

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

**DATE:           Wednesday, 1 February 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:               29/46           63%**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Philippe Hobson led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**

**Bonnie Headley** offered the following inspiration:

*If plan A doesn't work, then the alphabet has 25 more letters... Stay cool!*

**SINGING:**

The group attempted to sing *California Here I Come!* with very little success. We will go back to using crib sheets at future meetings.

**GUESTS:**

1.     **Brian Crabb**, Healdsburg Fire Department
2.     **Vern Losh**, representing the upcoming Love Run
3.     **Steve Rued**, special guest of Andy Esquivel, Rued Family Vineyards
4.     **Skip Brandt**, Healdsburg Running Company, talking about the Love Run.
5.     **Emma Nissen**, Rotary exchange student from Denmark

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1.     **Shaun Sheilds** reminded members to participate in the **Change for Change** Fund to end polio.
2.     **Diane Bucher** reminded members of the **wine and dine event** which will have its drawing on February 24 at Cousteau bakery at the time of a club social. Members are responsible for selling two tickets.
3.     **Ciro Morales** reminded members to update their email addresses on club runner. Apparently several members are not getting communications that he is sending out on a regular basis.
4.     **Pam Moulton** will be holding a brief organizational meeting for **Teachers Appreciation breakfast** participation immediately following this meeting. .She also reports that are outbound exchange student, Talia, is in her second home and is loving her experience. Next years student, Mary, will be going to Paraguay.
5.     The **Healdsburg Running Company** is sponsoring a **Love Run** in conjunction with the **Healdsburg Firefighters Association pancake** breakfast on Saturday, February 11 from 9 to 12 AM at the fire station. Tickets for the breakfast are \$10. Invitations for the run were passed out at the meeting. The firefighters Association exists to promote training for our firefighters, of which approximately

two thirds are community volunteers. Funds raised supplement the city's training fund for firefighters and also go to community service projects.

6. **Judges are needed for the annual science fair.** Contact Will Seppi for contact information about how to apply. Judging will be held on the evening of 14 March, starting at 5:30 with dinner at the Villa Chanticleer.
7. **Brad Benson** encourage members to attend a **meeting about organ donation** to be held at noon today at the Flamingo Hotel and Saturday, specifically to **encourage donors to supply a kidney for a Rotarian in the Santa Rosa club.** He also reminded members of a conference "Tomorrow's Leaders Today" to be held on February 6 at 1:15 PM in the Santa Rosa City Council Hall.
8. Our exchange student, **Emma Nissen, is holding a fundraising dinner to obtain funds for a field trip to Hawaii with other Rotary exchange students.** This is a planned activity of the youth exchange program that teaches exchange students how to engage with the community in a fundraising drive. The dinner will be held on March 4 at the home of Nancy Palombo. Tickets are \$50. A sign-up sheet was circulated and will be circulated at future meetings as well.
9. Brad Benson read a letter from the **Presents Project** thanking us for our participation. He also read a letter from the recipient family expressing their sincere gratitude for our role in making the holiday season special.
10. Two tickets for **the Sebastopol Sunrise Mardi Gras party on Saturday, 25 February** were given to **Ciro Morales** so there would be a club representative going. There was no auction on this item.

#### **RECOGNITIONS:**

1. **Fred Walter** recognized **Ciro Morales** for promoting our Wine And Dine function on the Healdsburg neighborhood website. This is a good way to get information out about this worthwhile program.
2. **Jake McKee** was not here for a recognition, I think he knows what to expect when he shows up at his next meeting.

#### **Happy dollars:**

1. **Brad Benson's son** moved to Grand Junction, Colorado in November and has just purchased his first new home. Now all of Brad's children are homeowners.
2. **George Lawson** is happy to be back in town. He is also happy that his son's partner has been granted a certificate of permanent residence in the United States. He was also given an application for a marriage license. He has been traveling on a Canadian passport. He travels around the world as a professor of journalism at the USC Annenberg school of journalism. George also has given a great deal of consideration to supporting a free and open press, supporting civil liberties, and standing up for women's issues. He will be circulating information to club members about involvement and charitable giving for these causes.
3. **Will Seppi** gave a dollar to the polio fund to commemorate the presence of **Skip Brand** at our meeting today.

**RAFFLE:**

**Herb Liberman** not only held the winning ticket, that had the correct answer to the question : Where was the second Rotary club established after the initial one in Chicago? The answer... San Francisco. Congratulations Herb, maybe being so lucky will make you reconsider moving south.

**PROGRAM:**

Today's program included craft talks from Leslie Palmieri, Matt Machi, Dan Erickson and Brad Benson.

**Leslie Palmieri...** Leslie is a native of San Mateo County, but moved early in life to Hawaii where she completed high school. She attended Santa Barbara City College and ultimately UC Santa Barbara and graduated in 1995 with a degree in Spanish. She had hoped to teach elementary school, but after a semester of student teaching felt that she was not a good match for teaching at that time in her life. Instead, she opened a restaurant which he ran for 15 years. She moved to Healdsburg in 2009 with her husband, after selling her successful restaurant to be close to his family. She took the job as a teller at the Exchange Bank and rapidly worked her way upwards into management. She was ultimately transferred to the Cloverdale branch where she was encouraged to join Rotary by Mark Decker, a Rotarian in the Noon Club. After several years with the bank, she realized that her chances of advancing much higher in the management tree were quite low so she returned to her interest in education and found a job as office manager at the Westside School in Healdsburg. She has remained there and enjoys her work immensely. She is even contemplating going back and receiving her credential. She enjoys Rotary because of the many good friends that she is making and its community-oriented spirit and activities.

**Matt Machi...** Matt is a native of Healdsburg and graduated from Healdsburg High School. He was the president of the Interact Club. He attended the Santa Rosa Junior College and ultimately earned his bachelors degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. He ultimately obtained an opportunity to obtain a Masters degree in civil engineering from UC Berkeley and following graduation worked for 5-6 years as a civil engineer in subdivisions in the cities of San Ramon and Pleasanton. An opportunity was presented to him by his lifelong friend, Cody Atterbury, to return to Healdsburg and work for Atterbury and Associates, a civil engineering firm in this community. He returned six months ago. He is an Eagle Scout with a lifelong history of service to the communities where he resides. He carries this over into his desire and interest in being a Rotarian. He is also in the US Naval reserve in the civil engineering Corps.

**Dan Erickson... President-elect...** Dan is from Oakland California where he attended high school and graduated from Oakland High School in 1967. He spent one year at Laney College, a period of time at San Jose State University and ultimately moved to Santa Rosa where he completed his bachelor's degree at

Sonoma State College in 1972. Upon graduation he went to work in a grocery store as a clerk and stocker and continued in that position for two or three years until he was hired by Automotive Safety House, a supplier of new and used auto parts throughout all of northern California, up to the Oregon border. He had numerous functions in that position and actually worked for them for nearly 19 years. At that time the business began to collapse because of the age of the owners with no planning for continuing the business beyond their ownership. Without a job in 1993 he self-referred himself to Edward Jones and became a stockbroker. He has worked for them continuously up until the present time with an office in Santa Rosa. Dan's father, Roger, was a lifelong Rotarian and is known by many members of our club by his frequent visits. He recently passed away. It was his father's interest in Rotary and its ideals of service as well as his mother's personal history of polio with paralysis that led him to join Rotary himself in 1994. Although living in Healdsburg, his office was in Santa Rosa and the Santa Rosa club seemed the best fit for him. In 2009 he decided to switch to the Healdsburg Sunrise Club as it worked better into his schedule and was closer to home for an early morning meeting. For a six-month period of time he was attending meetings of both clubs as he had a leadership position with the Santa Rosa club that he did not want to step away from. He has been a very active member of the Sunrise Club in Healdsburg and is now our President-elect. He enjoys reading, travel and music. He has an extensive collection of records. He is two months away from complete retirement, having traversed a two-year "transitional retirement" program with Edward Jones.

**Brad Benson... President...** Brad is from Auburn, California. He grew up in this largely rural community and takes pride and joy and having had a backyard of nearly 50,000 acres of forest and land to play in. Ultimately his parents moved to a different part of town and his acreage was reduced to approximately 5,000 acres. Has one brother, who is shorter than he is. He attended Adventist schools and spent his 11th and 12th years at Rio Lindo Academy in Healdsburg. Following that he went to Pacific Union College and ultimately the podiatric school of San Francisco. He and his wife, Jenny, moved to Modesto where he purchased a podiatric practice and practice for 11 years. They lived in Modesto for nearly 20 years before moving to Healdsburg and assuming a position at Rio Linda Adventist Academy. Their oldest child, Jake, lives in Healdsburg and in the past year has given them their first grandson, Franklin. He is currently working for Costeaux. Grant, their second child is working as a Cath Lab nurse in Grand Rapids, Colorado. They recently purchased their first home. Brad's third child, Krista, is working as a nurse practitioner-Midwife in Paradise, California. His wife is currently working as a speech therapist with the Cloverdale school district. Brad was initially working with young alumni development at Rio Lindo Academy but for the past several years has been involved with their work-study program which requires constant supervision. He chose to become active with Rotary as he felt a need to be more involved with his community and to have a wider range of acquaintances than were afforded by living and working at the Academy. He has amazed himself with how rapidly he has assumed a significant position of leadership in Rotary, and is enjoying every minute of it.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

**Amy Covin, Pres., Board of Directors, Healdsburg Prune Packers – *Springtime Means Baseball***

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Pile, Club Secretary