

The Spirit of U'Hills

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WEEK 30

ROTARY YEAR '06-'07

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Wheelchair Foundation – Chris Lewis



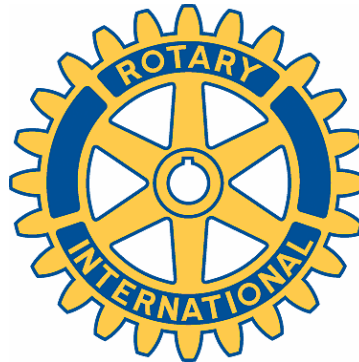
Carl Gardner introduced today's speaker, Chris Lewis, the development director of the Wheelchair Foundation and son of the famous comedian and humanitarian Jerry Lewis. Jerry Lewis efforts with the Muscular Dystrophy Association helped raise over \$2 Billion to fight the disease. His son Chris followed in his footsteps to Hollywood and where he was a successful writer and producer at Paramount Studios. Chris also followed his father's humanitarian efforts, but it was the leadership and persuasive skills of Wheelchair Foundation founder, Ken Behring, that got Chris to "step up to the job" to become head of the Wheelchair Foundation development efforts. Ken Behring is a successful developer and business man and former owner of the Seattle Seahawks football team. Chris joined the Wheelchair Foundation team partly because he knew Ken Behring "was a man who always got what he wanted."

The wheelchairs provided by the Wheelchair Foundation are purchased in bulk, and designed to be the best possible solution in developing countries. They cost on average \$150 each, delivered in a 280-

wheelchair container, and are offered free of charge to those most in need. Wheelchairs can be given to those

in underdeveloped countries that are the most in need with matching dollars from our State Department meaning the cost can be as little as \$75 each. The Wheelchair Foundation purchases wheelchairs from several manufacturers in China that build a quality product designed to be easily maintainable in developing countries. A donation of \$21,000 will deliver a 280-wheelchair container to a developing country, and a donation of \$42,000 will deliver a 280-wheelchair container to a developed country.

People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases and advanced age. One of the most horrific causes of disability worldwide can be attributed to landmines. According to the World Health Organization every year, more than 29,000 people are injured by landmines around the world. It is estimated that at least 100 million children, teens and adults worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Some international organizations believe that the number could be as high as 6% of the population of developing



countries. The number in Angola is 20% of population or 12 million people. Other "landmine" countries such as Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bosnia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Mozambique have extremely high physical disability rates.

The goal of the Wheelchair Foundation is to distribute 1 million wheelchairs in the next 5 years, and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable item for delivery in developing countries throughout the world.

The Wheelchair Foundation's efforts have been recognized by other charitable humanitarian organizations including the Rotary International Foundation which began a partnership back in 2001. Rotary International Foundation began helping when they realized Rotarian efforts helped eradicate polio but Rotarians needed to make a difference with those people that suffered the debilitating effects of the disease. Other organizations such as the Knights of Columbus have dedicated time and treasurer to this worthy effort. "As Rotarians, we have a lot to be proud of because we are blessed to have the Rotary International Foundation. They are answering prayers" says Chris Lewis. Chris encourages Rotarians



Wheelchair Foundation – Chris Lewis Continued

to travel to a developing country to be a part of the distribution of a container of wheelchairs. "Sometimes just being able to move within their own house means a wheelchair recipient can finally see the sunshine. These are the simple things that make people want to live," says Chris Lewis. Chris concludes that the 125,000 wheelchairs delivered personally by Rotarians have changed the lives of the wheelchair recipients and the Rotarians. "It's a tangible way to change peoples lives", says Chris Lewis.

Announcements

President **Dixie Davis** presided over today's meeting:

Donn Bruns joked "I think I am in Colorado, today!" Donn's travel schedule is forcing him to resign from the club. Donn, we will miss you.

Donn Bruns wanted the club to know that the Casino Night fundraiser is sure to be a success. He called on **Bill Curnow** who read the menu scheduled for this Saturday evening. Bill then quizzed **John Lawton**, "John, if you were to take your lovely wife Amy for an evening out, could you get a better deal?" John quipped, "Well if I go on my birthday to Fresh Fish Company I can get 85% off." Bill countered "well there is no better place to eat" than at Saturday's Casino Night fundraiser.

President Dixie says **Jim MacDermott** admits that he is getting older. He forgot to pickup the sign up sheets last week for the February 9th meeting at the retirement community where Fred Dunn lives. Dixie says "maybe we are all getting older. Does anyone remember picking up the sign up sheets last week? Oh-well, let's pass them around again."

Larry Bell introduced our West Middle School student of the month, Luke Sims. Larry says "it's wonderful to talk to these kids!" Larry says Luke has "an easy going politeness with – Yes, ma'am and Yes Sir that come naturally to him. He is good at stopping bullies." Luke has a 4.0 grade



point average and plays football, baseball, and wrestling. He is involved with his church and wants to go to the Naval Academy at Annapolis Maryland. Luke's mother, Joel Ann, attended today's meeting along with his Aunt Susanne.

George Ensign wanted the club to realize what a treasure and a blessing Rotary International Foundation has been to humanity. Polio Plus reduced polio from more than one hundred countries down to just four. "That is only one of Rotary International Foundation's programs" exclaimed George. George presented **David Wood** with a Paul Harris Fellowship at today's meeting. **Dixie Davis** commented that thanks to the Rotary International Foundation, the club has three polio survivors: **Dixie Davis, Steve Holben and Larry Bell.**

Don Goe said a highlight of last week's Foundation dinner was an announcement that **John Lawton** was recognized as a member of the Paul Harris Society. Society members annually give more than \$1,000". President Dixie expressed the sentiment of the club saying "John, we are all proud of you!"

President Dixie said that club members should look for an e-mail of updated club by-laws, and in two weeks, the club will look for a vote on the by-laws after comments have been received. Please contact Dixie with your comments.

President Dixie announced the slate of nominations for incoming officers of our club for the Rotary Year 2007-08. A vote was held and the following people were elected.

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Linda James |
| Vice President: | Mike Hitchcock |
| Vice President Elect: | David Wood |
| Treasurer: | Fred Jorgensen |
| Secretary: | Anke Brandenburg |
| Sergeant at Arms: | Paul Egan |
| Bulletin: | Pat Pool |
| Vocational Chair: | Helen Hempel |
| Community Service Chair: | Doug Dixon |
| Membership Chair: | Steve Whisenhunt |
| Fellowship Chair: | Rich Sattizahn |
| Program Chair: | Ed Fatovic |
| International Chair: | Dick Rewey |
| Foundation Chair: | Paul Bauer |
| Past-President | Dixie Davis |



Announcements Continued

President Dixie wanted to remind the club about **District 5450 Annual Conference to be held** on April 20-22, 2007. It will be at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs again this year. Our yearly assembly promises to be bigger, better, more exciting and rewarding than ever. The highlight will be the keynote address from our own **Cliff Dochterman**. Your room reservation **MUST** be made directly with the hotel. You can call the Antlers Hotel toll free number 1-866-299-4602. The deadline for a special hotel rate (13% off) is March 23, 2007. Rooms are limited so reserve yours early.

New Member

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest member, **Lynn McIntyre Coffey**. Lynn was unanimously approved by the membership committee and our club's board of directors. Lynn was sponsored by **Jim Flemming** and **Steve Whisenhunt**. Lynn's classification is business coaching.

Sergeant-at-Arms

President Dixie said we didn't have time for Sergeant-at-Arms **Tom Benson** this week given our schedule. Tom said "not even for a quick bar joke?" "Quickly", said Dixie.

Tom said **John Lawton** had a bar joke and the vote at his table was 5-1 to tell John's joke over his. Tom confessed that he was the one "no vote" but would tell his anyway.

A guy walks into a bar and the bartender says "hey I thought you quit drinking!" The customer says "no but I am drinking half as much now. I joined A."

Some people needed the punch-line explained to them that half of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) would be A for someone drinking half as much. "Tell the other joke," shouted the crowd. There was not enough time but **John Lawton's** joke was circulated by some members anyway since they were craving real humor.

A guy walks into a bar and spots a fine-looking honey, so he decides to ask her out. When he does she shouts out at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't sleep with you!!!" Everyone in the bar turns and laughs and points. The guy turns beet red. The woman looks at him and whispers "sorry about that. See I'm a psychology grad student and I am doing a project about public embarrassment." The guy smiles and shouts out "What do you mean 200 dollars?"

Guests and Visitors

Stan Love introduced today's guests and visiting Rotarians.

Don Goe introduced his guests: West Middle School Principal Sheila Graham, Katie Wilkins, and Sherry Sargent. **Larry Bell** said his guest was West Middle School's outstanding student of the month Luke Sims, his mother Joel Ann Sims, and his aunt Susanne. **Carl Gardner** had as his guest his wife Linda. **Steve Whisenhunt** had as his guest prospective member Meghan Etzwiller.

Visiting Rotarian, Chris Lewis, our speaker today, is a member of the Los Angeles Rotary Club. Chris Lewis brought with him to today's meeting Charles Moffat, a representative from the Knights of Columbus, an organization that is like Rotary in that it is also a strategic partner of the Wheelchair Foundation. We also had visiting Rotarian Jerry Selinfreund, from the Highlands Ranch Club, classification residential real estate, at our meeting today.

Closing Thought

From **Dixie Davis**: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." ~Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) LEAD THE WAY!

THANK YOU!!
.....to this week's greeter.....
Fred Jorgensen



Look for **Jim Fleming** and **Mickey Williams** on February 16th.

Inspiration



Helen Hempel gave this week's inspiration:

- We are all always thankful for the good things in our lives, but we should also be thankful for all the irritations, stress, downtimes, and the expenses of that life.
- Be thankful for the mess after a party, it means you were surrounded by friends.
- For the taxes we pay, it means we are employed and can sustain our lives. Living on this planet is expensive, but we do get a free trip around the sun each year.
- Be thankful for the clothes that are a bit snug, it means we have enough to eat.
- For the lawn that needs mowing, the gutters that need fixing, it means we have a home.
- Be thankful for the incessant complaining about our government, .we have freedom of speech.
- Be thankful for that alarm that wakens you...it means you can hear and that you have another day in your life.
- Be thankful for all the aches and pains and the weariness at the end of the day, it means you were productive.
- And, be thankful for your participation in Rotary. We don't always agree, but we are here together for the same goal...Fellowship and the better good of humanity.
- Let's be thankful, also, for our memories, bad and good ...the past made us who we are today.
- In closing, there is one memory that seems appropriate to recall, remember that old beloved box of crayons?? Some were short, some were broken (usually our favorites), some were pretty, some were dull, some had weird names, and they were *all* different colors,...but they, also, ALL existed happily together in the same box.
- Be ever thankful for those brave young men and women in our Armed Forces around the world, for they are the reason that we can stand here today and Pledge Our Allegiance to our Great flag.

Upcoming Program Schedule

February 9 - Meeting will be held at Cherry Creek Retirement Village

February 16 - Mayor Hickenlooper

February 23 - Jackie Norris, Governor's Office of Volunteerism

March 2 - Bill Lindsey, President of Lockton Benefits Group, Healthcare Trends

March 9 - Cal Marsella, RTD General Manager, What's New at RTD

March 16 - Mike Hitchcock, The Way We Were, Human Origins

March 23 - Chips Barry, Manager of Denver Water, Water and the Future of Denver

March 30 - Rotation Day

April 6 - Caitlin Fitzpatrick

April 13 - George Maybee, Christmas Island Water Projects (Fishing Paradise)

April 20 - Tracy Ringolsby, 2007 Colorado Rockies

April 27 - Vocational Program