

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

ATTENDANCE: 25/45 56%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag under the leadership of Vince Dougherty.

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:

Will Seppi:

If you want to teach your children about taxes, eat 30% of their ice cream.

SINGING:

The group participated in singing *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* as a round, 2 times through. Some people finished well before others. Nobody was rowing at the end. We had "fun" but I am not sure that we "did good". There is always next week.

GUESTS:

1. Elaine Watkins, McCord Career Center, Healdsburg High School

RECOGNITIONS:

1. **John Bucher (Diane)**, birthday celebrated on April 3. \$55 to Paul Harris for Diane. Good job!
2. **Jeanie Benson (Pres. Brad)**, birthday celebrated. Donation to Club fund
3. **Brandy Seppi (will)**, another birthday, donation to polio plus
4. **Pam Moulton**, birthday celebrated today! Donation made to Paul Harris fund
5. **Cari Call (Chris)** birthday. Donation to Paul Harris fund – \$50
6. **Nancy Palombo and Richard Giuliani** celebrated their ninth anniversary this past week. The time was spent with their grandchildren who will be moving to the Washington DC area.

HAPPY DOLLARS:

1. **Colleen Carmichael** recently returned from a women's entrepreneur conference held in Houston. She had a great deal of fun and actually learned something. She brought back a small trinket for Pres. Brad.
2. **Dennis O'Neel** remains proud of his 17-year-old grandson who is leaving on Saturday to play rugby in Ireland with his high school team for a one-week period of time.

3. **Shaun Sheilds** reports that his son is presently working in London, for which Shaun is happy. He is both happy and sad for his dog, 11 years old, who had to be put down recently. Happy for the joy the dog provided for 11 years, sad at the loss.
4. **Will Seppi** reported that a good friend, **Barclay Nalley**, a longtime resident of Healdsburg, died at age 91. Will will be bringing by some items to be auctioned off at future Club meetings. Barclay was a fixture around Healdsburg, having lived here all his life and entertained all people that he associated with by telling stories of Healdsburg "as it used to be".
5. **Vince Dougherty** will not be here next week... He is not sure if he is happy or sad about that... But he will be in Hawaii with friends. Apparently the trip was gifted to him. This needs to be remembered when he comes back and brags about his time spent there.
6. **Brad Benson** attended his 45th high school reunion this past weekend. Remarkably, he continues to have breakfast meetings with a group of seven or eight classmates from his fifth-grade class. They have all remained close friends through all the years. He donated \$50 to his Paul Harris.
7. **Ciro Morales** is extremely HAPPY to give up the Fool's Cup which he has displayed in his office for the past year. **Jake McKee** is the proud owner of the cup for the coming year.
8. **Lee Morton** has recently bought a house and has done a little bit of work at it, mostly at his wife's insistence. He is happy to contribute \$20 to his Paul Harris fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Shaun Sheilds** thanks all those members who have stepped up to contribute to the Paul Harris funds over the past several months. We are trying to encourage all Club members to become Paul Harris fellows early in their Rotary careers.
2. **President Brad** read a thank you note from Mary St. Claire for the work provided by Club members in providing care packages for servicemen overseas.
3. **Andy Esquivel** reports that Emma Nissen, our exchange student, has moved in with them for the remainder of the school year. He is happy for that and has contributed \$50 to polio plus. He also reports on **Interact**. They made \$200 at food court last Friday, they assisted with food service at our Fools Night Out, and have worked in the community garden. A forthcoming project on May 13 will involve being on the Russian River, guided by Dan McEnhill from Russian River Keepers as they go from Memorial Beach to Wohler bridge cleaning up the river. Start time is 9 AM, end time is 1 PM. Volunteers are needed both to go on the river with the students, and to provide transportation for students and kayaks.
4. **Jake McKee** reminded members that **Wonder League** is starting this Saturday at 10 AM at the Foss Creek ballpark. In the event of rain, the program will be held indoors at the gymnasium at the same facility.
5. **Jerry Anderson** reports that **Mary Haffner**, a well-known benefactor for many causes in the community, died two weeks ago. He expressed her wish that donations be made in her name to Healdsburg Forever or for the Sonoma Land Trust.

6. **Brad Benson** reminded members of the bike tour and the need for volunteers to sign up. An online sign-up sheet will be circulated by **Ciro Morales**. We need to have nearly complete Club participation in this project to make it a successful fundraiser.

7. **Lee Morton** reported on a meeting of the past presidents at which time a selection was made for the president to succeed **Dan Erickson** for the Rotary year 2018-2019. **Colleen Carmichael** was approved by the board for this and is now being presented to the membership. She was unanimously approved for this position. Congratulations Colleen, let us know how we can help.

RAFFLE:

Nobody stepped forward to sell tickets for the raffle. Hopefully next week there will be increased interest in this activity. If nothing else, it's a chance for a free breakfast.

PROGRAM:

Elaine Watkins, Dir. of the McCord Career Center at Healdsburg High School presented an overview of the scholarship program at the high school.

Elaine currently is working three days a week at Healdsburg High School. She has done this for the past five years following a career as an English teacher, community college business instructor, and raising a family. She has an MBA but did not work in finance.

She is thankful that Healdsburg is such a generous community, and gave special thanks to our Club for the gifts we have provided the scholarship program over the past eight years of our existence. She is also thankful that her position is funded with money from the McCord trust, the Barnes Trust and some outside financial aid. Not being subjected to the vagaries of a school district budget, she has been able to devote time on a consistent basis to maintaining one of the best scholarship programs in Sonoma County.

The main source of funds for scholarships at Healdsburg High School by the proceeds from the McCord Trust. Charlie and Florence McCord loved music and thought very highly of the healthcare professionals in Healdsburg. Upon their death, they bequeathed their entire estate as a permanent endowment fund to provide scholarships primarily for students enrolling in healthcare and music courses of instruction. Last year, over \$185,000 in scholarship stipends were awarded from this foundation. Many of the scholarships are renewable for as long as the recipient remains in school and follows the course of study for which the scholarship was awarded.

As a testament to the vibrancy of the scholarship program, over 71% of seniors applied for scholarships this year. 300 scholarships were given last year with a comparable number anticipated this year.

Students receiving scholarships need to provide proof of enrollment. Scholarship money is sent directly to the student who is responsible for spending it on education -related expenses, including but not limited to tuition and books. Living costs, transportation,

meals, etc. are all allowed. By providing money directly to the students, it increases their chance of receiving additional financial aid that might be available from their learning institution.

Ms. Watkins is keenly aware of the need of middle income families for scholarship assistance, particularly since they are not eligible for Pell grants or Cal grants which combined can provide up to \$13,000 of financial aid. In addition, students enrolled in the junior college can apply for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver. If granted, all scholarship money sent to the school on their behalf is awarded to them when they leave if it has not been spent in the course of their education. It may then be used at other institutions. The current cost of one year's education at California State University is approximately \$25,000, at the University of California campuses it is about \$34,000.

Numerous questions about various aspects of scholarships were answered following her presentation.

NEXT MEETING:

Nathalie Abramo will make a presentation on **“The Refugee Development Project”**
Wednesday, 12 April 2017

Douglas D. Pile, M.D.
Club Secretary