

# The Kiwanis Chronicles

**News of the Club and the Community it Serves**

**January 28, 2009**

**Volume 8-9, Issue 20**

**"A Record of Tomorrow's  
Good Fortunes"**



**Serving the Children of the  
World**

**La Mirada Kiwanis Club,  
La Mirada, CA**

## Angel Flight West

Our speaker of the morning was Alan Dias who was introduced by Dr. JERRY ROODZANT. Alan is the executive director of Angel Flight which is a volunteer group of pilots who provide trips to those in medical need. Many persons need to travel from home to a somewhat remote hospital for routine treatments of such diseases as cancer. This group of fliers provide this service to them at no cost.

Alan has been with the organization some sixteen years and has held a number of posts. He has over 1300 hours of flight time. He pointed out that the service they supply is for non-emergency use only. The flights are scheduled and in many cases the one using the service has to have a backup plan as some flights have to be canceled.

The organization began in 1983 and the first year flew 15 missions. Last year the total was over 4400. Their administrative budget now is over 41.2 Million. They cover the Western States of Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Southern California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming and they are broken into 14 wings, each with a wing leader. The patient needs to be ambulatory and to be able to get into the confines of a private airplane. The patient and its helper must have a medical release that says it is OK to fly in a non-pressurized aircraft.

The pilot needs personal information from the passengers such as weight as the pilot needs to know how much fuel he needs to make the flight and weight and its distribution forms a part of that calculation.

Angel Flight operates out of Santa Monica and has 8-9 employees. The needs are posted on the Internet and the pilots go on line to look for flights they can handle. The pilot supplies the plane, the fuel and all other costs associated with flying the airplane. The administrative costs are the only monies that must be raised.

Not all their patients are survivors and the pilots bond to their passengers to such an extent that a loss is deeply felt. They help bring assurance especially to the young passenger who is going to a hospital of which they are frightened. Some commercial airlines have recognized the efforts of Angel Flight and assist their efforts by allowing their commercial passengers to donate their flight miles to Angel Flight.

For more information log onto [www.angelflightwest.org](http://www.angelflightwest.org). We thank Alan for this little known group who do so much to help others.

## Sky Diving for Charity

Our very able Program Chairman schedules in a wide variety of speakers. Mostly they have to do with service to the community, nation or the world in one way or another. Each has decided how they will serve and how they will tell others of their service.

Once in a while we get one who has a fund raiser of some sort or another that is used to further their goals. Most of the time these fundraisers are golf tournaments or dinners; maybe a silent auction.

We recently had a speaker whose organization works to help our lungs. They, too, are having a fund raiser to commemorate their 100th anniversary. They have chosen an event which hardly would have been possible at the time they started. They are having a skydiving event and are asking for those with a certain derring-do in their makeup to try their hand at it.

In our own organization you might have guessed who raised his/her hand to apply for this somewhat scary event. Yep-none other than the Program Chair himself, Dr. JERRY ROODZANT.

The event will take place in February and we hope that Jerry will give us directions on where to greet him when he lands after his jump.

Meanwhile he is raising funds to cover what we think is to be used as a donation to to the American Lung Association for the "privilege" of making this jump. We don't think it is for an insurance policy.

If you have a few bucks that need to be a part of this up in the air event, toss them toward Jerry.

## January 21 Dollars and Nonsense

The meeting started with President DEBBIE SCHEIBEL asking new member TOM THORNTON to lead us in the Pledge. PAT RUIZ led us in "America" and Dr. JERRY ROODZANT gave the Invocation. When the bucks were to be intercepted, GERALD PEEBLER did the digging. He started with TED CEASU who gave for a great week, so far. REED TAYLOR gave for Art being back and to assure him he will be put to work. LOU PILTZ gave a can't remember dollar and one for new members Tom and Art. He added one for Jumping Jerry. TOM THORNTON gave for not remembering names. ART LESLIE gave a dumb dollar for those who jump out of a perfectly good running airplane. He added one for Reed lending him his Kiwanis pin. JOHN TOVAR gave for the new administration and for our new President. RUFFO ESPINOSA gave for his new endeavor at his rental and for Jerry's jump. He is thinking of running the Marathon.

Pastor JACK MIRANDA gave for everyone to rally around the President. TONY ARMAS gave for Jerry jumping, hoping he lands on his feet. RICH TRUJILLO gave for the tears in his eyes and for Kiwanis embracing the La Mirada Softball Tournament. PAT RUIZ gave for the amazing Club. JIM MCGIRR gave for the Ducks and for the Club. ANDREW LOMBARDO gave for arriving late and leaving early. GERALD PEEBLER gave for our two new members. DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for losing a good friend to cancer this week, for the Duck Race and for Gerald bringing in five new sponsors for the Race.

## Dentistry 101

It's back to basics for Dr. Mike Winter as he performs his artistry in the back country of India. His e-mails give just a glimpse of the difficulties encountered as he works as a part of a mission to India,

His first report told of getting to Bangkok and the 14 hour layover before flying on to India. He told of lost passports and cameras, They were found just in time. Sunday was a day of prayer and meetings before they left for a city called Mysore. Mike did a temporary filling on one of the worker's husbands. Monday brought out the need for work as they did lots of exams and pulled ten teeth.

The Doctors diagnosed diabetes, a gall bladder attack and gastritis. On Tuesday the clinic saw 437 patients and diagnosed more diabetes, open sore wounds, and worms. Mike extracted 15 teeth, working from nine to six with a five minute lunch break. Mike will have a lot of elaboration to give us about the personalities that became a part of his dental days. Flashlights became the source of light as power was sometime not available.

In their "vision center" one person fitted 95 pairs of glasses in one day and before the days were over, 450 were fitted. Mike has pulled 82 teeth and some ten temporary fillings were done. On the final day he said "No more cleanings-Only extractions." He gave out a lot of tooth brushes.

There were some AIDS patients who came for advice from the medical team.

Mike talked of the counseling that was done. Many are stories that have no ending; some can be helped. Some involve having enough food to feed the family. (One mother feeds her children first and she eats what's left.)

Mike is readying for his return which includes having to remember which side of the road to drive on.

## Spaghetti Dinner To Benefit Meals On Wheels

The Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Friday, January 30 in the Multi-Purpose Room of La Mirada High. LOU PILTZ is the Chair and will be needing everyone's help to continue making this a highly successful event. The Cloggers will be there. There will be a 50/50 drawing. The cost of the dinner is \$5.00 for adults, Seniors \$4.00 Children 6-12 \$3.00 and under 6 Free.

## Last Week's Who Am I?

About 30 years ago I sold life and health insurance for New York Life and Blue Cross.

I worked for La Mirada Gemco (Located where Home Depot is now.)

I lived in Crestline for one year in my teens.

Who am I?

Andrew Lombardo

## Who Am I?

I played baseball for the Cardinal and Gold.

I once pitched three no-hitters in a year.

I haven't grown an inch taller since I was thirteen.

Who Am I?

(Hint-Maybe this is a repeat Customer or possibly an evening member.)

## Some Trivia History

200 years ago, in 1809, James Madison was sworn in as President of the United States. There was a depression going on that was created by the United States passing an Embargo Act to stop trade with belligerent nations who were stopping American ships and "Shanghaiing" sailors for their own ships.

The embargo only hurt our nation and was ignored by others. Three years later the War of 1812 was fought to reconcile this problem.