. As to diligence, she said there are some that haven't been so diligent in completing and submitting their surveys for the upcoming year.

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**JOKE OF THE DAY:** Doctor Scott was absent.

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**GIFTS FOR THE PRESIDENT:** Once again, none. (Rumor on the street is that the incoming president is going to be looking for "whistles" – more from him later on that - apparently.)

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**DRAWING:** Obadiah's number was "666" so he traded with Adrienne (since she always wins). Unfortunately, the winning number was "667" held by Marcia Rands. Also unfortunately, Marcia was seated at the same table as Adrienne so even though Adrienne was only one away, she didn't win.

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**PAY YOUR BILL!** It's really easy! Reminder: It is your duty to keep up to date on invoices and up-to-date bills will be sent to all members. The Club recently instituted on-site credit card payment so any member can pay their bill at any meeting. If you don't know how much you owe, just ask Elaine (she's keeping a list and checking it twice).

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**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION:**

Melissa Copeland Brooks was inducted by Jack Woodcock. See her induction presentation below. Rebecca was previously the LVSWR president during 2010-2011 but took a "vacation" to Texas for a few years but is now back home!

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**Upcoming:**

**June 26:** DARK (Debunking)

**July 3:** DARK (4th of July)

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**SPEAKER:** Our speaker was Randy Gabe, VP/Gas Resources at Southwest Gas, with a fascinating recounting of the history of natural gas; 1785-coal generated, 1816-used in Baltimore for street lights, 1859-first well oil and gas, 1885-Robert Bunsen invents the Bunsen burner which was a game changer, 1891-first pipeline from central Indiana to Chicago of 120 miles, 1920's-significant infrastructure construction, 1940's after way-welding advances facilitate pipelines, Now-300,000 miles of natural gas pipelines. Gas is odorless so sulphur is added and don't get any sulphur on you as you will smell for weeks. He told us a story of a worker who spilled some on his jacket and they could track him through the city as he returned home by the phone calls received complaining of the smell.

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION: Melissa Copeland Brooks**

Melissa is past president of the Las Vegas Southwest Rotary club in 2010-2011. She was in the insurance business with JPG, Jimmy Pettyjohn's company. He also was a former president of LVSW. Her roots with us run deep. She has been involved with many of our members since 1996. Her kids grew up working on Rotary projects.

In 2012, she felt the need to move to Texas to reconnect with someone she had barely met on one occasion. One might say that this person made quite an impression on her. She moved to a little town in Tomball Texas, just outside of Houston. Now Marshal Brooks, this mysterious man she moved to Texas to reconnect with, lived in Austin a couple hundred miles away. While there, she and Marshal got together and he moved to Tomball. In his job with Apple he can work from anywhere. His specialty is investigating fraudulent claims, he does that mostly online.

The entire time she was in Texas, she worked as the office manager with an oil and gas business called **MMR**. They were mostly in the instrumentation, precommissioning, commissioning and start up of oil refineries. The rest of the company actually built the plants. When Melissa initially took this job, she liked the person she went to work with because he reminded her of Jimmy Pettyjohn. However, he retired within a year or two. He was the highlight of her work at the company.

Her kids soon followed her. Both Chris, his family and Mitchell. Upon his arrival, Chris also got into the oil and gas business with MMR as well. Chris started working in the field and went to places like North Dakota and Oklahoma. He was no longer tied to Houston so his family decided to move back to Las Vegas. She and Marshal in turn followed them back.

Right after their amazing wedding in Belize, they sold their house and came back here in July of last year. The wedding was June 24th, the closing of the house was June 30th, and they arrived here July 3rd, 2016.

Soon she started to work at Rakeman plumbing as their controller and continues to work there. In the meantime, she went to Real Estate school and obtained her license which confirms what most people think, it is practically un-American not to have a Real Estate license. She is currently licensed at a REMAX franchise. She was her first client when she and Marshal bought their home from Richmond American.

She is currently in school working on her accounting degree. She is glad to be back to the sunny skies of Las Vegas. She missed all her friends especially those in our club. She is now ready to rejoin our family. She has already been involved with feeding the homeless and helped with the satellite club discussions. Let's welcome her back home to the Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club.