

Building a Better Colorado through Civic Engagement- *Reeves Brown*



Reeves Brown

Colorado is faced with some serious and complex public policy challenges. These challenges are becoming increasingly difficult to deal with effectively within either the legislature (which is primarily motivated by political agendas) or the ballot process (which is primarily motivated by fear-based messaging).

Colorado's Future, a non-partisan organization committed to building a better Colorado, is proposing a Civic Engagement model which will engage identified civic leaders within Colorado communities in an interactive dialogue to seek statewide consensus on public policy challenges.

To speak to us today about this initiative is Reeves Brown, Executive Director of CLUB 20, a non-profit political advocacy organization representing the interests of the 22-county Western Colorado region. Based in Grand Junction, Reeves leads the organization in cultivating dialogue amongst the region's diverse interests to develop consensus recommendations for state and national public policies on many issues including public lands management, economic development, transportation funding, energy development, water management, education and health care.

The Spokesman's Spokesman

By Reed (So Sincere) Mitchell

Wow! Even with the half-gavel left to him by the ever devious PPs, **His Coolness** managed a sound bell ringing this day. As usual everyone in the room ignored his call to order anyway. Since Joe's getting to be a "short-timer" he's really feeling his oats. What could His Coolness possibly do next—start **FINES for the MEMBERS** or some such nonsense? **Lynn (Speedball) Lickers** prayed for us and **King David** did a better than usual job with the caterwauling. He called the **bewildered Bou-Matar family** to the podium and adorned them with silly hats for his annual Easter Bonnet Parade shtick. **Walid's poor son Che and wife Teresa** suffered stoically through David's dreadful punishment. They both paid the penalty for Walid's past Rotary transgressions, Punishment for the Father's sins visited upon the Son? Sounds almost Biblical, doesn't it?

Tommy (always vigilant) Hunn reported he spotted Che downtown carrying a "Will work for Food" sign around his neck. My money says Tommy put him up to it and took a cut of Che's loot. We spotted Tommy a few times on a street corner with the same sign awhile back. With the economy in tatters the jewelry business must be getting a bit rough these days but with great helpers like Che, our Tommy will be just fine.

Fid (Weird) Braffett told a story about a Chinese kung-fu lady beating her husband weekly. That story was followed by a "blond waiting at a red light" joke. Fid can be interesting at times.

Happy Bucks:

- **Joe Cool** had \$7 for his 7th Rotarian anniversary. Since Joe became president it seems more like 20.
- **Pat (Sheep guy) Gormley** had \$5 for **Bob Denning's** brain drain at St. Mary this week. Will anyone notice?
- **The Czar** put up a measly \$2 bucks that his Doctor says he can walk the Great Wall of China .Whoopee!
- **Kevin (Cuddles) McChesney** had \$5 for a free corned beef he got City Market. "In the dog food isle?"
- **Dale Beede** was \$5 bucks happy his son now has a job. Yeah!!
- **Larry Wild** wrote a check for \$20 bucks for being a Rotarian 20 years; we'll celebrate after it clears...
- **Peg Foster** celebrated she become a Great-Grandma. What can we say, congratulations Peggy!!
- **Greg Walcher** also had \$20 bucks for being in the club for 20 years; he's also been here about 20 times.
- **Terri Smatla** had \$2 bucks for the **Pizza Hut** donating pizzas to the new Interact Club. She also thanked **Lou Ludington** for helping organize it and **PJ McGovern** for selling them the pizzas. Good Luck kids.

Announcements:

- **Joe's: "da cool pres"** had three announcements **1. A board meeting later, 2. Carl Burley's wife Louise passed away** and **3. Applications for the Secretary and Treasurer** jobs need to be turned in to a board member this week. Here's your chance to make the big bucks!!

Warner's Corner



It's time to salute our sergeant-at-arms crew who help keep us heading in the right direction every week. Of course, we'd be lost without them leading the way.

I'm speaking of Vicki Canaday and Leslie Hughes who co-chair this important committee. Other stalwart members include: Gwen DeCino, Gay Hetland, Lou Ludington, Mark Mackley, Charley Sours and Dick Sweeney.

In addition to tallying weekly attendance and handing out (and retrieving) our badges, they also handle the setup and takedown of the stage and tables, the collection of Happy Bucks and fines, welcoming visitors and guests, as well as overseeing the weekly drawing. Additionally, this committee has charge of getting the club directory into print each year and track key information for our club's history.

In fact, this committee is such a beehive of important doings, we always encourage new members to gravitate to the sergeant-at-arms table and sign up for a 3-to-4 month hitch. This usually enables a "newbie" to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to "meet and greet" other Rotarians and comfortably speed up the process of getting acquainted - and acclimated - to Club #1167.

So, the next time you walk past the sergeant-at-arms table take a moment to say thanks to the best "SAA bunch" in the district. Even though they literally sit out front, they do so much behind-the-scenes to help ensure that we have a smooth-running meeting each and every week. Thanks for all you do!

Announcements continued

- **Cliff Anson** wants three players to join him for the knowledge bowl to be held at Grand Junction High School this Saturday, 12:00 to 3:30. Don't ask Merritt, he won't show up. But please call Cliff

Gifts:

No one had gifts this week so poor Joe was Vachlept. Come on people- get traveling, Joe's needs stuff!

The Program:

Our own Ora Lee gave us a program on her home country, Israel. It was an interesting and informative presentation. The questions were a bit out there as everyone has their own opinions. They have 18 political parties in that country; imagine the debate they would have over health care reform, with guns!

Calendars:

Take a look across the room, this reporter has a lovely Rotary calendar just for you.


Masquerade:

The Masquerade Committee will have a questionnaire out next week about the Club's fundraiser so please fill it our right away and return it so some decisions can be made. What to do? - What to do?

Fun Facts

By Jan Pomrenke

Many of us watch **American Idol**, and a few days ago one of the contestants sang the fun song, *I Heard It Through The Grape Vine*. First of all, that song reminded me of a Lion's Parade a few years ago when my dentist, Dr. Don Aust, and other Lions were all funky raisins dancing along to that song. They were memorable. Then last week at Rotary, I heard it in my head again when one Rotarian made a cute comment to our long absent fellow Rotarian **Greg Walcher**. (We all were so happy to see him; by the way ... at least most were happy to see him.) Back to the comment ... It seems Greg has spent substantial time in Washington D.C. these past few years. Our fellow Rotarian with the "comment" said, if I heard him correctly, will quote ... "I have been wondering how those peach trees were getting

along with their sap out in Washington!"  Wasn't that just so cute? – Yep, I heard it through the grape vine. For those of you who don't know, Greg is a peach farmer in Palisade and has been growing that juicy, delicious fruit for years. By the way, Greg, congratulations on 20 years as a Rotarian.

Upcoming Dates

**Meeting Programs
Barb Bowman and Gwen DeCino
Program Committee Co-Chairpersons**

April 14 **Daily Sentinel**
Jay Seaton

April 21 **Pigeons**
Jane Kroese

Upcoming Meetings

April 14 **Rotary Exchange Meeting**
11:15 a.m. Two Rivers Conv. Ctr.

April 21 **Rotary Board Meeting**
5:00 p.m, Hospice Ctr, Room 101

April 7, 2010