



Bingo: Pet Sumner

Prayer/Pledge: Kent Huggins

Health & Happiness: Joel Long

Sgt.-at-Arms: Sara Brownlee

Welcome to our March 19th meeting We are glad you are here!



Wil Neumann & Steve D'Avria

March Birthdays

Jesse Cole- March 13th
Jay Falls- March 18th
David Kirlin- March 13th
Karl McKinnon- 31st
John Sarn- March 11th
John Stanley- March 2nd
Marian Taylor- March 6th



Member Anniversaries

Steven Cherry- 22
Ann Davis- 19
Steve Eaton- 8
Mark Epstein- 7
Mike Lands- 28
Doug Morgan- 2
Morgan Rhoney- 7
Jerry Roche- 16
Kirk Setzer- 19
David Smith- 29
Ash Smith- 14
Patrick Smith- 28
Fred Spach- 19
Trent Wilson- 18



Gastonia East Board Members

Morgan Rhoney, President Jennifer Purdee, Sargent-at-Arms Lindsay Nelson, Membership
Page Morgan, President elect Julia Allen, Service Chair Barry Wright & Mike Stanforth, Rotary Foundation
Jason Ramey, Secretary Chris McCallister, Interact Chair Kelly Morris, International Service
Steve D'Avria, Treasurer John Pea, Club Programs Chair Sonya McGraw, Immediate Past President

March 26 th	Jesse Cole, Author of Find Your Yellow Tux	
April 2 nd	Easter Monday – No Meeting	
April 9 th	Terry Cox, Techworks	Board Meeting
April 16 th	Interfaith Trialogue of Gaston County	
April 23 rd	The Tony's Ice Cream Story with Louis Colleta	
April 30 th	Oral Health Today – Will Current Jr., DDS	

Training the Next Rotary Generation

I was fortunate enough to serve as a training leader at this year's International Assembly, an annual training exercise for incoming Rotary leaders. It is a rarified atmosphere. All of us training leaders were well aware of both the privilege and responsibility wrapped up in the invitation to train the *next* generation of Rotary leaders.

There were 40 of us selected to serve, one from each Rotary zone and then a few extras for language needs. About a third were there for their second (and usually final) time. Valarie Wafer and her husband, Mark, from Canada were there for a second year. I also knew other Rotarian friends in the group, Rodolfo Bianchi from Guatemala and Stephen Mwanje from Uganda who I'd met through service activities in those countries; Peter Kyle from Washington, D.C. who I'd worked with on Rotary Peace Center matters, and Brian Hall from Louisiana who I'd met during a Friendship Exchange back in 2012-13.

Each of us first-years was paired with a second-year mentor, whose job it was to demystify the process. My mentor Nicki Scott from Chicago answered questions that ranged from how best to master the material to what to wear to avoid strangling oneself with the interpreter equipment.

We received the curriculum and training leader's guide just after Thanksgiving, and were strongly advised to be familiar and comfortable with *all* the material well before arriving in San Diego. So now you know how I spent my holidays — and why the Helan Christmas cards never got mailed this year.

I flew to San Diego two days early, so that I would be well over jet lag before our training began. This proved to be a wise decision. From the time we registered and picked up name badges through to the end of the assembly 10 days later, our days were a blur of prepping, setting up, facilitating, and prepping again.

Every day started with a session designed to make good facilitators better, and continued with practice sessions where we were able to use the techniques we were learning, followed by constructive criticism. Every day ended with fellowship in the hospitality suite and (at least for me) a bedtime that recognized the early start we would be making the next day.

Our training was conducted with simultaneous interpretation from Rotary's phenomenal global communications staff. Sometimes this required double translation: For example, if Japanese, Spanish, and English speakers were all together in a breakout room, the job required translation from Japanese to English and then from English to Spanish (or vice versa). While the interpreters' capabilities are impressive, this meant that there was always a slight delay before the question would be "heard" around the room.

This delay required some getting used to, but was well worth it. This year, for the first time, some of the breakout rooms during the assembly itself were bilingual. Preliminary results suggest that the Portuguese, Korean, and Japanese incoming governors were very pleased to be able to interact with classmates from beyond their home countries.

Being a training leader is one of those Rotary opportunities that has to be experienced to be truly understood. But as I think back over the past few weeks, one parallel comes to mind. In the for-profit world, training of this caliber would easily cost thousands of dollars. It comes with both a commitment and a promise. A commitment that Rotary values me as a member, and a promise that I can help create a renewed, invigorated – and inspired – Rotary. May it be so.

