



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”

Author: **Alex Rollins**

Photographer: **Rick Tang**

Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**

October 11, 2021

WELCOME: President Barbara Rosen



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Tim Regan

VISITING ROTARIANS

✓ None

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS



✓ Jack Neureuter – Guest of **Tom Colbert**

✓ Pat Williams – Guest of **John Avakian**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



✚ **Norm Fujita** - The Western North America (Big West) Region's Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) is having a free, virtual Ecology Day Conference on November 6, 2021. Topics will be "Biodiversity and Pollinators" and "Climate Crisis." One featured speaker is Dr. Donald Wuebbles, a member of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations entity. There are afternoon sessions for Interact and Rotaract club members. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3AOddXXT> If any club member wants to join ESRAG, the cost is \$30. per year.

✚ **Fred Roberts** - Riddell Preserve: Two more days of brush cleanup are planned for Thursday, October 28 and Saturday, November 13 at 8:30 AM. If you wish to help, email **Fred Roberts**.



✚ **Paul Frechette** - Crab Feast planning is underway. Remember to bring your 2 bottles of fine wine to the next meeting. Also needed, are volunteers to follow up with local businesses that were solicited to help with donations. Sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oxPfavnzNX-UsXYIgtWhbOD8xl9FcZP3ydrMvnSMBYM/edit?usp=sharing>

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

➤ **Grady Wann** 10/5 – Not present



➤ **Gary Anderson** 10/19 - \$100 to the Education fund

ANNIVERSARIES

- **George Heath** 10/15 – Will be spending their 33rd wedding anniversary in Santa Cruz - \$33 to his Paul Harris



HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- ❖ **Jaime Campoverde** came back from a great trip to Hawaii - Pledged \$45 to community fund



- ❖ **Paul Frechette** – Took part on the 50K Asti tour de vine sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cloverdale – He pledged \$32 to the Club

- ❖ **Doug Garrett** – Visited his grandson to celebrate his 13th birthday and also got a chance to see his 8yr old younger grandson win his soccer game. \$13 to the Club



- ❖ **Ric Helthall's** grandson turned 5 and he also scored 2 goals but these were against his own team. He pledged \$50 to the Club



- ❖ **Kelly Larson** made it to the finals on a tennis tournament and her team won with a tiebreaker. She pledged \$50 to the Club





❖ **Alex Rollins** played on a tennis tournament too but her team lost the game 1-6, 4-6, so she pledged \$30 to the Club

RAFFLE: **Kevin Burke** had the winning ticket but pulled out a black ball. He received a bottle of wine as a consolation price



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Andy Elkind introduced the speakers:

- Terry Winter, Health planner
- Maria Behan Writer and editor on US politics in Healdsburg

Healthcare for all
A Sonoma County Partnership

The US has the most expensive healthcare in the world. Why? If our population is younger than most countries, we have fewer use of hospitals and take less prescription drugs?

Main reasons are for profit ownership, exorbitant drug prices and drastic increases in hospital pricing (which has more than doubled in the past 20 years). Even the non-profit healthcare providers are raking in millions. 600,000+ people go bankrupt every year due to medical bills including people that have insurance but have huge out-of-pocket expenses.



The billing process is a big culprit, the US requires 8 billing clerks per provider. In Canada, they have a single provider which simplifies the billing process.

Our quality is the worst amongst wealthy countries and even of some the 3rd world countries and it is the least efficient, with long waits for visits and treatments. 34% of our income goes to pay for medical costs. We skip drug doses because of the cost which ends up driving many of us to

the ER's and hospitals. Elder care has skyrocketed, a 65 yr. old can expect to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical costs if they live to their 80's.

It also promotes racial inequities; 80% of the uninsured are ethnic minorities and we have higher costs for women and for the Gay community.

We are the only country where people who lost their jobs during the pandemic also lost their health coverage. We need a wakeup call to reform our healthcare system



Possible solutions:

- Expand the Affordable Care Act – Which won't work due to corporate control
- Public option – Allow people to buy into a public plan
- Single payer system – Expand Medicare for all; this would take profits off the table since it would be paid by the government. It would benefit the working class and we would no longer have to pay contributions for health insurance workers
- Medicare for All Act of 2021 – Would provide all US resident with lifetime coverage and free choice of doctor and hospitals. It would also eliminate out of pocket costs and would raise the income of the poor.

Now, how do we pay for it? It would cost a whopping \$3,000,000,000! The Sonoma partnership suggest that it could be financed through progressive taxation by increasing taxes to the wealthy and larger corporations as well as small businesses and taxpayers, according to their salaries or profits.

CLOSING

President Barbara thanked members and guests, then gaveled the meeting closed.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- ✓ 10/18 Craft talks. **Jaime Campoverde & Kevin Burke** / scribe **Dick Cochran**
- ✓ 10/25 Paul Dolan. Biodynamics and sustainable farming / **Cathy King**