

## **REMARKS AT ROTARY INDUCTION (6/26/07)**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Marin Evening Rotary Club for the honor of leading this club as its President over the next 12 months. Rotary is a unique organization of which I am proud to be a member.

I would like to share with you a story that my father told me about his father, my grandfather, when I was a boy:

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, my grandfather, Patrick Joseph Harrison, lived in a small town called Brideswell in Roscommon in the west central part of Ireland. One day while he was drinking a beer in Hamrock's, one of the 2 pubs and a funeral parlor that represented the only 3 businesses in the rural town of Brideswell, in walked the former heavyweight champion of the world, John L. Sullivan, who proclaimed to all "I can lick any man in the room". My grandfather was a big man—6 feet 4 inches and about 240 pounds, so he came forward to represent the pride of Brideswell. What he didn't know was that The Great John L. always got in the first punch, a powerful right hand that took my grandfather over 5 minutes from which to recover. The Great John L. then challenged everyone to a drinking bout and, as the story goes, that was one encounter that my grandfather did win.

The above story goes back almost 100 years, and you are wondering what's the Irish connection got to do with Rotary. Well, on his maternal side, the oldest known ancestor of Paul Harris was a person by the name of O'Brien, an Irishman who emigrated to America in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (there are many O'Brien's in my family). Since he lived in Yankee New England, the name was later changed to "Bryan". On the paternal side, Paul Harris' ancestors were probably originally called "Harrison", which in Scotland was later shortened to Harris. As you can see, Paul Harris was a Celt on both sides of his family and, it is clear that Rotary has its roots in the Irish tradition. So—what do you think—is that a good yarn of what? Just to make this story even more interesting, one of Paul Harris' boyhood friends in Wallingford, Vermont, was Caleb Pennypacker, who is probably related to my wife, Kathryn Pennypacker (all the Pennypackers are related). So, Paul Harris and I are almost kissing cousins. Am I a Rotarian or what?

**In the July issue of the “Rotarian Magazine” the incoming RI President, Wilf Wilkinson, discusses his theme for the 2007-2008 year which is “Rotary Shares”.** Wilkinson says that as Rotarians “We share our time, talents and resources—we share our kindness and our love”. Sharing means giving of ourselves frequently for the good of others. We share fellowship and friendship with other Rotarians and we can tackle any obstacle—we just need the will and commitment to do it. Wilkinson states that the emphasis this year is on: health, literacy, water, and the family of Rotary. **In the big picture, our goal is to change the world “one person at a time”.** That’s a wonderful vision for the next Rotary year and we want to be part of it!

**What we as Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what we put into it, especially turning our ideas into action.** Effective Rotary clubs focus on 4 key elements: (1) maintaining or increasing the membership base; (2) participating in service projects that benefit communities; (3) supporting the Rotary Foundation; and (4) developing leadership within Rotary.

Our Rotary club is only one of 32,000 clubs throughout the world, and each one of us is only one of 1.2 million Rotary members in this universe. **So, what can I do over the next 12 months to earn my stripes as your President?**

Peter Drucker once said: “Management is doing things right; but leadership is doing the right things”. I intend to work through the club membership and its committees so that you can get things done. **The personal goals that I would like to accomplish in leading you include the following:**

1. Encourage member involvement and participation in every aspect of our club.
2. Be socially accountable to this club and its members.
3. Be a champion of the Rotary Mission and provide a vision of what we are all about.
4. Develop “win-win” service projects that benefit our club, its members, and the needy families that are the beneficiaries of our programs.
5. Generate excitement for the projects that we undertake and help each

member achieve his/her personal goals for being part of Rotary.

6. Develop a philosophy for funding our service projects—whether the project be social, economic, or environmental.
7. Work smart! That is, be creative in our fundraising efforts so that the benefits exceed the costs of raising the monies.
8. Finally, tell the “Rotary Story” so others want to become part of it.

**To summarize, I would like to inspire you, the club members, to achieve your personal goals for being a member of Rotary and to help you open doors to accomplish those ends. I want to be your blocking fullback to clear the paths for you to be successful, and I want to be held accountable to this club and its membership so that it honors the name of Paul Harris and his legacy. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President.**

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