



Chartered 1965
"Celebrating our 44th year of Service to the Community"

ROTARY CLUB OF VIENNA, Inc.
Wednesdays 12:15 PM
Award Winning Newsletter
2007 & 2008

Marco Polo Restaurant
245 W Maple Ave.
Vienna, VA 22180

Calendar of Events

- Mar 21 Rotary Leadership Institute at Northern Virginia Comm. College
- April 3-5 District Conference at The Homestead and the April 4, 2009 District Conference Golf Tournament at The Homestead
- April 11 GMU/Penn State Volleyball game. Lou Zone has 30 tickets
- Apr 22 GSE Team Visit to Club

Upcoming Programs

- March 31 TBD
- April 8 Club Assembly



MARCH 25TH AGENDA

- Announcements
- Happy Talk
- April Umminger - Graphics Editor for the Washington Post and a Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholar



Two old guys are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide.

The first old guy says to the second guy,

"Sorry about that. I'm

looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The second old guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence.

I'm looking for my wife, too.

I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The first old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her.

What does she look like?"

" The second old guy says,

"Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes,

long legs, and is wearing short shorts.

What does your wife look like?"

To which the first old guy says, "Doesn't matter,

--- let's look for yours."

View from the Tables

Meeting Called to order at 12:15 p.m. by **President John Brunow**
Greeter: **Kelvin Pierce and Kurt Frogale**
Pledge: **Joe Manelski**
Prayer: **Richard Lukens**
Song: **Lou Zone** led us in "God Bless America"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Gray spoke in tribute to former Vienna Rotarian **Sally Hamilton**, who died tragically but bravely of cancer at age 43.

Lou Zone announced that the Vienna Choral Society, which has performed at a variety of Vienna Rotary events, will perform at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. [The Society's internet site indicates that the performance will be a Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Death of Franz Joseph Haydn, featuring "Missa Brevis for Saint John of God" and smaller works by Haydn, on SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009 AT 7:30 PM.]

Devika Gupta received a pin and decoration signifying her status as a Paul Harris Fellow. Although a new Rotarian, Devika has already distinguished herself in charitable giving, one of the "four legs of the Rotary chair," along with attendance, service, and living the four-way test.



VIENNA ROTARY CONTRIBUTION CORNER

LAMB CENTER ACCEPTS CLUB CONTRIBUTION

Jorge Diaz presented a check to Karen of the Lamb Center, in the Town of Fairfax.




For 17 years, the Lamb Center has served homeless men and women with social services, AA meetings, Bible study groups, and with life support services as mundane as haircuts, shower facilities and laundry services, prerequisites for finding gainful employment.



For its first 14 years, the Lamb Center depended on the Truro Church. It has been independent for three years now, and relies on contributions from approximately 3,000 individuals, 50 churches, and the Vienna Rotary Club.



Visiting Rotarians	
None	
Guests	
None	
Gambling	
	The small pot of \$23 was won by Garry Mesich which he donated back to the club. The large pot was \$ 402 continues to grow.
	An amazing apple-peach pie, donated by the Pie Gourmet, was won by Luisa Freeman and enjoyed by her table.



2009 District Conference

The Homestead

1766 Homestead Drive
Hot Springs, VA 24445

Pre-register online for the event by March 20 at the District website



PRESSURE!

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the

operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it? "

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."



TODAY'S PROGRAM

**Randall Popeika
An Insider's Look at Congress**

Guest speaker Randall Popeika described himself as a critic of the process in which he has worked since 1991. Randall was a staffer for Republican legislators from Texas, Montana, Wyoming and Georgia, in Administration posts including Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and is now as a lobbyist.



Despite the best efforts of nationally-know legislators such as Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and John McCain (R-AZ) and Representative Jeff Flake (R-AZ), "earmarks aren't going away." I'll come back to the Vienna Rotary Club and eat crow if they do." We may see some cosmetic efforts to address the issue, but "neither Democrats nor Republicans want to give up the ability to raise money; that's how they stay in office. When you need to take care of a contributor, it's so much easier to write an earmark than to go through the competitive process.

Popeika encouraged Rotarians and others to make their views known to their elected representatives. As orientation, he described three categories of Congressional staffers.

Field Representatives, sometimes known as Case Workers, work in offices located in the home state or home congressional district. These are the people to contact if your Social Security or Veteran's Affairs check goes missing.

Your legislator's Washington office is mostly populated by "legislative assistants," mostly young and inexperienced who may not be especially knowledgeable about the topics that interest you, may know full well that they

can do little for you, and may resort to giving you lip service until they can get you back out the door.

A congressman's Chief of Staff is also a fundraiser – this is allowed. His Legislative Assistants attend his fundraisers – this is expected. The Legislative Assistants who saw you in the office will also see you at the fundraiser, which gives them a reminder to get back to work on your special request. (note: they are not as knowledgeable as the experienced, professional and specialized "committee staff.")

Committee staff controls legislative drafting, including earmarks. They tell the legislators what's in the bill, and hence, how to vote. ("A member is so dependent on his staff.") It was neither a coincidence that Jack Abramoff targeted the staffers, nor that his top clients paid him between 1.2 million and 1.8 million dollars a year for the earmarks he obtained. (Of course, Jack Abramoff broke the law.)

An ordinary legislator might get, say, \$25,000 in earmarks when a member of the Appropriations Committee might get over a million. Unless your legislator is on Appropriations, he or she won't have any input into a bill until it hits the floor in close to its final form. You would do better to "leverage yourself," that is, join organizations that can afford K Street lobbyists, who will work on committee staff and members of the Appropriations Committee

[Reporter's Note to Northern Virginia Rotarians: Not that Mr. Popeika mentioned it, but Rep. James P. Moran, Democrat of Virginia's Eighth District, and Rep. Frank Wolf, Republican of Virginia's Tenth District, serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Our Senators are not (yet) so blessed.]

