



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

President Larry Ford's Debunking



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President 2018/2019: Larry Ford



"All the News that Fits We Print"



MONTHS BEFORE THE BELL



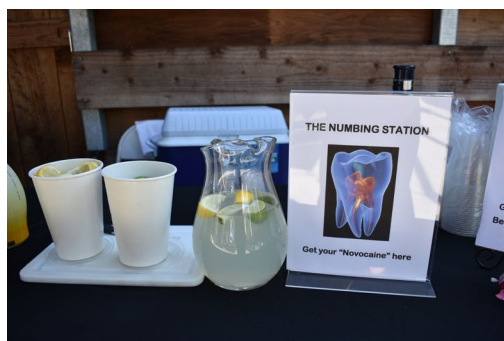
Deep within the halls of the Roto-Palace, a small group of hooligans had been working the midnight oil. The debunking rat-pack (**Paul Thielen**, **Ken Jacobs**, **Gene Nelson**, and **Jeff Boal**) had been busy, crafting a debunking program to beat all other debunkings. While the team works in a hermetically sealed chamber, a video was leaked, showing our own Tom Hanks, Dan Rasmus, playing a dentist we all know, adore, and fear. The flock knew this would be good!



BEFORE THE BELL



The Roto-flock gathered on June 29, 2019, at The Sebastopol Center for the Arts, for what was promised to be an amazing, and hopefully pain-free, debunking of our fearless leader, **President Larry Ford**. Not knowing what torture or power point errors awaited, suitable libations were offered to those gathered. **Jack** and **Ruthie Dunlap** were feverishly working behind the Numbing Station to make sure everyone was properly buzzed.



Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234

🍎 Future Programs 🍎

July 12, 2019

Stephan Stubbins
Transcendence Theatre Company

June 19, 2019

TBD

🍎 Events 🍎

Tamale Party
July 13th and 20th, 9:00AM
Mexico Lindo, Graton

Summer Picnic
August, Date TBD

Fall Fundraiser
October 26th

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS–JackEDunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

Your **Scribe**, sitting in close proximity to the bar, noticed that the hard lemonade was going fast. Rumors circulated that the lemonade was spiked with Novocain. Some brought their own Novocain! After three hard lemonades, your scribe noticed no difference, except for some unexpected dizziness. Perhaps the Novocain was time delayed? Maybe some food would help!

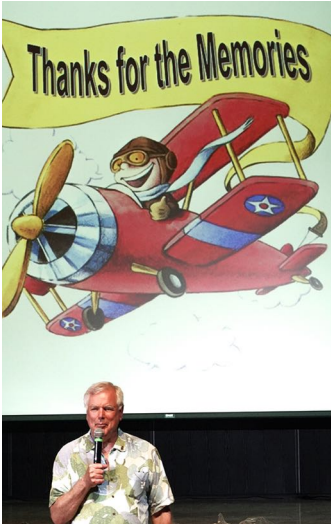


Our own Wolfgang Puck, **Mario Ramos**, was working hard in the kitchen, preparing a feast fit for an outgoing president. After three enchiladas and some chips and guacamole, your scribe was still not feeling the Novocain. He had more of a desire to throw paper airplanes at **Jeff Boal** and **Ellen Harrington**! Perhaps the rumors were full of beans! With the food all consumed, the crowd reluctantly moved into the auditorium, like people awaiting a root canal!





AT THE BELL



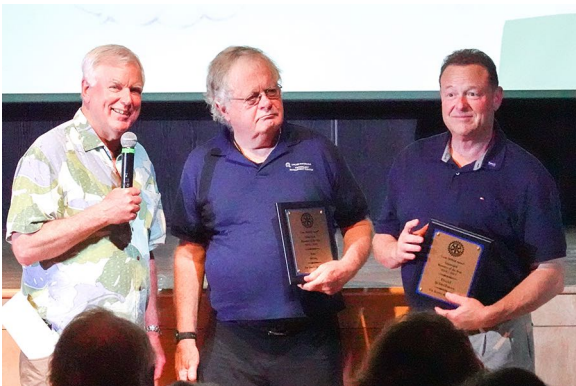
Our emcee of the evening, **Richard Power**, struck the Roto Bell, at 7:40PM. He promised an evening of fun and laughter. He welcomed the extended Roto-family, **Larry**, his wife **Gerry**, and his daughter. **Richard** quickly turned the mic over to **Larry**.

Departing **President Larry Ford** told the gathered crowd that being President was a challenge that he loved. He expressed gratitude to the club for their confidence in him, and that being President brought him closer to his Rotary family. **Larry** acknowledged that during his presidency, he had lots to juggle, between root canals, Rotary, and grumpy power point files! He gave thanks to his loving wife, **Gerry**, for her patience and support. He also thanked **Bob Rogers** for encouraging him to take on the presidency. Thanks, **Bob**!

Larry dove into a review of the Rotary year, and what a year it was! Over the year, our club raised over \$87,000 from our fundraisers. This allowed our club to reach out to many parts of our community. We purchased dictionaries for third graders. We taught second graders how to swim. We gave scholarships to deserving teenagers who overcame personal obstacles. We gave tools to teenagers going into construction careers. We gave grants to classrooms and deserving organizations around the West County. We honored deserving teachers. We gave our time to impactful organizations. **Larry** expressed gratitude for all that our club did. He invited all of the outgoing board members up, and thanked them for keeping the machine going. Each member received a bottle of homemade limoncello, so they can remember the bitter and the sweet. They also received reading lights, as they were lights in **Larry's** life.



RECOGNITIONS



After **Larry** released his board members from duty (or paroled), **Larry** took a moment to recognize the two recipients of the "Rotarian of the Year" award. The first recipient is not only a technical wiz kid, but has a level of patience that would humble Gandhi. For his technical acumen, and guidance, the first award winner was **Tom Boag**. The second recipient helped to make sure we ended the Rotary year stronger than we found it. While most Clubs or losing members, we're gaining them! For his persistence and salesmanship, the second award winner was **David Schreibman**. Congratulations, gents!

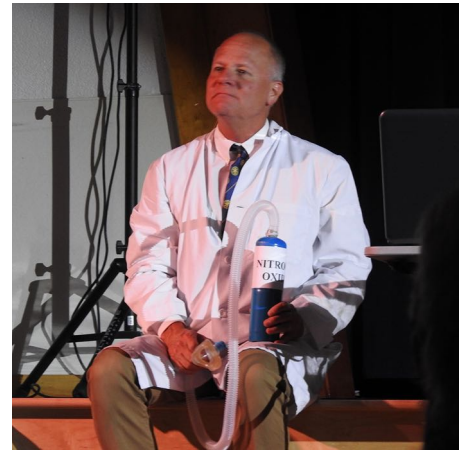
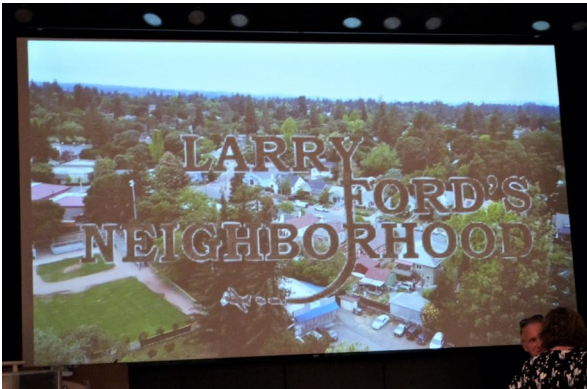
🍏 INTRODUCTIONS 🍏

Larry then invited **Incoming President Keller McDonald** up to the front for the trading of pins, and the transfer of power. **Outgoing President Larry Ford** received the Past President's pin, and **New President Keller McDonald** received the President's pin. **Keller** introduced his new Board of Directors: **Ellen Harrington, Patrick Dirden, Bud Daviero, Jorgen Holst, Scott Briggs, Ken Jacobs, Jack Dunlap, Dan Rasmus (President Elect), and Larry Ford (Past President)**. **Scott and Jorgen** were smart enough to leave the country!

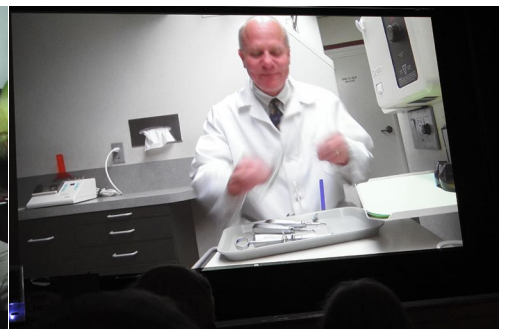


🍏 THE PROGRAM 🍏

With the audience seated, and now suitably numbed, the house lights dimmed, and the tribute to **President Larry** began. The audience was transported to Larry Land, otherwise known as, Larry Ford's Neighborhood. A place where power point files never work, chaos reigns, and nitrous oxide is plentiful.



Turns out a combination of nitrous oxide and Novocain was the key for Larry's legendary composure and patience! Why this was not shared during the Friday meetings, we'll never know. During our trip to Larry Land, we visited the offices of **Dr. Larry Fraud, DDS (Doctor of Dental Stuff)**. Turns out **Larry** gained inspiration from this chap! Even when the waiting room was full of irate patients and compulsive flossers, **Larry** kept his cool!





Despite this, **Larry** confessed that Power Point troubles do make **Larry** quite angry. His secret for coping? Well, he gets special brownies from Speedy Delivery! Again, why he didn't share, we'll never know. We can't blame **Larry** for not trying to tackle the power points, and maintaining control of the chaotic group known as the Rotary Club of Sebastopol.

Even the ghost of Paul Harris, in puppet form, could not help poor **Larry**!



But, as **Larry** was close to a breakthrough, PBS (Presidential BS Channel) pulled the plug on Larry Ford's Neighborhood! Pledgers demand money back! But, not the audience! Laughter was plentiful, and again, our crack Debunking team pulled off an amazing program!

But, before the flock was released, there was a message, in song, from **Incoming President Keller McDonald**. He serenaded the flock with his version of "Old McDonald Had a Farm R-O-T-A-R-Y." There was talk of fines a plenty coming. Hold on to your wallets, and save those wooden nickels!!!! If you want to visit Larry Ford's Neighborhood again, or missed the evening completely, don't fear! Our crack AV team will release the video online soon. Novocain or 100-proof liquor is required for viewing! Don't say we didn't warn you!



THE FINAL BELL



With that, another successful Rotary Year came to a close! A shout out to all who played a part in making this fantastic evening possible (in no particular order): **Dan Rasmus, Jeff Boal, Patrick Dirden, Pam Graber, Charese Fernandes, Richard Power, Ruthie Dunlap, Aleia Coate, Bob Rogers, Les Crawford, Lu Fraizer, Rick Wilson, BB Jacobs, Olivia Jacobs, Gerry Ford, Diana Rich, Keller McDonald, Gene Nelson, Bob Rogers, Paul Thielen, Ken Jacobs, Edwin Wilson, Ron Puccinelli, John Blount, Jack Blasco, Mario Ramos** and Mexico Lindo Restaurant, The Sebastopol Center for the Arts, and Fred Rogers.



Membership Moment

Being asked what part of Rotary inspired me or keeps me active is, for me, like asking what part of life do I like? It's very much a framework for 37+ years of me in Sebastopol. Many define themselves by the work they do, others by their church families, some by their children and their activities. All of these are certainly valid, though many changes throughout our lives. Our children grow; we change jobs or retire; we gain or lose faith or shift focus to other spiritual connections. The constant for me has been, and continues to be, the ongoing, changing yet familiar community of Rotary. Friends I have and friends I haven't even met yet.

I had little knowledge of Rotary before joining in Dave Madsen's year and was gobsmacked in an almost all-at-once awareness;

- I could sit down every week with people I didn't know, strike up a conversation, and leave feeling a little more connected;

- never having known my grandfathers, I was having lunch with gentlemen old enough to be and they were open and accepting of me to share their own lives in town. The sense of community was growing; this sense of the history and depth of Sebastopol as seen by these people grew; the sense that this is my town took hold--- I was a part of something much larger than my little world of office and family.

- OK, yes. I was invited to a debunking meeting and left the first evening knowing "I'm in!" Where in life can an Art / English major find a place to express, be playful, get to know yet more members and be engaged in a project through which friendships grew? (author's message here--- get involved in a project and you'll never look back!)

I was raised on community activities- a Boy Scout through and through with a mom serving in the Chamber of Commerce and the Eagle Rock Historical Society. And look at all this stuff that Rotary is doing! Straight out of my backyard and into yours. My opportunity to hang out with people who get stuff done. Perspectives other than my limited views that said, "let's start an education foundation", "let's do a teacher grant program", "let's teach kids to swim" (more Boy Scouting there). Imagination, expertise and commitment coming together in ways I myself would never have dreamed of.

It was all one big "wow". My town through different eyes, different concerns and all with different skill sets that combine and rise to occasions. And for what? That great selfish, truly self-serving concept of service to others. Getting back far more than we give but in different coin--- we teach kids to swim and we get the camaraderie of being in the pool with all these professionals, these business people, these just plain folks--- those who step out of work and home to give of themselves and savor the joys in the children's eyes, the gratitude in the teachers' faces, the shared satisfaction of friends engaged, productive, creative, purpose-driven. You can't buy that kind of spiritual completion, as far as I'm concerned. It's priceless. It's free. Isn't that the best ever?

I have many times quoted the motto of "Highlights" magazine, found in almost every office reception area, and with good reason. "Fun With A Purpose". Children know how to have fun. Grown-ups sometimes have to be reminded, re-learn, but, above all, be given the opportunity. Rotary is the playground; the projects are the swings and slides; meetings are the kids snack time, playtime, maybe a lesson or two and hey! You need help with that? I'm your mechanic, your tax advisor, your realtor... your community. Rotary- fun with a purpose--- and through which we can all discover our own purposes. What do I like about Rotary? It's life. Pure. Simple. And when you get up every morning, grateful for the day or needing a reason to get out of bed, it's all there.

Paul Thielen

Past President

Upcoming Programs

July 12: Stephan Stubbins – Transcendence Theatre Company



Transcendence Theatre Company and Broadway Under The Stars co-founder, Stephan Stubbins, will share inspiring stories of how far Transcendence has come in its eight years in Sonoma County, along with exciting news about Transcendence's first ever full musical in Jack London State Historic Park, "A Chorus Line".

Stephan Stubbins is the co-Founder and co-Executive Director of Transcendence Theatre Company and Broadway Under the Stars. His career as a performer has been highlighted by his time on Broadway in "Mary Poppins," singing an opening act solo for Frank Sinatra, headlining an opening act for Rita Moreno, and working with Broadway, TV, and Film legends on and offstage. Stephan can be seen on almost any given week somewhere in wine country singing for a non-profit cause, service group, pet shelter, senior center, concierge group, or promotional opportunity in support of taking life and art to new levels of transcendence.