



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**

July 19, 2020

WELCOME – **President Dick Bertapelle** called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:16, welcoming all 34 club members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: Kellie Larson



VISITING GUESTS AND ROTARIANS

No guests or visiting Rotarians were in attendance.

QUOTE of the DAY

“We all need people who will give us feedback. That’s how we improve.” - Bill Gates.

President Dick added that “if Bill Gates can take it, so can I.”

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS in July

- **Kate Buchanan** July 04
- **Brad Pender** July 08
- **Graham Freeman** July 13
- **Mike McGuire** July 21
- **Mike Potmesil** July 28
- **Alex Rollins** July 28

No new birthday recognitions were made. Members with July birthdays had either been recognized at earlier meetings in the month or were not present at today’s meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



❖ **Fred Roberts** informed the club that the Community Service Committee had transformed the Geyserville Elementary School's long-neglected "enchanted forest" back into its original intended state, that of an "enchanted garden." Besides himself, **Fred** acknowledged **Tricia Fichtner, Don and Nancy Mitchell, and Rick Tang** for their contributions. **Fred** also recognized **Elizabeth Vega**, the school's garden superintendent, for her assistance.

Fred indicated that **Ric Helthall** and **Graham Freeman** would be returning to the West Side School this week to tighten picnic table bolts as the final act in restoring the school's outdoor picnic tables and benches.

- ❖ **Tom Cleland** announced that the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) is having a virtual fundraiser titled "Get Out and Get Moving." Contributors will pledge to run or walk five kilometers within a two-week period beginning July 27. Club members will receive more information about the fundraiser in a follow-up email.



HEALTH NEWS

President Dick Bertapelle shared health news about several club members:

- ✚ **Greg Nelson** had a heart event that is being treated with medicine. Thankfully it was determined Greg had not experienced a heart attack.
- ✚ **Joe DiSalvo** will be having more eye surgery this week for an injury dating back to last year.



- ✚ **Phil Luks** is having cataract surgery today.

- ✚ **Paul Sullivan's** father is being admitted to hospice today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graham Freeman shared that his artist wife **Jann** painted a personalized picture for her god daughter, Olivia, who lives in Sydney, Australia. **Graham** was stunned to find that the shipping cost was nearly as much as a plane ticket there.



John Merget announced that Rotary shirts and hats that the club ordered on behalf of purchasing members has now arrived. Members should contact **John** to arrange receipt.



TODAY'S PROGRAMS

Jean Herschede and **Dick Cochran** shared the program presentation time slot.

Dick Cochran explained how Rotary International Foundation's recognition point system works. Dick observed that several club members had accumulated significant number of Rotary Foundation Recognition Points (RFRPs) and were in his words, "rich." Members can earn points through donations to any of the following.

- 1) Rotary International's Annual Fund
- 2) Rotary Polio Plus
- 3) Rotary District Grants



Members can retain or transfer their RFRPs to other members or even non-members. **Dick** noted that so far \$450 has been donated under **Liz Loebel's** name in memory of husband and our past club member, **Al Loebel**. If another \$550 is donated in her name, the club would be able to award Liz a second Paul Harris fellow pin.

Members can transfer RFRPs they have accumulated to others using a *Rotary Recognition Transfer Request* form. You can obtain a copy of this form by contacting **Dick** at RichardCochran003@gmail.com or downloading it directly from the club's ClubRunner system. Members transferring points can be identified to the recipient or if the member prefers, remain anonymous.

Members wishing to see their Rotary International donor history should call Rotary International at 866-976-8279. Rotary International also provides an internet support center that can be accessed at www.Rotary.org.

Dick noted that a member's points are cancelled at their demise (i.e., you cannot take them with you). In response to member questions, **Dick** pointed out that RIRPs do not count toward Paul Harris fellow awards for the owner of the points but can be used to help another member achieve a Paul Harris Fellow or even make a member or a nonmember a Paul Harris Fellow. **Dick** clarified that to be recognized as a Major Donor one must contribute \$10,000 and to be recognized as a member of the Paul Harris Society one must contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the Rotary Foundation.

Jean Herschede provided an overview of Amigos de Guatemala, an educational, medical, and sustenance support organization for the benefit of Zacualpa, Guatemala citizens. Amigos de Guatemala was started by a Groveland, California Rotary club. The Rotary Club of Healdsburg has been involved for 12 years running. Twenty Rotary clubs now coordinate together in support of Amigos de Guatemala. During our club's involvement



Amigos de Guatemala grants have been dedicated to ophthalmological care, new water supply, dental care, portable solar lighting, a new computer lab, a new library with internet access, and provision of medical equipment.

Zacualpa is in the Guatemala hinterlands, well removed from urban centers and other charitable support organizations. It was the scene of major fighting during Guatemala's civil war.

Typically, Zacualpa children's formal education stops after grade school. Amigos de Guatemala provides continuing junior high and high school education with 62 students currently enrolled, 75% of whom are female. To date, 100 students have graduated from the high school.

Rotary grants have helped provide mid-wife training as there are no neonatologists in Zacualpa. **Jean** noted the importance of the golden minute after a child is born when proper care critical.

Other Rotary grants have helped refurbish the school's physical plant and awarded dictionaries to third grade children. **Jean** observed that most families speak K'iche', a Mayan dialect, at home but that becoming proficient in Spanish is essential for a child's succeed.

Jean explained that a portion of Rotary club members' Rotary International Foundation grants revert back to the local district after three years and these monies can fund matching district grants if a club's service program both starts and is completed in a single fiscal year. **Jean** observed that the club's board had just approved a \$4,000 service grant, 50% of which should be reimbursed next year by the district. \$1,200 of the service grant will be going to Amigos de Guatemala to purchase food staples. Strict Shelter-in-Place orders issued by the Guatemalan government in response to COVID-19 have caused serious food shortages. Twenty-five pounds of food costing just \$12 can keep a family nourished for a month.

Richard Norgrove volunteered to contribute \$144 to feed 12 families each for a month. He was joined with matching pledges from **Paul Frechette, Fred Roberts, Graham Freeman, Dick Bertapelle, Paul Jones, Doug Garrett, Alex Rollins, Jean Herschede, Tom Cleland,** and others. **Mark Decker** asked members wanting to make pledges to please send him an email at WildBlu1@comcast.net.

Alex Rollins expressed the sentiment of thanks and appreciation for all that **Jean** and Amigos de Guatemala have done.



Paul Frechette encouraged interest club members to join **Jean** on the International Service Committee.



Ric Helthall thanked **Jean** for sharing information on water purification that he passed on to an organization dedicated to helping native Americans.

Kellie Larson shared her experience sponsoring a high school student in the Amigos de Guatemala program. **Kellie** spoke about the gratification of receiving three letters a year from her student and over the course of several years recognizing her student's academic progress. **Jean** noted it costs \$400 per year to sponsor a student in junior high and \$800 in high school.

ADJOURNMENT

President Dick thanked both **Dick** and **Jean** for their presentations and adjourned the meeting at 1:26.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

President Dick reminded members of upcoming meeting programs.

- ✓ Aug. 3rd: Heather Irwin, Sonoma Family Meals
- ✓ Aug. 10th: Craig Anderson, Landpaths Community Conservation Programs
- ✓ Aug. 17th: Brad Smith, Author and CEO of ABCandME