

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

**DATE: 20 January 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:**

36/48          75%

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Jay Beckwith led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**

Vince Dougherty presented illuminating quotations from 2 famous Americans:

**Will Rogers:**

*Be thankful we are not getting all the government we are paying for.*

*I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.*

**Yogi Berra:**

*Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical.*

*The towels were so thick I could hardly close my suitcase.*

**SINGING:**

The group sang an inspiring version of *America the Beautiful*

**GUESTS:**

1. Ted Calvert, Healdsburg Noon Club
2. Jill Ravich, District Atty. of Sonoma County - Guest Speaker

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Tickets for the **Wine and Dine** event are available. Each member is responsible for the \$200 cost of selling his or her tickets (\$100/ticket). The date of the drawing has not yet been established. Diane Bucher had tickets available for those members who have not yet accepted them.
2. Sean Shields reminded members to contribute to the **End Polio** boxes that are present on the tables at each meeting. We are still behind our goal for contributing over \$1000 from our club.
3. Ciro Morales reminded members that we now have an active presence on **social media**. Members who have photographs, comments, or stories that they would like to share should send them to Ciro so they may be incorporated on our social media.
4. Jack Vallerga encouraged members to attend the **upcoming SCARC meeting to be held on 28 January at the Krug event center**. So far, 29 of our club members have signed up to attend

this event. It is an opportunity for transition from red badge to blue badge for new members in the club.

5. Dan Erickson reports that the **social activities** of the club include our anniversary dinner on April 1, a Cinco de Mayo event at the Cousteau bakery site near the airport, but still needs sites for our February and March meetings.

6. Lance Cottrell is starting to work on an **Evening with Transcendence Theater** for later this year. He queried the membership about interest and got a show of hands. This seems to be a popular event.

7. Ted Calvert, from the Noon Club, was present representing the Healdsburg Literary Guild. They will be presenting a **program on Thursday, 28 January at 7 PM featuring Frances Dinkelspiel, a noted author who will speak about her history of the wine country.** This will be held at Shed Grange at 25 North St. Admission is \$10.

### **HAPPY DOLLARS:**

Lee Morton has spent time in southern California with his family. He enjoyed doing projects for them but is happy to be back home. He made a generous contribution to polio plus.

There seemed to be little other happiness, or people were not forthcoming with their self-contained joy.

### **RAFFLE:**

For the second time this year, John Holt held the winning ticket ( 2660). His task was to select a number between 80 and 100. Happily he was able to remember his age and chose the number 81 (which was correct on both counts) which also happened to be the winning number. Congratulations John. Keep up the good work!

### **CRAFT TALK:**

**Jake McKee** gave his craft talk as part of advancement from red badge to blue badge. Jake spent his early years in Texas, living on the Gulf Coast. He received a bachelor's degree in fisheries biology from Texas A&M. He worked in oceanography for a while, and for a brief period of time lived in the Washington, DC area working for a government contractor doing oceanographic research. He returned to the Gulf Coast and went into the computer forensics and security and ultimately spent some time working in artificial intelligence. At 43 he moved to California to be with his family. He has a sister and a cousin living in the area and is moving his mother from Texas to Sonoma County at the present time. Here he is doing what he wants to do; to become part of the community and to contribute in a significant way. His hobbies include fishing, design, and building. He is extending himself into more areas of community service, but appreciates greatly the opportunity given to him by Rotary to this end, as well as the development of enduring friendships that he is making within our organization.

### **PROGRAM:**

Jill Ravitch, Sonoma County's District Attorney presented a program on Elder Abuse in Sonoma County.

Jill is the first female District Attorney in Sonoma County, serving in that position since her election in 2010. She has also helped to establish the Family Justice Center, which consolidates

services for victims of abuse, fraud and predation in Sonoma County. Their services include governmental, law enforcement and nonprofit organizations.

The population of Sonoma County, as well as the rest of society, is aging rapidly. Although now outnumbered by Millennials, the Boomer population continues to expand and currently has a life expectancy of over 84 years. Elderly people are at increased risk of abuses that include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, financial exploitation, passive and active neglect, abandonment and self-neglect. Everybody in society needs to be vigilant for signs of these types of abuse and needs to feel comfortable with reporting them to the appropriate agencies.

Neglect and physical abuse constitute approximately 70% of all cases in the county, with financial abuse currently at 12% but increasing very rapidly. Females are abused more frequently than males, often by adult children or other family members. Seniors now constitute greater than 20% of our society and 35% of our seniors are disabled in one way or another, making them particularly vulnerable to victimization.

Adult Protective Services (APS) is an agency of the county government. It is not a law enforcement agency, but is rather a place where concerns may be expressed which will lead frequently to an investigation. Most of the cases of abuse are committed by someone known to the victim. The workload for this agency has nearly doubled in the past five years.

Jill presented several questions and answers about how to avoid scamming which is one of the most important areas that affects seniors.

1. Information by scammers is obtained through purse snatching, mail theft, dumpster diving email fishing and unsolicited telephone calls.
2. You should never carry your Social Security card on your person. Memorize the number.
3. Investment in credit card "protection" is unnecessary. Never carry more credit cards on your person and you actually need (usually only one).
4. Older adults are the primary targets of telemarketing fraud. All people should be taught to hang up on unsolicited calls, or to let unidentified calls go to voicemail so you can determine whether or not it was someone who actually wanted to talk with you. Telemarketers do not leave messages.
5. Playing sweepstakes is a good way to get your name out there to be put on sucker lists for fraud scams. Avoid doing this at all costs.
6. Do not trust door-to-door sales people, particularly if they are offering a service that seems "helpful" but which was not solicited by you.
7. Do not let would be utility or city employees into your home unless you have previously called and requested a service. City employees never make random calls.

8. Most investment fraud is conducted by long-term, trusted advisors. Keep a high index of suspicion.

10. If you have other people conducting your financial affairs through a power of attorney or other arrangement, review all of your statements or have another, independent trusted person, do that for you.

To help protect against financial fraud, and to rapidly investigate suspected instances of this crime, the District Attorney has established a **FAST** team (**Fraud Abuse Specialist Team**) that investigates reported cases. A great deal of work is required for these investigations, and this particular unit relies heavily on volunteers. They are looking for volunteers with experience in finance, insurance and real estate.

They have also developed the **Sonoma County Elder Justice Coalition** that helps with these matters and that helps to coordinate investigation, provision of services, and reporting to the appropriate authorities if laws are being broken. Club members should visit their website for a detailed synopsis of what services are offered. [www.socoelderprotect.org](http://www.socoelderprotect.org)

The District Attorney's Office, along with community volunteers, have also developed an innovative program, **Family Justice Center of Sonoma County** that provides advocacy, law enforcement and other assistance services to people who are victims of all forms of abuse. They are always looking for volunteers to help coordinate these services. Their work is coordinated through several agencies throughout the county including the YWCA, Verity, Council on Aging, Intertribal Council, Legal Aid, Catholic Charities and DA Victim Services. Their website is [www.FJCSC.org](http://www.FJCSC.org).

Photographs of most of the slides from Ms. Ravich's presentation are in the photos that are associated with this meeting.

**The next meeting of the Rotary club of Healdsburg Sunrise will be held on Wednesday, 27 January 2018 at Tayman Park at 7:15 AM.**

Members are reminded of the SCARC dinner and to wear their Jester hats, and/or any other apparel that is associated with Wonder League to the event

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas D. Pile, M.D., Club Secretary