

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 22, 2021

Pancake Breakfast still has room for sponsors. Contact [Carrie Palmore](#) for details.

Remember, we're raffling a 2-person balloon ride with Vista. The lucky winners will be drawn from the stubs of purchased breakfast tickets. It's not a separate fund raiser, it's just something to add a little sparkle to our (post-COVID) breakfast tradition.

President Mark introduced some of our "former presidents." He didn't like the term past presidents because it sounds too much like passed presidents. So Former it is.

Kenny Austin, Bob Travers, Doug Caffall, and Gary Stewart were the four on our panel.

Ken is 5th generation Newberg. Bob is ... not.

Ken & Celia and Doug & Kathy have been married 43 years. Bob & Judy, 40, and Gary & Claudia, 49.

Ken was our president 1998-99, Bob '99-00, Doug '03-04, and we met in GFU's School of Nursing (Newberg Community Hospital, a lifetime ago ... I was born in that building) Gary '17-18 was Chehalem Cultural Center.

During Kenny's tenure the club responded to the hurricane in Mexico. The late Mike Albo led the club's effort to send clothing to the victims. We ended up sending two shipping containers full.

Bob had Kids Helping Kids and Flower Baskets. Kids Helping Kids collected spare change from community school children. Our club matched the donations then the District and Rotary International matched those. It was like taking a quarter from a kid and returning a dollar to his classmate.

For a spell, we even put KHK labels on steel cans that had coin slits in the top so the can had to be opened with a can opener to extract donations. Pretty cool, actually. A little wasteful, but cool.

Dennis Reilly was our first committee chair for Kids Helping Kids. The core concepts were under way in July 1998 and it sounds like we went live



in schools in 1999.

Doug remembers selling plants with Mike Albo. We also christened Rotary Centennial Park (next to what's now Chehalem Cultural Center) during Doug's year, a project that involved both Rotary clubs and Kiwanis.

He quipped that, "as these projects go on, you end up becoming one of three people to finish the project when everyone else has petered out until the ribbon cutting.

Gary's memory was of the Leadership Training he led and seeing so many Early Birds in attendance.

Did you aspire or get stuck? In other words, did you seek the role or did you just not step back?

Doug says he tried to avoid it but ended up enjoying the role. The club didn't have much money (Foundation was just getting started). The best a president could do in those early years was get through the fiscal year without the wheels falling off.

PETS was in Osaka that year but Doug was still soured by a legal fight with an Osaka company the year before.

As one of the driving members to get this club successfully launched Bob kind of fell into the position as its first "elected" president.

Ken cites the birth of this club with his "thing" for perfect attendance. The internet was barely a thing twenty years ago and the concept of virtual meetings was science fiction. He had visited Sherwood's morning club and wishing out loud for a Newberg morning club to make make-up meetings easier to make.

Gary was not elected. The elected president had to step back and Gary stepped up.

When asked what each had learned during their terms, Gary's response was "those who can't, teach." It was a challenging year for him because of the issues presented by one particular member.

Doug's thing was more about the support he received from his fellow members. The fun we have in the club, "I was in the barrel a lot."

I think he's painting himself as a rodeo clown and the jabs he got back from the taunts he threw.

Bob remembers Kenny harassing him, a relationship that continues today. It's part of the fiber of our whole club and the way we play with each other.

It's a thing our club is known for and one of the reasons we were asked to champion the Vibrant Club concept.

Ken's thought is that if you put your mind to something and surround yourself with good people that you can accomplish anything.

Fun Fact: When Early Birds were founded there were some things decided very early on and based on Noon Club culture.

Singing. No. We made exceptions for birthday, but otherwise no. Getting out of the meeting at 8:00 and not lingering for an hour, yes.

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