

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Eric Wagner led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Inspiration:**

Colleen Carmichael offered the following lines from Kayleen Asbo:

*As the hours of darkness begin to slowly wane from the winter sky,  
So too may the fearful places of your heart unclench their grasp on your life  
As the presence of light begins to grow with greater sureness with each passing day  
May your own courage blossom to open more brightly to truth and love.*

**Singing:**

The group sang a very invigorating version of “The More We Get Together”.

**Guests:**

1. Steve Rued, guest of Andy Esquivel
2. Margaret Van Vliet, Community Development Commission
3. Brittany Nikol, Community Development Commission

**Recognitions/Happy Dollars**

**Will Seppi** had an anniversary. He made a donation to the Foundation.

**Philippe Hobson’s wife**, Stacy, celebrated a birthday. A donation was made to the Foundation.

**Chris Call**, manager of the Grange Credit Union reports that the name of his organization has been officially changed to North Bay Credit Union. He is also happy to announce that Colleen Carmichael has become the newest board member for the credit union. He expresses his gratitude to Rotary for the role that they played in getting her to this position.

**Fred Walter** wants to express his thank you’s to all the Club members who offered support in the time of a recent family loss.

**Announcements**

1. **Will Seppi** reports that there will be a coordinating committee meeting for the July 4 celebration this coming Friday, 20 January 2017 at 3 PM in the back room of John and Zeke’s bar. He says that they are getting a lot done.
2. **Dan Erickson** is looking for volunteers for the **Friends of the Healdsburg Library** who will be having their annual book sale. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, 15 March and Saturday, 19 March. Further details will be forthcoming at future meetings.
3. **Sean Sheilds** reminds members to contribute to the **Change for Change** boxes to help eradicate polio.
4. **Ann Marie Montecuolo** reports that **Ciro Morales** has accepted the position of **Communications Chair** and will be responsible for all the textual content at the Club’s various websites and social media.
5. **Andy Esquivel** reports that the **Interact Club** received a \$500 donation from the noon Club for their participation in the annual Crab Feed. They voted to distribute \$250 to Heifer International and \$250 to the Healdsburg Food Pantry. Andy also brought to the attention of the membership a Love Run that is sponsored by the Healdsburg Running Company to be held in conjunction with the Firefighters Breakfast on February 11.

Proceeds from participation in the run will go towards the Drew Esquivel Memorial Scholarship Fund. Also, there will be a presentation of “Life in a Day-the Western states 100” to be presented on Friday, 27 January at 7 PM at Sonoma Cider Company in Healdsburg.

6. **Diane Bucher** will have tickets for the annual Wine and Dine event available at our next meeting. Each member is responsible for selling two tickets at \$100 each. All the money will be used by the Club in their scholarship program. The winning ticket will be drawn on Friday, 24 February at the Cousteau bakery. The Club will also host a social at that time. Members are encouraged to mark their calendars and to bring a bottle of wine.
7. There will be a **meeting of the Joint Board of Directors** of the Rotary Club of Healdsburg Sunrise, and the Rotary Club of Healdsburg Sunrise Foundation immediately following this meeting.

#### **Raffle:**

**Ciro Morales** held the winning ticket and was questioned about his knowledge of Rotary. The question: *Where will the international conference be held, who was the current president, and what country is he from?* Atlanta, John German, United States of America. **Ciro** got the city right.

#### **Program:**

Margaret Van Vliet, Director of the Community Development Commission made a presentation on the role that her organization plays in helping to solve housing problems for people with limited means. She has been working in this capacity most recently in Oregon. She is experienced in all the regulatory aspects of affordable housing, low income housing, and finding shelter and ultimately permanent living spaces for homeless people.

Community Development Commission is a non-governmental agency that reports to the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County. There are four major areas that her commission works on. First, they provide money to care for people at risk of becoming homeless as well as for the actual homeless population itself. They do this through contributions to agencies which actually provide the services to this segment of the population. Secondly, they are the Housing Authority for Sonoma County. They are responsible for administering Section 8 programs of HUD. This includes voucher distribution for affordable housing. Currently there are 3000 vouchers allowed for Sonoma County. There are 4000 people on the waiting list to receive these vouchers and the average wait time is approximately four years. Thirdly, they help with the financing of affordable housing through working in project development, particularly with nonprofit developers. One of their major partners is Burbank Housing. (Our Club has recently heard a presentation from Burbank Housing in October, 2016). The final area of involvement deals with helping existing homeowners with low interest loans. These help with financing for necessary upgrades and additions to help the elderly stay in their home. They also help with upgrading homes for flood protection and doing minor repairs.

The funding for the commission comes from multiple sources. Federal money comes from HUD and FEMA, and as with all federal money it comes with regulations, rules and restrictions that at times are quite complicated to follow. There is also money coming from the state as well as

county funding from the transient occupancy tax and the general fund. Frequently this county money is used to match federal or state money to increase the amount of money that is available for programs.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is very active with promoting programs to reduce homelessness and to increase the number of people able to afford homes. Working with the Community Development Commission they are trying to incentivize the private sector to build more units. To that end they have created a “Building Homes Tool Box” that helps developers deal with financial, regulatory aspects of housing as well as to encourage thinking outside the box as to what actually constitutes a house or home.

One of the successes the commission has had relates to converting the Palms Inn on Santa Rosa Ave. into 104 units for housing limited income people. 64 of the residents are veterans and were eligible for a special voucher program which helped this project succeed financially. In this program, there are also consolidated services for “reentry” of the participants into the workforce where they may be able to earn enough money to afford different types of housing. It is always been the goal of the commission to adopt policies that help move people towards independence and decreased needs for public assistance.

There are currently approximately 2000 homeless people in Sonoma County. Approximately 100 live in Healdsburg, 300 in the North County region. These numbers are probably under estimates as it is difficult to achieve an accurate account for multiple reasons.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

Douglas D. Pile, M.D., Club Secretary