



# ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



**President:** Sue A      **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595      D5160 Club 461

**Notes:** Anne Hetland      **Photos:** Paul W      June 12, 2024

**Club Website:** [www.rossmoorrotary.org](http://www.rossmoorrotary.org)

**District Website:** [www.rotary5160.org](http://www.rotary5160.org)

---

## MEETING NOTES: 06/12/2024

**Call to Order:** The meeting was brought to order at 12:30 by our President Sue. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David B, and the Star Spangled Banner was sung.

**Guests and Visiting Rotarians:** John Swearingen was visiting from the Turlock Rotary.

**Thought for the Day:** Paul: Keep silent, let success make the noise; You are only confined by a wall you build yourself; and Nothing is impossible, instead it is I'm possible. This last from Audrey Hepburn.

**Sunshine Report:** Jean reported that Misty had some surgery, there was a glitch, but she is recovering.

**Happy Dollars:** Joy read a letter from the LGBTQ community thanking us for the \$1,000 we donated to their educational programs; Patrice was happy for a visit from her daughter from New Mexico; Visitor John S. for his 50th wedding anniversary and for a pickle ball tournament win; David B, for Sue, finishing up her term, and for his table with info for all; John K. for Elly's kindergarten graduation; Carolyn now 80; and Bill, his granddaughter and husband and 2 children moving to Arizona.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raffle: Peter S. won some money and Carolyn won some yogurt.

## PROGRAM

Frank McCormick received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a Senior Economist in the Division of International Finance at the Federal Reserve Board, before becoming V.P. and Director of U.S. Economic and Financial Research at the Bank of America. After retiring, he taught economics at the business schools of UCB and UC Davis where he gradually became aware of the huge amount of suffering and death caused by the shortage of transplant kidneys. He and his co-authors have written a number of articles in medical and economic journals addressing this problem.

Prof. McCormick spoke to us on the severe shortage of kidney organs available for transplant. This shortage leads to the deaths of about 42,000 people a year.

First, we must understand what the kidney does. It takes waste from the body. Most people have two kidneys, but one is all we need for a long, healthy life. Therefore, there are millions of kidneys available for donation. If a kidney is used for transplant, the patient has 10 to 20 years of healthy life, and can then have another transplant if necessary. Without a transplant, kidney disease leads to 3 or 4 years of dialysis, with the patient slowly deteriorating until death.

For a cost benefit analysis of kidney donation, consider the government now pays for the kidney transplant procedure and also pays for dialysis. The transplant is much cheaper than years of dialysis. Only about 2% of people die with organs that can be used. Therefore, we need living donors. How to incentivize people to donate a kidney? Prof. McCormick and his colleagues, after much study, arrived at a figure of about \$77,000 for the government to pay the living kidney donor. The process itself can cost about \$50,000, counting lost wages, travel expenses, etc. Then add some money to compensate for the pain and add some incentive. This \$77,000 to a living donor instead of paying for years of dialysis, would save the government millions of dollars.

Unfortunately, the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act makes it unlawful for any person to sell a human organ. Prof. McCormick and his colleagues are working in Washington, D.C. to get this law changed.

For more information go to [modifynota.org](http://modifynota.org) or the 15 minute video he showed us at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfoTwgsLVMY&list=PLr3ivtn-lcXRHsaq\\_LYS1OMD27epoAGM&index=5&t=1737s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfoTwgsLVMY&list=PLr3ivtn-lcXRHsaq_LYS1OMD27epoAGM&index=5&t=1737s).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19	10:30 RRF Trustee Meeting
June 19	Presidential Awards
June 26	Presidential Demotion – Sue A and Carolyn H
July 3	Dark

## PHOTOS



**Irv F and speaker Frank McCormick**