

G OD MORNING!

Thursday, November 14, 2013

"Culture is Us!"



John Sorey
Mayor
City of Naples

Has served as a member of the Naples City Council since February 2004 when he received the most votes, at that time, for a City Council position. Reelected on January 29, 2008, for a second term. Elected to Vice-Mayor February 2010 to January 2012. Elected unopposed as mayor on February 15, 2012.

The founder and owner of Management Support Systems, Inc., Sorey has successfully implemented practical solutions to solve problems and turn them into opportunities for over 40 years. He has been associated with over 100 companies, as owner, consultant, and employee, in consumer and industrial products, distribution, and service sectors. In addition, he has been very involved in the non-profit sector.

From 1988 to 1998, when he sold the company, he was the owner of Spectrum Corporation, a formulator, blender and packager of specialty lubrications, primarily for the hand held outdoor power equipment industry. Over the ten years, he led this company to a 230 percent sales increase and a 600 percent increase in profits.

Training occurred at Aladdin Industries, Nashville, Tennessee, 1967 to 1979, holding various operations, sales, marketing, and engineering positions.

Was one of the founders of Airgas, which is a publicly traded industrial gas and welding supply company and served on the Executive Committee and Board from 1985 to 1992.

Sorey holds an M.B.A. from the University of Tennessee, a B.S. in Business Administration from Tennessee Technological University, and completed the Harvard Program for Management Development.

A veteran, Sorey is a decorated Army Infantry Lieutenant serving in Vietnam, with the 9th Infantry Division, 1967.

Married to Delores, has a son, daughter, and twin grandsons.

November is Foundation Month

Attendance Last Meeting

Members Present:	83	82.56%	
Makeups:	6		
Visiting Rotarians:	3	Winter Pigeons:	4
Guests of Members:	2	Student Guests:	2

Did you make up?



Guest Speaker

Next Week: Mick Moore, Naples North Foundation and The Rotary Foundation

Last Meeting: Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Collier County Sheriff's Office



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member	Birthday	Age
Jack Dick	November 17	68
Al Gal	November 18	46
Junee Gardy	November 20	48
Paul Jones	November 15	52
Jim McLaughlin	November 16	83

Member	Wedding Anv.	Years
Gene Turner	November 18	35

Member	Club Anv.	Years
Joe Bonness	November 14	28
Dave Greider	November 19	26



Distinguished Rotarians

Rotarian	Honored
Doug Baird	Sept. 30, 2010
Heather Milner	Apr. 23, 2009
Lois Kluberanz	Jun. 5, 2008

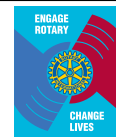


Rotarian of the Year 2013

Jim Morey



**100% Paul Harris Fellows
or Sustaining Members**



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT REFLECTS ON HIS JOURNEY TO ROTARY



Mai (far right, front) joins the team of counselors at the Enterprise Institute, a camp for high school students where they learn to develop and test their business skills.

My father moved us from Vietnam when I was a child to provide us with more than what we'd had under the communist regime. We ended up in a ghetto in Oakland, California, USA. I went to Fremont High School, one of the worst schools in a neighborhood plagued by violence, poverty, and high dropout rates.

Our house was on a busy street, and every night we heard gunshots.

The spring of my junior year, a group of Rotarians visited my class. They told us about the Rotary Club of Oakland's Enterprise Institute, a three-day camp that allows students to develop and test their business skills. Spending time in the Santa Cruz Mountains, creating a business plan with my peers, didn't appeal to me so much as escaping the projects for a few days. In my world, the only businesses I saw were funeral homes, liquor stores, and drug dealers.

The Enterprise Institute exposed me to a new reality. I met teenagers who talked about Plato and Shakespeare, not drive-by shootings and AK-47s. It was at camp that I heard the word "entrepreneur" for the first time. Surrounded by high school students from schools that were far superior to my own, I learned just how little I knew. As we considered case studies and came up with our own business plans, I also saw a future that didn't involve assault rifles and prison cells. These kids talked about going to college and starting their own companies, and I realized I wanted the same things. Coming from the streets, I knew I was at a disadvantage and would have to work even harder to achieve the same goals. That was one of the most important lessons I took away from the Enterprise Institute—not a business outline, but a sense of ambition and self-motivation.

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LANDING ON FIRM GROUND

We didn't have much money, so I applied for every college scholarship I could. I filled out 20 applications and received 19 rejections because I was not a U.S. citizen. Only one scholarship program accepted me: the Rotary Club of Oakland's. The Rotarians met with me and my family and listened to what I had been through and where I wanted to go. I know they had many applicants, and when they awarded me the \$5,000 scholarship, it proved they believed in me. The scholarship, along with financial aid, allowed me to go to college.

At the University of California, Davis, I used the scholarship money to pay for rent and books. The first three years I was in school, the scholarship meant that I didn't have to work and could concentrate solely on studying. Whenever I would talk to my Oakland club counselor, Terry Turner, he would always ask how I was doing, and I would tell him truthfully that I was struggling. Fremont High School had not prepared me for UC Davis. Terry offered me advice, and I listened to it. I started at Davis at the same time as three other Fremont High School graduates. By my second semester, I was the only one left. The Enterprise Institute had jump-started my future. The Rotary scholarship kept it in motion.

I spent several years working for a series of small companies before striking out on my own with Novateck PC in 2004. As soon as I opened my business, I joined the Oakland club. Its members became some of my first clients. Novateck has grown since then and now has three employees. My family has also grown; I now have a wife and two young daughters.

Last year I took my wife and oldest daughter to Vietnam. The little fishing village I left as a child 30 years ago is now a bustling metropolis. My childhood home in Oakland has also morphed into something else; the basketball court where I used to play has been replaced with apartment complexes. The Rotary Club of Oakland's Enterprise Institute is one of the things that remain unchanged. Now in its 30th year, the institute continues to take dozens of high school juniors to the mountains and teach them how to make their own future in the business world. I have helped with the institute for the last seven years and am now co-chair of the committee that runs the whole thing. I know that the camp experience will help other teenagers change their way of thinking and give them hope for a better future. That's what it did for me.