



# The Voice of the Vineyards

The Weekly Electronic Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Healdsburg

“The mission of a bulletin is inform the membership,  
comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable”

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## WELCOME!



**President Paul Frechette** called the meeting to order and asked **Eric Zeidrich** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

✚ Visiting Rotarians: None

✚ Guests of the Club



○ Graham Freeman - Guest of **Dick Bertapelle**

○ Carol Hazlett – Guest of **John Hazlett**



- Emmy Cleland – Guest of **Tom Cleland**



- Cindy Brenton – Guest of **Jim Brenton**



- Doug Ruthnick – Former member



- **Eric Zeidrich** – Corporate member

**TRIVIA QUESTIONS:** - None

**QUOTE FOR THE DAY** - None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Closing of Bear Republic—**TONIGHT** we meet and celebrate good times – 6:00 or whenever you can get there
- **Doug Garrett:** Holiday Party Update. Doug passed around the signup form for dinner at Madrona Manor on Dec. 11.



- **Grady Wann** again made a plea for silent auction items.



- We are again providing lunch to seniors at the Senior Center next Monday. Four members volunteered to help plat the lunches. Everyone should bring a gag or useful gift for the raffle. This will be MC'd by **Al Loebel** and **Mike McGuire**.

- **Dave Anderson** announced that Valette lost about \$200,000 because of the fire. However, they provided meals to first responders, accepting no money for their services.



- At the board meeting before the Club meeting, the Board approved donating 50% of the proceeds of the silent auction to the Healdsburg Food Bank and to the Geyserville Fire Department.



- **Richard Norgrove** announced that the Bear Republic will close doors on Nov. 22. He is still in discussions with the landlord about making necessary repairs. If that happens and **Richard** remodels, the Bear will reopen in 6 months. Otherwise it will remain permanently closed.



- **Kellie Larson** talked about the Presents Project and circulated the signup sheet.

**RECOGNITIONS** - None

**HAPPY DOLLARS**



- **Dick Bertapelle** has been using 49er head covers for many. Now that they are 9 and 1, **Dick** felt confident enough to donate \$50 to the Club.

## RAFFLE

Cindy Brenton drew her own number and then drew the black marble, winning \$232. As a bonus, she also received a bottle of wine. Quite a day for a guest!



## PROGRAM



**Kevin Burke**, Chief of Police for Healdsburg. He is a lawyer and worked in L.A. before moving to Healdsburg nine years ago.

Program title: Kincade Fire – 2019

**Kevin** gave us a very entertaining and informative program with many details of the fire and how the Healdsburg Police Department responded. Here are highlights of his presentation that included many detailed slides.

- The Evacuation Center was opened on Oct. 24
- On Oct. 26 the county sheriff and implemented by Kevin. He had 9 teams of 2 people who knocked on all homes and businesses in Healdsburg. Evacuation was done in an orderly manner in 5 hours. Only 82 residents refused the evacuation order.
- Once the evacuation was completed, the only people seen in town were police officers, firefighters, media members with passes and CROOKS.
- It was predicted that the fire would reach Healdsburg in 90 minutes after crossing the Russian River. At that time, models showed the fire consuming Windsor and burning all the way to the coast. Fortunately, the wind changed direction, saving our town.
- All police cars were evacuated by officers who left their personal cars in the city yard. When it came time to lock the police department doors, no one could find the key. They ended up using shackles to secure the front door.
- There were many firefighting resources in Healdsburg, especially on the east side of the River. Cal Fire air support was used extensively.
- Some residents were escorted to their homes to retrieve medications and pets. Also, some wineries were escorted in order to punch down grapes that had been harvested just before the fire started. **Kevin** even got to experience punch down personally.
- There was much volunteer action by several businesses. Pacific Market donated gallons of GOOD ice cream so that Kevin could throw a party for officers. Dustin Valette

donated very good food and would not accept any payment. Brush Salon gave free shampoo services to many female responders.

- When the evacuation order was lifted, **Kevin** had the pleasure of allowing the first residents to return. There were officers at all five entries into town and they made makeshift signs welcoming residents home.
- **Kevin** gave credit to the many agencies that worked together to save Healdsburg and Windsor. He was especially complimentary of the San Francisco Police Department. In closing he showed a photo of the entire police department, including Leo, the new therapy dog.

#### Upcoming programs/events-

- ✓ November 25<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving lunch being served to seniors at the Healdsburg Senior Center—with Sen. **Mike McGuire** and **Al Loebel** as Raffle MCs
- ✓ December 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Ric Helthall**: CyberSecurity and U.S. Elections