



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: **Grady Wann**

Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**

February 14, 2022

WELCOME: **Richard Norgrove** at 12:15pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Capably led by **Rich Bottarini**

Thought of the Day: **Helen Keller** “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

VISITING ROTARIANS: None present

GUESTS of ROTARIANS: None present

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

✚ **Jean Herschede** – It is District grant season again. These grants provide a way to leverage our club dollars using matching district monies. Last year, we were successful getting a grant to work with the Landpaths conservation group and the Healdsburg Sunrise Rotary Club for work in the Riddell Preserve in Dry Creek Valley. Our two Rotary clubs joined forces to provide much needed power tools required to promote recovery of these lands following the 2020 Walbridge fire that swept through this preserve. **Jean** will meet by Zoom this Wednesday with interested members to discuss possible projects for the coming cycle. Contact **Jean** for more information.

✚ **Fred Roberts** – **Fred** is traveling, but **President Richard** announced that information about a Blood drive in May or June will be forthcoming. This effort is much needed, considering the current health care situation.

✚ **Board Meeting** – The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 28, 2022.

- ✚ **Polio update** - Bob Rogers reported the sad news that the first case of wild polio this year was reported in Afghanistan.

- ✚ **In-person meetings** – Sonoma County expected to lift mask mandate on Wednesday (2/16) and the Club will have to decide when to return to in-person meetings. Several members voiced opinions in favor of meeting in-person as soon as possible. Recommendations were also made to consult guidance from the medical professionals within our Club as well as the City. **Rich Bottarini** also strongly suggested that once we resume in-person gatherings, any member who is not feeling well NOT attend. (This is based upon his personal experience contracting Covid from a fully vaccinated and masked meeting.) **Doug Garrett** also mentioned today’s NY Times article about mask mandate lifting behavior as a worthwhile read and **Andy Elkind** expressed concern about unmasked eating and drinking at future meetings. The Club will send out a survey this week to poll member attitudes toward resuming in-person meetings.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS or ANNIVERSARIES:

None recognized

HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION:

- **Richard Norgrove** – Jerry Ogden sent a recent news article from the SF Chronicle about SF Beer week in which Bear Republic Brewing was mentioned. The President donated \$48 to the Club for the 48 SF locations where Bear Republic beers are sold.

- **John Avakian** – John donated \$5 happy dollars to Club in recognition of Alex’s Healdsburg Tribune article about our Green Hair Day supporting Polio Plus.

TODAY’S PROGRAM: “A Sonoma County Library for the 21st Century” presented by”

- Ray Holley – Communications Manager for the Sonoma County Library
- **Andy Elkind** – Sonoma County Library Commissioner since Sept 2018

Ray Holley is a long-time friend of the Club and is known to most of us for his long-standing role as Managing Editor and Contributor to the Healdsburg Tribune. Ray gave us a great overview of the Sonoma County library system. It is much larger and more diverse than most of us realize. There are sixteen branches (and a BiblioBus) with over 200 employees that operate on a \$43 million budget. Funds are primarily provided through property taxes (about 2/3) and the 1/8 cent sales tax approved by the voters in 2016 with Measure Y (1/3).

The library is also moving forward with increasing services and access. Digital resources are constantly being added. In fact, digital lending has almost caught up to physical books (1.5M physical books lent vs. 1.3M digital books). In the technology area, library branches provide Wi-Fi access to many (including a radius outside the building), mobile laptops, and charging

stations for your devices. (There is also a Sonoma County Library app.) Access hours have almost been returned to pre-pandemic levels and there is a new library support center that houses IT and staff to support the entire network of libraries. One other note of significance: the library is “fine free”. Gone are the fees for returning a book late. (It cost more to process the late fees than was being collected.)

Moving forward, some of the challenges that the library faces are a result of the diversity in Sonoma County. While the average health, education and median income levels are high for the county, there are pockets that require a focus on early childhood education, adult literacy and vocational training. The library is trying to address those needs over a large geographic area and will continue to require the funds to do so. Andy urged our membership to be prepared to support the extension of the 1/8 cent sales tax when it comes up for renewal in a few years.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

2/21/22	DARK next week—Presidents Day
2/28/22	Matt Jenkins – Healdsburg Chief of Police
3/7/22	Glaydon de Freitas – Corizón Healdsburg