

# HEARD AT CLUB

By Larry Dicus



This week's meeting at the **Boys and Girls Club of Whittier** was a great success. It was a joyous occasion as our Lions and guests were treated to a prime-rib and chicken luncheon as we prepared to dedicate the new kitchen and nutrition center. **Lion Steve Hernandez** really helped us celebrate by serving delicious prime-rib and chicken. Whittier Daily News was on the scene to take pictures for a story they are planning this week – look for it on Wednesday. Additionally, at the conclusion of our meeting we were joined by **Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri** and members of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce to help us dedicate the kitchen. A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted to help announce this wonderful project to our community.

To kick off our meeting, **Lion Mac** and our chorus led our lions and guests to a roaring rendition of 'God Bless America' in celebration of the occasion. The invocation was given by **Sid Menzies** of the B & G Club leadership team.



Next, **Lion Tamer Doug Lopez** asked for introductions of our guests – **Del Hovden** introduced his **Law Partner Rod Moss**, who is also a member of the B&G board of directors; **Larry Dicus** introduced our **District Governor Mike Brassard** (for the millionth time - he is an honorary member by now!!); **Joe Corey** introduced **Theola** and **Norm Kirshenbaum**. Theola is also a board member of the B&G club and Norm is Superintendent of Whittier's ROP.



**President Frank** then asked for announcements: **Fireworks Chairman Ben Greer** gave an update on the progress of our booth and asked lions to sign up to work starting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Signups can be done on our website. **3<sup>rd</sup> VP Jerry Perisho**, also Relay for Life chair, announced that our Club's donations added up to \$17,000. Our Club has been recognized as the top giving organization for the event. Go Lions!! Thank you Jerry for your outstanding leadership on this event.



# HEARD AT CLUB PART TWO

Next, **Tail Twister Bruce Martin** (honorary Governor) twisted tail for his next to last time this year. The following members (and guests) became contributors: **Jon Prechtl** for his recent trip to Las Vegas; **Rod Moss** for his 30 years of service to the Boys and Girls club – and for being a Kiwanian (Lion Del paid his fine); **Gregg Williamson** for his birthday; **Bud Chapman** gave a check in honor of Paul Westphal; **Damon Williams** gave \$20 for absolutely nothing; **Jeff Ball** for his birthday; **Vince Daigneault** for going to Dodger game in Ed and Ruth Shannon's seats; and finally - **Monte Wicker** for his outdated shoes.



Finally, **President Frank** introduced chairman of the day, **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Al Campano**, also chair of the kitchen project. Al received a standing ovation for his excellent leadership bringing in the kitchen on-time, under-budget. Al acknowledged other Lions involved in the project and then introduced **Samantha Ridout**, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. Samantha thanked Lions for our past and ongoing partnership and commitment to the club, and particularly thanked us for the kitchen and nutrition center. She shared that the Kitchen will begin service next Monday when the B & G summer program begins. She shared that the club recently received approval from the city to develop a teen center, which will include a computer center, game room, snack area, and BBQ area out back. She shared more about the after-school program of the club which serves 2300 children in the Whittier and surrounding area. She then introduced **Todd Salnas**, president of the board for the B & G club. Todd added his thanks to the Lions for this project.



The meeting was then adjourned in order to start the ribbon cutting ceremony with the dignitaries. Hope to see you all this week – normal time, normal place.

Substituting for beat reporter Doug Halliday – humbly yours, **Larry Dicus**

Funded by Our Local Lions Clubs and LCIF

# NEW BOYS & GIRLS CLUB KITCHEN



Kitchen Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - June 19, 2008