

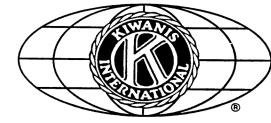
# The Kiwanis Chronicles

News of the Club and the Community it Serves

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



**Serving the Children of the  
World**

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

## A.C.T. (Attitude, Commitment, Traction)

President Debbie introduced our speaker of the morning, John Feeney. John is a founding member of the Pasadena Angels, an investment group. He was also the co-founder of Financial Industries Corporation and Central City Federal Savings and Loan. His education was received from St. Thomas Aquinas Preparatory School, Ohio State University, Notre Dame and American College. He is involved with a number of Community Activities.

John came to talk about the bottom line of a business, granting that this is a poor time to be talking about profits as it is hard to find profits in most businesses today. He told of the group called the Pasadena Angels which serves to help startup companies go public. They get information from those aspiring persons who are mostly young (as technology companies are in the forefront today). They help them form the company, invest in it and take the results to the venture capitalists.

He said that his talk is as old as Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" written in 1776 and as new as a book by Warren Buffet's partner, Charles T. Munger, called "Charlie's Almanac." He noted that throughout the last mentioned book, Warren Buffet gives critiques. It is a very funny book but full of good investment ideas. He also works with Charlie Coch as they mentor those looking for help in the startup world. John said that Charlie Coch is part owner of the largest privately owned business in the world, Coch Industries. Charlie Coch has also written a book called "The Science of Success." He noted that Charlie Coch is handicapped by being a graduate from MIT and if you ask an engineer the time, he will tell you how to build a watch. (The Web sites say that Coch is worth around \$17 Billion, so he probably knows how to build a pretty good watch.) If anyone is interested in helping others in this line of work they are encouraged to read this book.

John talks to students who are ready to graduate about finding a job in the finance world and they say "What about finding a job in any type business these days?" In trying to answer that he decided to turn the question into "What a business needs from an employee." The prospective employee needs to know what they need to do to make a business successful. He noted that Peter Drucker said that people are the most important asset a company has. He quoted that Small Business loses \$50 Billion a year in work related absenteeism. Small Business (Those who employ 25 or less) provides 75% of the employment in the United States. Other employee problems such as being late for work, hung over, stressed, also account for loss of work as these are more common than being absent.

He refers to his program as A.C.T. which is a solution for the human condition. What does it take to be a talented employee? It can be found in the reviewing of the words behind A.C.T., which is an acronym for Attitude, Commitment, and Traction.

Entrepreneurs are responsible for the success of a business. They hope to hire people who feel responsible for their business and who will perform to make it better. He talks to his own employees along these lines noting that if they perform better, they help themselves and are worth more to the company which could mean a raise for them. This means good attitude and good commitment.

The third part of the three legged stool is "Traction." You need traction to produce action and the three components lead to increased sales and profits. This makes for a synergism that produces results. He noted that we are the leaders in the world because we have free enterprise. Attitude is thinking and thinking makes it so. "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on my life." Life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. That is the good news and the bad news in that we have to take responsibility for it.

Commitment is how we react to a situation. It can move us from poor situations to an improved one. You are either moving ahead or just wasting your time. Traction is the energy, the passion, the action, which obtains the desired results.

John is a person one could listen to for hours as he tells it like it should be in the business world. Anyone wishing to contact John can do so at 626 440 0366 or online at [johnfeeney@global.net](mailto:johnfeeney@global.net). His web site is [feeneyfinancial.com](http://feeneyfinancial.com)

## February 4 Dollars and Nonsense

The morning meeting started with the Pledge led by TONY ARMAS. PAT RUIZ led us in "America, the Beautiful." GERALD PEEBLER came forward to lead us in the Peebler Discipline. When it came time for the bucks to be herded, GENE GLEASON tried his hand at roping. JOHN TOVAR gave a buck for El Camino School being burglarized and all locks having to be rekeyed. He added one for the great weather and for the budget not being passed.

Pastor JACK MIRANDA gave for El Camino, a wonderful place to gather. He added one for the Super Bowl and one for a great Club. PETER CHOW gave for the great turnout at the Spaghetti dinner and for the beginning of this year's Relay For Life that met at the La Mirada Golf Course. Over thirty people showed up to kick off the event.

DAVE TAYLOR gave for the late committee's weekly meeting in the parking lot and for his daughter being in Fiji. REED TAYLOR gave for Dr. Mike's India scrap book. (If you want a photographic album that has a lot of teeth in it, this one's for you.) GERALD PEEBLER gave for the Spaghetti dinner and explained the cane that he was sporting by telling us that he had a hernia operation some 45 years ago and he was bed ridden for six weeks. He had another one last Friday morning and was able to attend the spaghetti dinner that evening. (He had the cane only at the insistence of son, Scott.) He has been trapping for a raccoon and all he caught was a cat. (Lucky the cat didn't have stripes on it and take it from an old trapper, a skunk tends to go into the trap head first.)

HARLAN COMEE was happy to be here and see ART LESLIE. TOM THORNTON will not be here next week as he is following his baseball playing grandson on a road trip. LOU PILTZ gave for the safe return of an Iraq Pack, even though he put on the package "Give to the USO if not deliverable as addressed." He thanked everyone for all their help at the Spaghetti Dinner. TONY ARMAS gave a dollar because he's happy. STEVE FORSTER gave a "no pin" dollar, a late dollar, missed a few meeting dollars and a couple for no apparent reason.

Patrick Hang from the Key Club gave for attending his first Kiwanis breakfast and cousin Christina gave for getting Patrick to finally come to a Kiwanis meeting. MARK ROYSTON gave for the building to the southeast of the Holiday Inn that has been the recipient of some graffiti painting in sometime past. What intrigued him was the name on the front of the building, "World Décor." Maybe it's an acceptance of who we are. At the urging of the Environmental Manager, he added one for the new resurfacing of the street. (What he didn't mention was some graffiti that was painted on the street itself which, no doubt, will be gone next week.)

JIM MCGIRR gave a couple of happy dollars. AMY SCHEIBEL gave for the Spaghetti dinner as did Dr. MIKE WINTER. Dr. Mike is just about over his jet lag and predicts rain coming based on the fact he just washed his car. PAT RUIZ gave for the number of people who came out for the Spaghetti Dinner and for the great crowd that showed up at the Concert. She gave also for Pastor Jack not mentioning Kiwanis in a recent encounter with the Media. (Pastor Jack came up with some lame excuse, most likely brought on from the blisters on his toes that came from walking to the meeting.) DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for not having her badge, using as an excuse that it is in the auto repair shop along with her car. (She didn't say what could be wrong with her badge that would require servicing.) She added for the Spaghetti Dinner.

## Evening Meeting

The monthly evening meeting was called to order by Evening Chairman CHRIS STAPLES with ALAN MORRISON leading the Pledge and Pastor JACK MIRANDA giving the Invocation. The upcoming Kiwanis events were discussed and volunteered for.

The highlight of the evening was the induction of a new member, STEVE BLUNT. Steve is a part of the Edward Jones Investment Group as is his wife, Danielle.

Steve was born in Sydney, Australia and came to the United States about 11 years ago. He was educated as a Chemical Engineer. He has three children, all girls. We welcome Steve into the Club.



Steve Blunt receives his name badge and pin from President Debbie

## Last Week's Who Am I?

There is a poem written about me.

I worked in the early 80's with such notables as Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger), Tommy Lasorda and Chick Hearn.

My birthday yielded notional press.

Who am I?

Debbie Scheibel (And she brought the newspaper clippings to prove it.)

## Who Am I?

I received a scholarship to attend a music university upon my high school graduation.

I am holder of a U.S. Patent.

I once flew a bi-wing open cockpit airplane upside down.

Who am I?

(Don't forget the Evening members.)