



OHANA NEWSBRIEF



2020-21 Rotary Year

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Editor – Ghost

Member Spotlight Darryl Vasko

I was born in 1957 in Toledo, Ohio. Graduated from Clay High School in 1974. That is where I met Lory, my wife of 38 years. I was introduced to the electrical trade by my Uncle, who was an electrical contractor in Ohio.

My wife and I moved to Sacramento, California in 1979. We have two children, our son, Andrew who is 30 years old and our daughter, Dana who is 27 years old. We were recently blessed with our first Grandchild on August 8, 2020. My wife and I enjoy traveling, RVing and golfing.

I started Vasko Electric in 1982 and have continued to grow for 38 years. I now have two offices. Our main office is here in Sacramento and our second office is in Reno. We currently employ 150 employees.

I have been a proud member of the Rotary Club of Point West-Sacramento for 19 years and look forward to the day we can resume our Friday morning breakfast meetings.

My time horizon for retirement is the end of 2022, at which time my son, Andrew, will run the Company.



Speaker: Ross Siragusa, III

Ross, AKA Mr. Ketchup, is the Head of Global Agriculture and Seed at Kraft **Heinz** Company. Siragusa is based out of Kraft Heinz's office in Stockton, California, and has been head of global agriculture and seed for the company since 2008. He also was director of global agriculture for the then HJ Heinz from 2008 to 2013. In addition, Siragusa previously served as president of the California Tomato Growers Association from 2004 to 2008.

Ross told us that each acre of a field will produce about 60 tons of tomatoes. That's up from about 40 tons per acre just 15 years ago. The tomatoes themselves are a mix of tomato varieties that are specially bred to produce red, thick ketchup.

A mechanical harvester approaches at the pace of a brisk walk. It's a giant factory on wheels. It collects the tomato plants, shakes fruit loose from the vines, and sends a stream of bright red tomatoes into a big truck driving alongside. Within a day, a processing plant in Los Banos will turn these tomatoes into paste. Weeks or even months later, the paste will become the central ingredient in ketchup.

Now none of this can happen unless you have the perfect plants to make ketchup! This is where Ross and his team really shine. The development of the perfect seeds is Ross's passion. Seed development is key to making the very best end product. They use no GMO in their product and it takes five years to produce one new seed type.

Thank you Ross for educating Point West seed development and the perfect Ketchup!!!

A Message from: Samantha Hoshida

Message from Samantha Hoshida:

The RCPWS is switching Zoom accounts! A Huge Thank You to Lyndsay Burch and the B Street Theatre for hosting us since March. Point West Rotary has our own Zoom account that we will be using for our Friday morning meetings. Please use the new link that will be sent to you by President Russ' weekly emails. Thank you in advance for your patience as we rotate hosts and transition these roles. If you are interested in helping us 'host' a meeting, please contact Samantha Hoshida.

Please send all photo's, videos and things to share to our GMAIL account: pointwestrotarysacramento@gmail.com.

PWR has a Venmo account!! Start paying those fines and Happy Dollars (only)! You can find us @PointWest-Rotary.

"Because of You"...Maria O'Neil, the support you have given to many events and fundraisers of RCPWS.

KEY DATES

October 16 – Virtual: 7:30 AM – 5180 District Governor Brent Hastey

October 23 – In-person: 7:30 AM – Putting for Polio at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex