

Interview of Andy Doty (A.) and Bill Harris (B.)

by Skip Ross (S.) and Elmo Sanders (E.)

August 31, 2010

- B. Was sponsored by Dan DeYoung.
- A., E. Both of them were also nominated by Dan.
- B. Has copies of member applications going back ~15 years.
- A. While on Nominating Committee, he always kept an eye on new members as prospects for assignments.
- B. ~1/3 of the members are willing to take on roles to help Fellowship Forum - the rest aren't.
- B. The Forum was meeting at Chez Louis when he joined (1993).
- A. Joined in 1995.
- B. It was a major task to choose a new lunch/meeting venue. Chez Louis was being sold. The space on El Camino in Palo Alto is now occupied by a Walgreens.
- B. Bill came for his first visit without a tie - a nice sweater and open collar. It caused no small amount of consternation.
- A. It used to be a major task for the Forum Secretary to get the roster ready in time to distribute at the first meeting of the new year. That was a "gospel" rule. Later we started slipping to a later date. The last year we printed the rosters, before moving to the on-line version, Bill Harris and Ed Davis mounted a major effort to meet the first meeting deadline again.
- A. & B. We were both very strict about starting the meeting on time and insuring that the speaker got a full hour to speak by the 1:30 adjournment. Also, they used to arrive early and tip the chairs to mark a table as the head table.
- B. Andy devised the meeting agenda that is still being used. Bill followed him as President, and Andy gave Bill a hand-written agenda outline. Bill still has it, and gave Skip a copy when he became President.
- A. To get material for the "This day in history" remarks, Andy used to go to the library each week. He tired of that, and started making up stories - humorous and yet believable. They were quite popular.
- B. He came up with the idea that laughter is good medicine, and started the practice of having jokes and anecdotes in the meetings.

- A. There was a big controversy during Andy's year as President about expanding the Forum's membership. He thinks that may have been the year the membership was increased to 55.
- A. & B. Attendance sheets and badges have been in use for a long time - since before they became members.
- A. He recalls a Ladies' Day at a nice restaurant where one member told a really filthy joke.
- B. He remembers when a member was asked to resign. He would get up during the discussion periods and make a big fuss. Andy remembers him as being uncouth.
- B. Remembers a discussion of whether a member who goes Inactive should still be considered to be a member. The decision was YES.
- A. & B. There used to be frequent discussions about whether low attendance should cause a member to move to Inactive status.
- B. He was asked to be Program Director after just two years of membership. On the radio one day he heard the head of the astronomy department at Foothill speak, and asked him to speak to the Forum. He accepted. On the day of his talk, Bill learned that he had spoken to the Forum just a few years earlier.
- B. Abe Sofaer joined, then learned that we meet weekly, not monthly as he expected. He went Inactive immediately.
- A. Andy was a writer in his career, and would be willing to help write the FF History narrative.
- B., A. When Bill joined in '93, we were meeting at Chez Louis. When Andy joined in '95 he thinks they were meeting at the Sheraton. Bill Schuyler should remember the year we moved to the Sheraton (then the Holiday Inn) from Chez Louis, because he was on the selection committee for the new venue.
- A. Chris Roden was President before Andy, and gave him guidance for the meeting format.
- E. When he joined, new members were moved around to different tables to get to know the membership. Also, new members were given jobs early.
- B. It is important to let the general membership know about applicants that are being considered for membership, so that they can provide feedback if they want to.
- B. When Bill was President, at a meeting he cracked: "We have 7 doctors as members now - I want one at each table, just in case."

- A. His first job was Forum Secretary.