

**ROTARY CLUB of HEALDSBURG SUNRISE
TAYMAN PARK
MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: Wednesday, 24 February 2016

ATTENDANCE: 32/48 66.67%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

George Lawson got a standing oration from the group for the Pledge of Allegiance

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:

President Lee Morton asked , *"If you are not meant to have midnight snacks, why is there a light in the refrigerator?"*

SINGING:

God Bless America as sung by the group in 32-part harmony , a significant improvement over last week when only two people knew the words or melody of *Sweet Adeline*. Always room for improvement and it is occurring!

GUESTS:

1. Mel Schatz, Healdsburg Rotary Noon Club
2. Dave Koehler, Director of Sonoma Land Trust, featured speaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The International Services Committee will meet immediately after this meeting, with Chairman Pam Everson.
2. The steering committee for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast will meet on Friday,, 26 February at 5:30 PM that the clubhouse in Tayman Park to review progress on this year's event.
3. Lance Cottrell has taken an inventory of our audio-visual cables and other equipment for connecting to our projector and speakers. Many such pieces, purchased over the preceding 2-3 years, seem to have gone missing. Members with knowledge regarding the whereabouts of cables, cords and connectors are encouraged to return them with **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!**
4. Larry Orr named additional members who have joined the Scholarship Committee. Barney Brady is serving as a co-chairman with Larry. The other members include George., Herb Liberman and Eric Wagner.
5. President Lee Morton reports that this will be the last week for amnesty for members who are not wearing their Rotary pins at future meetings.

RECOGNITIONS / HAPPY DOLLARS

Ann Marie Montecucollo is happy to be semi-retired. She is currently planning on making only custom jewelry by appointment.

Herb Liberman has two items: 1. He thanks donors from the club who gave \$250 to the Kuriana School **in the way** Kenya. This money pays for a full year's tuition, room and board. He also reports that he will be traveling to Atlanta for a bar mitzvah for his grandson this weekend.

Nancy Palumbo reports that her third grandchild is due in September

RAFFLE:

There was no raffle held today. Apparently there was confusion regarding responsibility for this function. The pot remains elusive and unchanged.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER:

Chris Call was inducted to membership in the Rotary club of Healdsburg Sunrise and was presented his pin by President Lee Morton. Will Seppi is his sponsor. Chris is excited to be a member of the Rotary club of Healdsburg Sunrise. His first experience with Rotary International was as a long-term exchange to Scotland while in high school. This has left a lasting impression on him of the good work that Rotary does, and it is mainly for this reason that he has taken action to join our club.

PROGRAM:

David Koehler, Sonoma Land Trust

David presented an overview of the activities of the Sonoma Land Trust, a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to preserve open space in Sonoma County. David has extensive experience in this area, having been the Executive Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust from 1990-2014. In 2012 he received a Partners in Conservation award for his work with that organization. He has a degree in environmental biology from California State University, Fresno. He has been with the Sonoma Land Trust since 2014.

The Sonoma Land Trust was formed in 1976. It currently has a staff of 32 members and is governed by a volunteer board of directors. It receives its funding through donations and grants from various entities. It has national accreditation for its services.

As a nonprofit trust, its main purpose is to secure land, presently held in private ownership, and preserve it for open space designation and possible public usage in perpetuity. This is done through a variety of mechanisms. Funds permitting, fee title acquisition of properties is obtained. This is a somewhat costly way of obtaining property. They also work to obtain conservation easements, somewhat more complex system to ensure long-term open space use of lands. Usually this involves coordinating several governmental and non-profit agencies that purchase an easement from the

property owner resulting in changes in the tax basis for the property, which does remain in private ownership.

The Sonoma Land Trust recently acquired the Estero Ranch, connecting it with an already existent 127 acre Estero Americano Preserve, creating a nearly 700 acre parcel of land that will remain in agricultural use but will also be open for public use as funding allows for its development.

The Sonoma land trust is also involved in making properties available for the wildlife corridor serving Marin, Sonoma and Napa counties which allows wildlife to travel safely through the area by building passages under existing roadways throughout a wide swath of land. They have incorporated part of their nature camera system along this pathway and have been amazed with the variety of animals that have been seen using it, including a bear, porcupines and of course wild turkeys, deer, beavers and other wildlife.

Another project, nearing completion, is restoration of approximately 1000 acres of former wetlands/salt-marsh at the north end of San Pablo Bay. This project has been many years in its preparation, and recently the levee holding out the water from the bay was breached and water allowed back into the area. Less than three months later, there are already signs of returning waterfowl and other wildlife to the area as well as restoration of some of the native marsh flora.

Sonoma Land Trust also has numerous outdoor activities at their various properties including hikes, volunteer workdays, naturalist instructional hikes, and general public hiking for picnics and views of the magnificent scenery.

Members can find out more about their programs at sonomalandtrust.org.

The club wishes to thank Dave for his most informative presentation on this wonderful organization and its activities. A donation was made on behalf of the Sonoma Land Trust to Polio Plus, Rotary International's program for worldwide elimination of polio.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 2 March 2016

Erika Jimenez, SRJC ROTARACT CLUB

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Pile, Club Secretary