

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

**DATE:           Wednesday, 25 January 2017**

**Brad Benson was called away because of the unanticipated death of his mother. Our thoughts are with him.**

**Dan Erickson, as President-elect, stood in for Brad this morning.**

**ATTENDANCE:       25/46           53%**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chris Call led the group in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**

Colleen Carmichael quoting Mark Nepo:

*The storm by its nature wants to move on and the tree's grace is that it has no hands. Our blessing and curse is to learn and relearn when to reach and hold, and when to put our hands in our pockets.*

**SINGING:**

The group sang a rendition of "**We Ain't Got A Barrel Of Money**", starting in a key that was unnatural and gradually drifting downward to something that was actually singable. I think that everybody had a good time.

**GUESTS:**

1.     Patrick Laherty, Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise
2.     Steve Rued, special guest of Andy Esquivel
3.     Susan Nelson, Rotary Club of Windsor Sunrise
4.     Gail Ginder, wife of Rotarian Jess Shaw
5.     Rick Cafferatta, homeless coordinator at North Sonoma County Services

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1.     **Vince Doherty**, returning after a period of absence, related an electrically charged joke about a lady "selling C-cells on the seashore". It amped the crowd.
2.     **Jake McKee** reminded members of a recent email that he sent about service opportunities in the community, outside of those that have been selected by the Club. Of particular interest and need is hands-on help with the library book sale in mid-March. Members are encouraged to look back on their emails that they have received from Jake in the last several days.
3.     **Patrick Laherty** sends greetings from the Sebastopol Sunrise Club. He is here today to promote the **Mardi Gras Casino night** that will be held on **Saturday, 25 February** at the Community Center in Sebastopol. It is their major fundraiser. Tickets may be obtained through Brown Paper Tickets online. He also gave

President-elect Dan 2 tickets that will be auctioned off to Club members at the meeting next week.

4. **Shaun Sheilds** once again reminded members of the importance of contributing to *Change for Change*, our Club's effort to help eradicate polio through Rotary International.

5. **Will Seppi** reports on the most recent Duck Dash meeting, held last Friday. There is excellent participation and new activities are being formulated for the celebration this year. There will be another meeting on the last Friday in February from 3 o'clock-4:00 PM at John and Zeke's bar.

6. **Pam Moulton** reminded members that **Teachers Appreciation Breakfast** is coming up. She will be holding a brief orientation meeting following the meeting next week at which time we are hopeful that new members can be recruited to help sustain this event in the coming years. Therese Walker, a former member of the Club, will not be responsible for any of the program this year.

7. **Diane Bucher** has tickets for the **Wine and Dine** event. Each member is given two tickets to sell at \$100 each. \$200 will be charged to his Rotary account which will be reduced when proceeds from ticket sales are received. The drawing for the winner will be held on **Friday, February 24 at Costeaux Bakery**. This will also be the time of our February club social.

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Jack Vallerga called Club Sec., Doug Pile, before the group. He then presented Doug with a Paul Harris society membership that he had donated. Doug was flattered and grateful and promised the Club that he would start working more diligently for his "second" Paul Harris society award.

#### **RECOGNITIONS:**

There were no recognitions for today.

#### **HAPPY DOLLARS:**

1. **Dan Erickson** was happy to make a contribution to the Drew Esquivel Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of President Brad Benson's mother.

#### **RAFFLE:**

True to form, **Ciro Morales** is once again the holder of the winning ticket. He chose a historical question and correctly named the author of the phrase *These are the times that try men's souls* – Thomas Paine from Common Sense.

#### **PROGRAM:**

This week we were privileged to receive a presentation of a photo essay created by Pam Moulton, Susan Nelson and Gail Ginder. They have been working together as photographers for several years. Their history goes back to when they took classes at the junior college and ultimately went on to take other professional courses including travel courses and photography taking them around the world. It was natural that they would come together to work on a project dealing with homelessness in Sonoma County. It was a mind changing experience for all three of

them, probably best summed up by stating that it involved meeting people, learning their history and being in the moment with the people that they were photographing.

They had planned to take pictures to help with the North Sonoma County Services program to help raise awareness of homeless people in Sonoma County. Once they started on the project, they spent more time talking with the homeless people than actually photographing them and discovered that homelessness goes far beyond simply being without a "home".

For Pam, this was one of those "aha moments" that helped her to understand and feel at a more personal level why she is involved in Rotary. In relating her story of working with three separate men, often with all of them together, she learned that her stereotyped concept of homelessness was shattered and she learned that each of these men were kind, generous, good spirited, willing to give much more than they had physically to help those around them. One word could not define homelessness.

Each of the photographers presented a brief profile of one or more of the people that they photographed.

Rick Cafferata had his story told which was indeed heartwarming, as well as a testimony to the inner strength that Rick has had and has displayed as he has gone from being homeless and at times hopeless to a person who is now in charge of outreach to the homeless community of North Sonoma County. He is soon to be married, has regained custody of a daughter, and is doing work that he absolutely loves.

Janelle, no last name, was a person without a home. She did not define herself as homeless. That was a concept that she could not embrace. She had medical problems along with troubles with alcohol abuse and despite the efforts of the local community, she was unable to find what she needed and has gradually drifted away from the area. No one is quite sure what has happened to her.

Most encounters with the homeless, if they are viewed with acceptance, can lead to positive outcomes. Reestablishing Social Security benefits, reinstating drivers licenses, assistance with job applications and resume creations, and simple opportunities to serve in a meaningful capacity helping others all lead to an improved outcome for people who are without homes.

The three women will have another showing at Paul Mahder gallery starting on May 13. On May 20 there will be a one person show presented by its author, a high school senior in Sebastopol who will be telling a story about a homeless woman. The women are hopeful that we can also have another Club night at the gallery including the noon Club, Kiwanis, Soroptimist and AAUW.

There were comments at the end of the meeting about a new program called *Share Sonoma*. This is a program to coordinate placement of people with limited housing opportunities in the homes of elderly people who have extra rooms that they could stay in. There are approximately 35,000 empty rooms available in the county for this type of service. There is a new app called *Sheltering US* that allows people who are willing to share rooms with people who need them. Sonoma County Properties is also working on a loan program to help people with these rooms upgrade their properties to improve accessibility for some of the special needs exhibited by homeless people.

Members are encouraged to attend the show at the Mahder gallery on Healdsburg Avenue starting on May 13.

Dan Erickson quoted Confucius to end the meeting:

*No matter where you go, there you are.*

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Pile, Club Secretary