

**HEALDSBURG ROTARY SUNRISE CLUB  
KRUG EVENT CENTER  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:           Wednesday, 18 November 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:     32/47           68.09%**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Hartfield

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**                   President-elect Brad Benson offered these thoughts from a Chinese proverb:  
*Great souls have will; feeble ones have only wishes.*

**SINGING:**     In hopes of reinforcing the notion that United States is a welcoming country for people of all races, nationalities and religious backgrounds the group sang Woody Guthrie's "*This Land Is Your Land*".

**GUESTS:**

1.     Beverly Liberman, co-speaker for the program today
2.     E.J. Neil, acting Chairman, Board of Directors, Healdsburg District Hospital

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1.     Due to Thanksgiving falling on next Thursday, we will be "**DARK**" on **Wednesday, 25 November 2015.**
2.     **Lance Cottrell** reported on a successful "**Choices**" program this year. All classes were well behaved and seem to receive the message we were trying to impart. All of the Club members who participated felt good about the experience. President-elect Brad Benson commended Lance for the fine work that he did with the program and its coordination of volunteers, classrooms and educational meetings for the participants.
3.     **Shaun Shields** again reminded members of the "**Change for Change**" boxes on the table. He could not give an exact number as to the amount of money raised through this program, but will bring the total value to the next meeting.
4.     **Jim Brenton** was recognized by President-elect Brad for all of the hardwork and effort that went into organizing, presenting, and recapping the **Veterans Day Breakfast** for the Club. Over 60 veterans attended the event, including two who were in their 90's. It was suggested that the good turnout was a function of the event being held on the actual day of Veterans Day. **Richard Hillman** was also singled out for his work on the program. It was suggested by some that we plan our meeting for this breakfast to be on Veterans Day even if it does not fall on the day of our regular Club meeting.
5.     **George Lawson** has returned. He is planning a meeting of those Club members who have participated in **Wonder League** in the past, as well as those who are interested in participating in the coming year **following our next regularly scheduled meeting on to December 2015.** The meeting will last

approximately 15-30 minutes after our regular meeting. Volunteers are needed to start with activities now, as opening day in early April will soon be upon us.

#### **RECOGNITIONS / HAPPY DOLLARS:**

**Colleen Householder** is happy to announce that the Healdsburg Tourism Board has made a \$10,000 donation to Northern Sonoma County Services for their homeless program.

**George Lawson** is simply happy to be back.

**Richard Hillman** attended the Army/Air Force football game in Colorado Springs last week with his son. He is especially happy that the Air Force Academy prevailed, 20/3 over the Army squad.

**Brad Benson** is very happy to report that his daughter, recently certified as a nurse midwife, has taken her first position of employment.

**Herb Liberman** was happy to receive premature recognition for his forthcoming birthday (27 November) since the actual day will fall during the week in which we are dark.

#### **RAFFLE:**

After channeling all of her energy (see photographs) **Nancy Palombo** won the drawing but was unable to get into the mind of absent Pres. Lee Morton who had written a number between 100-111 on a top-level security document left in the possession of Brad Benson. Keep working on that channeling while you enjoy your breakfast on the house next meeting. What do you think breakfast will be?

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

**EJ Neil** from the **Healdsburg District Hospital Board of Directors** presented a brief summary of the status of the hospital. After struggling for several years with their accounting system, they have finally gotten into the black. In addition to improving their billing service, they are hoping to seek new revenue sources through volume of patients as well as unique service provision. Healdsburg District Hospital has **the only fully accredited Stroke Center in Sonoma County**. Healdsburg District Hospital has the **only hyperbaric oxygen chamber for complex wound management in all of Sonoma County**. They are in need of a new permanent MRI scanner for which they will need to raise \$1,000,000 by the end of the year. If \$1,000,000 can be raised, they will receive an additional matching amount from the Kalmanovitz Foundation. Mr. Neil encouraged each member to participate in **the "1000 with 1000" program** which would raise the \$1,000,000 if just 1000 people donated \$1000 each.

#### **PROGRAM:**

Herb and Bev Liberman presented an overview of their close participation and its impact on the **Kiurani School in Chorogia, Kenya**

For many years our Club has been providing scholarships for students at the Kiurani School in Kenya. Each \$250 allows a student to participate fully in the school for an entire academic year. The school has approximately 300 students, of whom 60-70%

are boarders which greatly facilitates their studies by providing safe housing, adequate nutrition, and relief of the burden of travel to and from school on a daily basis, which can take up to 1 1/2-2 hours each way for some students. The school is part of a government run program, but is severely underfunded.

In addition to the students, it is not uncommon for family members to come and live near the school so they may help with the numerous gardens and other self-sustaining projects that help keep the costs at the school affordable. English is the official language of the school, and all classes are taught in that language. The second most common languages are Swahili and there are numerous tribal dialects spoken amongst the students. Most of the students are from the Kikuyu tribe.

Beverly read several thank you letters written by the students who are in the secondary grades to those members who have sponsored them over their years of education. The use of English, the penmanship, and the thought that went into these letters was truly astounding and mature.

Students are allowed to progress on to university, which is funded by the state, if they score well on examinations given throughout the country on the same day each year. This year three women have gone on to university as a result of the education they received. This is a remarkably high number for such a small school. The school is in the top three academically in its district of the country.

When Herb traveled to present the "Little Sun", solar powered reading lamps, he presented them on a day when school was on vacation. Over 400 students came on that vacation day in their school uniforms to see if they would be one of the lucky 300 to receive the lights

Although funding does come from numerous other sources, our Rotary Club has been instrumental in providing water storage tanks to harvest runoff from the frequent rains making it less tedious to procure water for activities each day..

Your donations, our Rotary Club, and Rotary International have made a significant impact on this little segment of population in Kenya that is likely to produce leaders for their society for years to come. Herb and Beverly are to be praised and commended for their efforts, and all other members in the Club are encouraged to follow their example if possible in providing scholarship money for the students.

**We are DARK on Wednesday, 25 November 2015**

**Next meeting - Wednesday, 2 December 2015**

**Wonder league - special meeting - following immediately after meeting of 2 December 2015.**

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