

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

DATE: Wednesday, 20 April 2016

ATTENDANCE: 34/46 74%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Terry Tremblay led the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:

Jerry Anderson offered the following inspirational thought:

*The mark of a truly educated person is someone who has learned to listen well
and understands that there are no bad questions.*

SINGING:

The group was reintroduced to the song *We Ain't Got A Barrel Of Money*, sung one year ago in anticipation of our Duck Dash. Who says that distant memories are easily recalled as we advance in life?

GUESTS:

1. Ken Moulton, past District Governor, Windsor Club
2. Gary Freitas President, Petaluma Sunrise Club
3. Lily Freitas, wife of Gary Freitas
4. Mayur Vyas, Rotary Fellowship Exchange, Gujarat District, India
5. Bina Vyas, Inner Wheel leader with Rotary International, India

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Vince Dougherty thanked the members who participated at **Wonder League** last Saturday. 14 children participated. More are anticipated this coming Saturday when members from the Club as well as the Interact Club will be pairing with each of the players as their "buddy." **The morning starts at 10:30 AM with registration and concludes by 12 o'clock noon.** At the conclusion of last week's game, Vince left his coffee cup which was returned today. As a gift of gratitude he made a donation to the Paul Harris Foundation.
2. Pam Moulton reports that all things are in place for the **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast** that will be held in two weeks. The meeting will be at our usual time and will be held at Tayman Park.
3. Andy Esquivel reports that the Interact Club will be participating with **Wonder League on Saturday and will also be working in the community garden from 1 PM until 3 PM** the following Sunday, 24 April 2016.

4. Sean Shields is once again grateful for the contributions to the Rotary International Foundation Polio Plus fund. Keep the change coming.
5. Bonnie Headley informs members that the **Healdsburg School is having their annual fundraising event the weekend of April 29 and 30th.** Activities will take place at Lambert Bridge winery on Friday and at Coppola on Saturday. Members wishing to participate should contact Bonnie or the Healdsburg School on their website.
6. Will Seppi reminded members of the **Community Mixer that is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club at the Robert Young state, 4960 Red Winery Rd., Geyserville. This will be on Tuesday evening, 26 April from 6 PM to 8:30 PM.** Members are encouraged to bring an appetizer. You will have opportunities to rub shoulders with members from Kiwanis, two Rotary Clubs in Healdsburg, the Soroptimist's and Healdsburg City Council members. This is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas about community service projects and to promote a climate of cooperation.
7. Colleen Householder reminded members of a **special art exhibit that focuses on homelessness in Sonoma County at the Mahder Gallery on Healdsburg Avenue from 14 May-26 may.** This will feature photographs from students, works of art by homeless people in our community, and photo essays by professional photographers and other artists. There will be a **special social for service Clubs on the evening of 19 May from 5 to 7 PM also at the Mahder Gallery.** Members interested in participating should contact either Colleen Householder or Pam Moulton.
8. Brad Benson, President-elect and chairman of the **Duck Dash committee, reports at committee assignments** will be made next week at our Club assembly. If you want to be on a specific committee, he urges you to attend the meeting. If you are willing to accept an assigned committee – don't show up! All members of the Club are expected to participate in this major fundraising event.

RECOGNITIONS:

1. **Fred Walter** recently returned from a sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands. Only one crew member became ill on the trip. They visited seven different islands. He brought back a box of Rum Balls for President Lee.
2. **Will Seppi** called attention to the recent issue of the Rotarian magazine for its timely articles on collecting and discarding items over our lifetimes, what to do in retirement, adoption of refugee families by Clubs or districts. In short, there is something for everybody in this issue, which all members receive and are encouraged to read.

HAPPY DOLLARS:

1. **Tim Preston** celebrated a birthday and was surprised to receive a barbecue/smoker. He made a generous contribution towards his Paul Harris award.

2. **Brad Benson** celebrated his birthday last week by attending the Golden State Warriors game where they achieved the NBA record of 73 victories in a season. He made a \$73 donation to his Paul Harris fellowship.
3. In addition to his gift of rum balls to president Lee, **Fred Walters** paid \$10 for each island visited in the British Virgin Islands on his recent sailing trip. He is happy to be back home.

RAFFLE:

Archie Julian was the lucky winner of the drawing. He was the unlucky loser of the challenge to pick a number, and wisely chose not to pay an additional \$10 to be slapped down again. Free breakfast next week.

PROGRAM:

Mayur and Bini Vyas were present at our meeting as part of a Rotary Friendship Exchange. They are from the Gujarat area of India, and were met by Pam Moulton on a Rotary Friendship Exchange program last year. They gave presentations on membership development as well as outlining an ambitious literacy project being conducted by Rotary in India.

Mayur Vyas spoke on the importance of membership development to maintaining a viable Club. He has extensive experience in membership, having served on numerous Rotary international committees in this area over his long history with Rotary. He started his presentation by pointing out that the membership in Rotary International has been stable at 1.2 million members, worldwide, since the mid-1990s. There has not been a net gain in membership in Rotary over that interval, although there are certainly many more people in the world who could be very good Rotarians if only we would reach out to them. Increased membership is necessary to spread the message of the good that Rotary does in the world. Rotarians, who incorporate the ideals of Rotary service in our daily lives interact in the community and can stimulate more people to follow in our path. The best way to expand membership is by our living examples of what we, as Rotarians, can do.

He gave a brief history of his Club in India which he held up as a prototype of all Clubs in terms of its ups and downs in membership and effectiveness in the community. His Club reached a zenith of 100 members in 1996. It was involved in numerous projects and had generated over \$3 million for community projects in the 15 or 20 years before that time. In less than five years, the Club had dwindled to 26 members and was not much of a local factor in providing service.

Factors leading to the decline of participation in this Club were primarily influenced by issues of dominance of certain members which led to decreased participation of other less dominant members and a decrease in the cohesiveness within the Club. Other factors that contribute to the decline of membership including a lack of financial discipline, no stable meeting place, lack of interesting programs and meaningful projects.

Members would be inducted, but would usually leave within a year. There was not much awareness at the district level of this turnover of new members, and he states that district involvement was very helpful in the plan to turn around his Club membership. The underlying theme for all of the reasons that the Club declined was a lack of communication and the development of fellowship bonds between Club members, both in their social interactions at meetings, as well as in their involvement in working on projects together.

As President, he was aggressive in revitalizing since his Club by maintaining lists of prospective members and contacting them regularly about the service provided by the Club and how their participation would be essential for increasing the amount of service that could be done. The importance of having a dynamic and effective Pres. and leadership in the Club was very important. Most Clubs do well if they adhere to their bylaws and communicate with all members on issues brought before the Board of Directors in a written format. Strategic planning needs to be done on a regular basis, usually involving the outgoing, current and incoming presidents as well as the next president elect. A strong orientation program is essential for new members and mentorship with another fellow Rotarian is critical to their participation and retention. His club also provides professional leadership training for all interested new members.

His club constantly strives for more community projects as well as working on engaging Rotarians and their families in social activities to create a strong bond between all members.'s Club also helps to provide professional leadership training for all new members.

His wife, also a Rotarian holding multiple Paul Harris fellowships gave a very brief overview of the ambitious literacy program that the Rotary Clubs in India are involved with. The project is called Rotary India Literacy Mission and focuses on five areas exemplified by the acronym TEACH. Each Rotary Club is assigned one school in their region which they will work for a three-year period of time, bringing them up to speed so that they may be approved by the state and the operations assumed by the state at that time.

T is for teacher development, bringing the local teachers up to speed in terms of teaching skills, knowledge base, and helping them to engage with community members.

E is for electronic learning. All students have access to computers and course syllabi are all on computer. Homework assignments are done on their computers.

A is for adult education. Not only do they attempt to teach children in the grades of 1-8 but also try to increase literacy of the adults in the community as well as promoting the importance of education for the benefit of their entire community..

C is for community outreach, hoping to find those children who are not in school because they have to work, or who have dropped out of school to return to work. They have very high capture and retention rates for these students.

H is for happy schools. Happy schools are those that have uniforms for the students, proper footwear, proper seating, clean water, proper sanitation and a conference room where teachers can work collaboratively when they are away from students during the day.

The program is highly successful and her Rotary Club is now on its third school, having extended the project over a period of at least six or seven years when they brought two other schools to a state of preparedness.

NENEXT MEETING:

Club Assembly with focusing on major fundraising efforts. Very critical that all members attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Pile, Club Secretary