



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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Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**

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WELCOME

President Paul Frechette called the Zoom meeting to order at precisely 12:16PM, with 58 folks signed in to Zoom (42 Club Members, and 16 Visitors and Guests. Paul estimates there were 65 in attendance, in all.) Paul explained that the meeting was being video-recorded and would be available for viewing at (Click CTRL+Click):

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vMFpPrHq2yRLTp2W80LwXJwql9qmX6a8gCNP_PVby02HWqoqUdBVZSB9EjMIPcrs

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Paul led us reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

- **President Paul** welcomed a number of Visiting Rotarians:
 - Kathy Flamson, Current District 5130 Governor
 - Bob Rogers, Former District Governor
 - **Lynda Guthrie**, Past President, Healdsburg Club
 - **Andy Esquivel**, Past President, Healdsburg Club, and wife, Suzanne

- **President Paul** greeted other Visitors, including George Lawson. **Prez Paul** then asked Liz Loebel to introduce members of the family who were present on the Zoom call. They included:

Erin and Kyle ____	Bob and Charlotte Russell	Sandy ____
Renee Schauer	Richard Lawson	Laura and Kyle ____
Jeff Loebel	Sue Bosman	Kristin ____
Kayla Matthews	Cathy Webber	Judy Zeller
James ____	Jenny ____	Gabe Nichols

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS (to be recognized at next week's meeting)

- **Bob Freelen** May 01
- **Tom Billeter** May 05
- **Kevin Burke** May 06
- **Paul Frechette** May 07
- **Jerry Ogden** May 20

RECOGNITIONS and HAPPY DOLLARS--None today

TRIVIA CONTEST – None today

RAFFLE – None today

UPCOMING PROGRAMS – None announced

PROGRAM – Remembering and Honoring fellow member, Al Loebel

Anyone wishing to see a wonderful photo slideshow of Al can do so on our website, healdsburgrotary.org, then scroll down to Photo Albums, “Al Loebel Memorium”

President Paul began the program by remembering what a great friend, and great Rotarian **Al Loebel** was. He explained their relationship grew even closer once they learned they had both lived in a small Rhode Island town during a common period. **John Hazlett** recalled how **Al** was persistent with everything he approached, and he loved to taunt people. **Dr. Dave Anderson** spoke of how brave and strong **Al** was during the Acceptance phase of his life. He told the story of how he and **Al** won their last game of Bridge on the Tuesday before his passing and how great that made him feel.

Jerry Ogden wrote that **Al** never hesitated to become involved in his new Healdsburg community and that **Al** contributed a sizable camera collection to the Healdsburg Museum. **Dick Bertapelle** reminisced how he and **Al** worked tirelessly together to build the Club's website, and that **Al** was a tremendous problem solver. He mentioned how impressed he was at how **Al** approached his final journey with great dignity.

Phil Luks recited a humorous story of how **Al** wrote letters and gave speeches to get City Hall to make Foss Creek Circle a two-way street, so cars and trucks could go “back and forth, and round and round”.

President Paul read a letter from **Jerry Eddinger** recalling what a wonderful individual **Al** was.

Jim Westfall told of helping **Al** with weekly meeting set up and how they competed to see who could arrive first to “hang the banners”. He remembered fondly the monthly lunch meetings they had with each other.

Kate Buchanan expressed her gratitude to **Al** (and Liz) for changing a particular dinner party he and Liz had to include she and her husband. **Alex Rollins** mentioned the warmth and acceptance

of **Al** toward she and her husband while at a Wine Country to Rescue dinner last Summer. Liz Loebel told a story about **Al** bidding on and winning a dinner for two at SingleThread at that fund-raiser dinner. She said **Al** was not eating too much at that time but they went anyway and enjoyed the time together.

Graham Freeman recalled how when he learned of **Al's** illness, he stopped to speak to him after a Rotary meeting. He said **Al** told him that he knew his days were numbered and that he was intent on "making the best of every day". He went on to say that during one of our weekly meetings, **Al**, in honor of his birthday, pledged \$81 to the Club. Then at the next meeting corrected himself, and said, "I made a mistake, I turned 82, so I pledge another \$1!"

Andy Esquivel told how great a neighbor **Al** and Liz were. **Lynda Guthrie** recalled how **Al** would taunt her about the misspellings on her PowerPoint slides while she was Club President. She said she welcomed the taunting, as it was a source of great laughter during the meetings. She also stated she and **Al** shared a same birth date, although **Al** was two years older than she. Cathy Flamson offered that **Al** showed so much dignity and grace throughout his illness. Something all of us could / should model.

Bob Rogers was impressed by **Al's** commitment to community and his activism. He asked hard questions which demonstrated his level of interest and engagement. **Jerry Campbell** relayed how he, **Al** and other Rotary members met at Park Point gym regularly but toward the end, he noticed **Al** sitting alone and not wishing to be disturbed. **Jerry** said **Al** wrote him a letter explaining, he 'just couldn't do it (workout) anymore'. **Kellie Larson** commented that she was "one of the guys" at Park Point and **Al** was quite the "athlete"!

Ric Helthall told how he and **Al** met at an AAUW social and became fast friends once it was discovered they were both "Techies". **Mel Schatz** offered that he and **Al** shared a love and interest in cameras and photography. Liz said that on **Al's** 81st birthday, they asked **Mel** to come to the celebration and take a few pictures, which he did. A little while later, **Mel** presented **Al** and Liz with a book of all the pictures he took at the party.

Dr. Dave recited a Limerick for the group regarding playing Bridge and enjoying a bottle wine afterwards.

President Paul asked Liz and family for any final words or comments. Jeff Loebel, **Al's** son, said how jealous he was of **Al's** relationship with us Club members and others in the associations to which he belonged. He stated because he lives in Florida, he only got to be with his dad twice per year. He said it was clear to him through the comments and remembrances how much **Al's** friends meant to him. He thanked **Dr. Dave** for his generous care right to the end, and to the Paper Group for all their support, as well as all the members of the Bridge Club. He said, "winning that last game on Tuesday meant so much to him". And of course, the Rotary was a large part of his life. Jeff said as he and his siblings were going through their dad's belongings, they discovered **Al** had kept every Rotary pin ever given to him. Those pins are now in the hands of **President Paul**.

Coronado cousin, Jenny and her husband, told how their favorite memories of **Al** (and Liz) were the travels they enjoyed together. Liz shared that **Al** was famous for his beer soaked, barbequed bratwurst and German potato salad, and that her entire family loved his

bratwurst and potato salad. Erin told us that her family would carry on the tradition on Al's birthday in March, calling it, "Oktoberfest in March"!

And finally, **President Paul** recalled how he and Cher love to share an English muffin each morning and that he found himself at **Al** and Liz's where English muffins were being served. He said he began to cut the English mufer, and the valleys hold the butter"!

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further comments or remembrances for our friend and fellow Club member, **AL LOEBEL**, **President Paul** rang the closing bell at 1.27PM