

# The Reactor

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## Organizing...for a purpose

We Pacificans organize to advance the causes we believe in; our hobbies, interests, and goals. Some join groups like the Moose Lodge to make friends, then get involved in worthwhile causes the organization promotes. Moose members put a lot of time, skill, and plain hard work into building their club house. The Mizpah women's group started Pacifica's blood drives years ago. They and the Moose now share in promoting the blood drives. Cooking and serving breakfast for donors has become a tradition. Moose and the Mizpah are generous in ways more numerous than I know or have space to list.

There are three "men's" service clubs in town, and at least one "women's" service club I'm aware of, each one affiliated with a national or international organization. I put the gender designation in quotes because Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions now have women members, and men belong to

the American Association of University Women.

In the 19th century men spouted nonsense trying to justify keeping women out of politics and prevent them from voting. Because they also wanted to sound like good guys and not jerks, (they failed utterly) they overcomplimented the women and pretended to keep them away from the grubby political scene out of respect and admiration. I think men are just as capable of an honest, selfless, down-the middle, objective, idealistic approach to politics as women. Unfortunately, only the League of Women Voters actually does meet those criteria. It too, now accepts males. The late Ralph Barkey was the first one locally.

Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire, and the various church organizations for kids generally are organized along gender lines. The most conspicuous exception I know is 4H. If you have several children of both sexes, 4H is

handy, since parents need get involved only once. If a mother has one boy of Cub Scout age, one of Boy Scout age, and girls in Girls Scouts and Brownies, she may suddenly find herself with four different "volunteer" jobs. If you have four kids in 4H, you'll have one assignment. Fathers get involved in all these groups, but the mothers do most of the work, except that in 4H, the older kids learn leadership by being leaders. Pacifica's 4H group, now about 100 members, is looking for a farm site once again.

You can advance your political ideas through the Pacifica Democrats, now 45 years old, or the Pacifica Republicans. Smaller political organizations make up in dedication and persistence what they lack in numbers. I'm thinking of the American Independent Party, the Libertarians, and the John Birch Society, which has been a part of Pacifica for more than 30 years.

I've mentioned only a few organizations. Check out the Tribune weekly Happenings page for examples of the many ways you can meet people, make friends, get acquainted, get involved, and learn how to really enjoy being a Pacifican.

If you don't find the group that fits your interests, start one. Or spin off.

The Pacifica Friends of the Library was started when the AAUW saw a need. The high school Interact Club came from Rotary.

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