



# Ramblings

www.kiwanisland.com

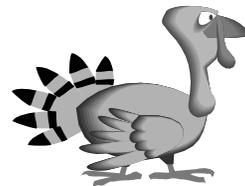
GARDEN GROVE KIWANIS RAMBLINGS, PUBLISHED WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

*A Big Crowd, but a Bit of a Scare to Start Things Off!*

## Full House for Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner!

We had a large turnout for tonight's meeting and many were wondering if it was because everyone wanted to see if **President Tom Petrosine** would make it to preside over two meetings in a row or if it was for a warm-up turkey dinner to prime the pump for **Thanksgiving**. Whatever the reason, those in attendance this evening were treated to a fine meal and a great Program from not one but two special guests, retired **GGFD Chief Lon Cahill** and **GGFD Chief Ron Bertka**. The evening started off on a sour note though as **Fred Waggoner** took ill during the social hour. Luckily we had a couple of cool professionals on hand that took charge of the situation and called **GGFD** who dispatched a unit with Paramedics and an ambulance. They determined **Fred** was having a diabetic reaction and quickly stabilized him and rushed him to the hospital. We did receive a call from **Mary** later during the meeting though that he was doing much better and would be going home soon. **Hope your feeling well Fred!** Being the intrepid troopers that we are, the **Garden Grove Kiwanis Club** meeting continued on and **President Tom** had a few announcements and reminders. First up was that on Dec. 4th, the **Kiwanis Club Christmas Party** is all set and the guest speaker will be **Jenny Wedge**, Manager of Media Relations at the **John Wayne Airport**. This is a "bring your favorite guest (a.k.a. Ladies Night)" event and if you did not get your name on the sign-up sheet and still want to attend, let **Tom** know right away. Next we had **Tom Elliott** remind us that it was once again that time of year where **Club** members are asked to start bringing in canned food and dry goods for our **Club's** annual Food Drive. **Tom** had a box of sample items that he had collected and asked that we have everything turned in by Dec. 11th. We were then reminded that our **Club's** annual **Turkey Trot** event will be held on Monday, Dec. 22nd from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Each **Club** member is encouraged to bring in their cooked turkeys (no giblets or stuffing) to **KiwanisLand** and come enjoy some liquid refreshments and holiday cheer. The collected turkeys (the cooked ones!) will be delivered to the **Methodist Church** on the 23rd in order to be prepped for **Christmas** dinner for the members of the community who are in need. Next **President Tom** told us that he had brought in the children's "**Christmas Wish**" lists that he received from **Marge**. This is for our annual **Club** project where members are asked to spread a little Holiday magic to the children of battered women that we assist the social workers and **Community Action Partnership** with. Gifts need to be turned in by Dec. 18th.



*Remember we will  
be dark on the 27th.  
Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

### Program

Our speakers for the evening were retired **GGFD Chief Lon Cahill** and current **GGFD Chief Ron Bertka**. **Lon** introduced **Chief Bertka**, whom he hired during his tour, and he talked about some of the "big" fires from the past, including the **Bel Air** fire (1961), the **Watts** riots (1965), the **Paseo Grande** fire (1968), the **L.A.** riots (1992), the **Laguna Beach** fire (1993) and the **San Diego** fires (2003). Except for the riot related fires (where **National Guard** troops had to escort firefighters), the wildfires all had a common thread related to them: wind, fuel (dry brush) and difficult access roads to get into the areas to fight the fires. **Chief Bertka** talked about how today there is a coordinated firefighting effort to battle large fires called "strike teams" that is managed by an agency called **FIRESCOPE** (FIrefighting RESources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies) which is a part of the **State Office of Emergency Services** and made up of various fire agencies such as City and County Fire Departments (like the **Orange County Fire Authority** (OCFA) which is a regional fire service agency that serves 22 cities and all unincorporated areas in **Orange County**), the **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection** (CAL FIRE), etc. **Garden Grove** sent four engines and 20 firefighters to help fight this past week's wildfires. There were so many different City's fire crews combating the fire that raged across **Orange County** that many Cities had to help cover other Cities areas under the mutual aid agreements. **GGFD** had to help cover the **City of Orange** because they had all of their resources fighting the wildfire. Luckily there were no fire incidents in the **Garden Grove** area.

### Happy/Sad

**Peter C.** - Happy \$ for the fine Program. **Gary S.** - Happy \$ for **Fred W.** to be well and for the two **Chiefs** to visit us.  
**R.C.** - Happy \$ for the program. Sad \$ for he beating he is taking in the market. **Don N.** - Happy \$ for **Fire Chief's** visit.  
**Tom E.** - Sad \$ for **Fred W.** not feeling well and for the houses lost in the fire. Happy \$ for our speakers this evening.  
**Gerry N.** - Sad \$ for having to miss **Club's** Christmas Party due to travel. Happy \$ for **Chiefs** being here and for **Fred W.** recovery.  
**Walt D.** - Happy \$ for **Oregon** winning in football and for two **Chiefs** visit. Sad \$ for market collapse and for **Fred W.**  
**Ed H.** - Happy \$ for our Program tonight and for **John L.'s** birthday. Happy \$ to hear that **Fred W.** is feeling better.  
**John P.** - Happy \$ to here and hear our speakers. **Don M.** - Happy \$ to be here and for good Program.  
**Bruce B.** - Happy \$ for **Peggy** to have a speedy recovery from her knee surgery. **Tony L.** - Sad \$ for those who lost homes in the fire.  
**Bob M.** - Happy \$ for **Fred W.** to feel better and for the Program. **Jerry M.** - Sad \$ thought no Happy/Sad tonight.  
**Jerry K.** - Happy \$ for firefighter great efforts and that his rental properties that were very close to the fire areas did not burn.  
**Don S.** - Happy \$ for the Program. Sad \$ for **Fred W.'s** health problems. **Robin M.** - Sad \$ for **Fred W.** Happy \$ for our guests.  
**Will S.** - Happy \$ for our speakers and for **Fred W.** to feel better. **John L.** - Happy \$ to hear **Fred W.** doing better. Happy \$ that he will be celebrating his 41st birthday next week.  
**Shelly S.** - Happy \$ to be here this evening. **Jay M.** - Happy \$ for our speakers tonight and that **Fred W.** gets better.  
**Efrain D.** - Happy \$ for the **Chiefs** visit and for **Fred W.** better. **Tom P.** - Happy \$ for the good Program tonight.  
**Lon Cahill** - Happy \$ for **Chief Bertka** being here tonight and for opportunity to speak to our **Club**.  
**Dave Bertka** - Happy \$ to be with us tonight and get to meet everyone in the **Club**.

### Upcoming Events

Dec. 4th Garden Grove Kiwanis Club Christmas Party - Ladies Night Event  
 Dec. 22nd Garden Grove Kiwanis Club Turkey Shoot Turn-in

### Thought For The Week

*"The thing most people are thankful for on Thanksgiving day is elastic waistbands."*

*Gerry Newlark*