

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

DATE: Wednesday, 22 February 2017

ATTENDANCE: 30/45 67.7%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pres. Brad led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:

Ed Smith offered three inspirational thoughts:

*Five percent of the people think;
ten percent of the people think they think;
and the other eighty-five percent would rather die than think.
Thomas Edison*

*With school turning out more runners, jumpers, racers, tinkerers,
grabbers, snatchers, fliers, and swimmers instead of examiners, critics,
knowers, and imaginative creators, the word 'intellectual,' of course,
became the swear word it deserved to be.
Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451*

*The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot
be changed without changing our thinking.
Albert Einstein*

SINGING:

The group did an amazing job of singing *My Country Tis Of Thee*, starting and ending in the same key. We are clearly getting ready for bigger and better things!

GUESTS:

1. Steve Rued, Special Guest of Andy Esquivel
2. Larry Myers, South Ukiah Rotary Club, program speaker
3. Jill Myers, Friend of Rotary, spouse of Larry

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Diane Bucher** had two announcements. It is time to turn in tickets for the **Wine and Dine** event. The drawing will be held this **Friday evening at Cousteau bakery. The gathering will commence at 5:30 PM and the drawing will be held at 6:30 PM.** Also, tonight is the **polenta dinner** for the Drew Esquivel Memorial Scholarship Fund to be held at Relish starting at 6 PM.

2. **Diane** also brought the membership up to date on our participation in the **bicycle tour** that our Club has taken over from the Chamber of Commerce. This year, she has graciously performed almost all of the functions with us serving as resident observers trying to learn all we can about how to put the event on for the coming year. We will need **volunteers on Friday, April 28** to pick up supplies and distribute them along the route. We will also need a large number of **volunteers on Saturday, April 29**, to help with the smooth operation of the event. We are encouraged to promote the ride to our friends. There will be a 5 km fun run sponsored by the Healdsburg Running Company held in conjunction with the event. There is also a need to solicit sponsors for the event, although the Chamber has been working on this as well. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteering on Friday or Saturday.

3. Lynda Guthrie, president of the Healdsburg Noon Club, was present to encourage members to participate in the **Green Hair Day** festivities to be held on **Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day**. This is an opportunity to raise money by soliciting people to pay you for having your hair painted green. Festivities start at 6 AM at Cousteau bakery and the parade starts just north of there near Sanderson forward and circulates around the Plaza.

4. **Pres. Brad** offered **thank you's from Herb and Beverly Lieberman** for the event at Costeaux bakery celebrating their move to Delmar. They are now in their new home and are eager to have visitors from Healdsburg come down and stay with them.

5. **Andy Esquivel** reminded members of the **fundraising dinner that is being put on by Nancy Palombo and Emma Nissen on Saturday, March 4** at 6 PM. Cost is \$50 and checks should be made payable to Emma Nissen.

6. **Dennis O'Neill** reported on the President's Selection Committee's findings. **Archie Julian has been selected as the president to follow Dan Erickson** for the Rotary year 2018-2019. The selection was **presented to the Club for approval. There was unanimous approval of this nomination.**

RECOGNITIONS:

1. **Jack Mallinson**, an honorary member, recently celebrated his 60th birthday. He made a donation to the polio plus program.

2. **Brad Benson** offered some happy dollars celebrating the fact that all of his children will be here this weekend.

3. **George Dutton** gave a donation in memory of John Abraham, formerly Public Defender of Sonoma County who passed away recently. He was an extremely close family friend of the Dutton's going back over 30-40 years. He was also pleased to have family visiting from Nebraska after the holidays.

RAFFLE:

Barney Brady held the winning ticket today. The question was... What country is home to the incoming Rotary International president? The answer was Australia, but Barney didn't know that. The pot increases and Barney will not go hungry at his next meeting.

PROGRAM:

Larry Myers, member of the South Ukiah Rotary Club is a survivor of polio, acquired at age 6. He has been a Rotarian since 1973 and was a District Governor in 1984. Since 2002 he has been the Polio Plus chairman for the Rotary Foundation and has been responsible for bringing over \$10 million in donations for this worthwhile cause.

Larry has had a lifelong interest in Rotary because it has always been responsive to the needs in the local as well as international communities. He feels honored to have had this opportunity to serve Rotary International in helping to eradicate poliomyelitis from the world.

He gave a rather detailed history of the days surrounding his diagnosis and treatment of polio. At age 6 he awoke one morning with left sided paralysis and was immediately taken to the hospital where he was placed in isolation from all contact with family. His only human contact was with the caregivers in the polio ward at the hospital. This was in the 1940s when there were no cures for the disease, in fact, there was no consensus as to what caused polio. There was a clear association of polio outbreaks with summertime activities at swimming pools and other places where people gathered. Hence there was a great deal of fear in the community, not knowing where the disease may be lurking, and a great deal of isolation of those people who happened to have contracted the disease, for fear that they may spread it to another person.

He gave a graphic description of the hospital stays that children endured. Although he did not require an "iron lung" he did pass by the iron lung ward several times during his hospital stay (in his wheelchair) and recalls the noise and flurry of activities of all of the healthcare providers that were caring for these children and young adults whose respiratory muscles had been paralyzed and were living in cylinders with bellows that would alternately inflate and deflate their lungs continuously until respiratory muscles recovered or, as was often the case, the young person died. It was indeed a frightening disease, made all the worse by the social isolation in which the victims were forced to live.

He made a recovery from his paralysis. He is now suffering from post polio syndrome which is a recurrence of the injury that originally damaged his motor neurons and led to his paralysis. As years progressed, the motor neuron cells that were originally injured, but which never completely recovered, show signs of ongoing deterioration. Although the poliovirus is no longer active in one's body, the nerve damage takes its progressive toll over the years leading to recurrence of symptoms that were similar to those of the original illness, to which are added symptoms of pain and abnormal sensation and a generalized feeling of fatigue. Almost everyone who has experienced paralytic polio in some degree will encounter postpolio syndrome in their lifetime.

Survivors of paralytic polio for many years have been reluctant to discuss their conditions publicly, or even admitting them to their family because of the emotional stress that they endured when they were ill. Larry has been instrumental in leading groups that have allowed people to talk, some for the first time in their lives, about what it was like to have polio and to share that experience with their families, other survivors, and by doing so get a greater understanding of what they are going through at the present time.

With a near complete eradication of paralytic polio in the world (1-3 cases worldwide 201 in 2016) the population that suffers with post polio syndrome will gradually decrease. However, the world must be ever vigilant that this disease does not make a recurrence. Ongoing efforts spearheaded by Rotary International will continue to make the world a place that is safe from this devastating illness.

NEXT MEEET

Chris Vanden Heuvel
HEALDSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Pile, Club Secretary