

BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD

APRIL 21, 2016

TODAY'S PROGRAM

STEVE CASEY

CALENDAR

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

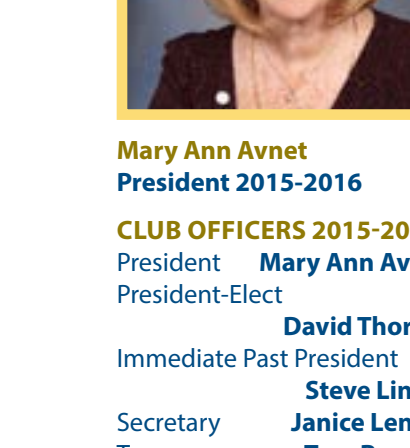
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

SCRIBE

NELLIS AFB TOUR

CAR & BIKE SHOW

ROTARY FOUNDATION



Be a gift to the world



Mary Ann Avnet
President 2015-2016

CLUB OFFICERS 2015-2016

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David Thorson

Immediate Past President

Secretary **Steve Linder**

Treasurer **Janice Lencke**

Gina Gentlemen

Michael Gordon

James Kohl

Janice Lencke

Robert Patten

Deb Grandia

Chris Rodenfels

Carolyn Sparks

Bill Stieren

Past President Representative

Tom Axtell



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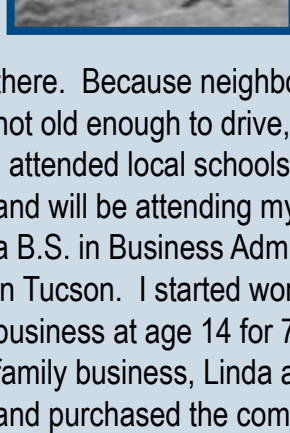
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Steve Casey

Las Vegas Rotary Foundation



I came to Las Vegas as a young lad of 3 when the population of the county was approximately 50,000 people. I grew up in a home built by my parents with their own hands at what is now the corner of Topaz and Casey. As streets were built in our remote desert area, they were named after the first families to live there. Because neighbors were few and far between and I was not old enough to drive, I ran my newspaper route on my horse. I attended local schools, am a Las Vegas High School graduate, and will be attending my class's 50th reunion this year. I earned a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Arizona in Tucson. I started working in my family's water conditioning business at age 14 for 75 cents an hour. After purchasing the family business, Linda and I started a bottled water company and purchased the competing Culligan dealership to grow the business. Eventually the town and the company grew to a point that the business became attractive to Culligan corporate and we sold the company. In 1974, one year after the club celebrated its 50th anniversary, I was sponsored into the Las Vegas Rotary Club by Garwood Van "The Music Man", who was a former big band leader on the Strip and song leader for the club. I was a member of the original 25 Club, have been on the club board, served as club president, and am currently serving as president of our Las Vegas Rotary Foundation.

Las Vegas Rotary Club Mission:

Teaching Youth to Succeed
through Literacy, Education & Life Skills Development

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

This past weekend over four hundred students and Rotarians descended on Thousand Pines Camp in Crestline, CA for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). There was a bit of wind that kept things cool throughout the weekend, but the surroundings are so beautiful and the sun was bright. And it gave everyone a chance to wear their new RYLA sweatshirt.

This was my ninth time at RYLA and there are elements that are the same no matter what camp you go to. Friday morning at the bus stop is always confusing and this year was no exception. Kids arrived at camp feeling somewhat solitary because they didn't really know hardly anyone. And there is a lot of uncertainty about what to expect. But Friday afternoon's schedule always has the kids attend two great labs which are designed to help them trust each other, work as a team, and share things that make them vulnerable.

The trust lab is not unique, but it is designed for encourage members of each city group to do just that – trust that the rest of your team will catch you if you are willing to fall backwards off of the bleachers. No one is forced to do it if they really don't want to, but most give it a try.

The other Friday afternoon lab is called Culture Walk, and is definitely one of my favorites. The entire continent sits together on the floor and we start off by assuring everyone that they have the right to pass during the response, and that everyone has the responsibility to listen to other as they give their response to questions. We ask them all to participate 100% and to commit to respect themselves and others, meaning you respect whatever anyone has to say and are willing to share their insights and allow others to do the same whether or not they agree.

We ask all of the participants one question at a time and if they identify with it, we ask them to come to the front of the room. The questions may seem simple at first (everyone who identifies as female, or male, please come up). We might hear some giggles or some participants might try to monopolize the conversation. We ask each group three questions. "What do you want us to know about you? What do you never want to hear again? (about being part of this group) and What can we do to support you?"

The laughter soon fades as the topics become more intense. Students identify with growing up in a household with divorced parents, people who are close to someone who is an alcoholic or has certain addiction, or who identify with a certain nationality. It's very intense, and the raw emotion that they show, makes the teams trust each other and understand that no matter what you see on the outside, many of these kids are dealing with some heavy-duty stuff inside.

Thank you to Kirk Alexander, David Thorson, Rosalee Hedrick, Francesca Gilbert, Aaron Campillo and Michael Williams for helping us make RYLA another big success.

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