



The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Mayor Neysa Hinton



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"All the News that Fits We Print"



BEFORE THE BELL



A pall of relief, touched with sadness, hovered over the Roto-palace this Friday afternoon. Relief for a break in the rain, after a week that brought intense rainfall and catastrophic flooding across western Sonoma County. Your scribe's rain gauge had a storm total of 9.85 inches of rain! Sadness for the people and businesses who suffered damage from the flooding, and whose lives were turned upside down. There are a lot of people who will need your help in the coming months. The flock was eager to hear more from our guest speaker, Sebastopol Mayor Neysa Hinton.



AT THE BELL



President Larry Ford struck the hearty roto-bell at 12:15pm sharp, bringing the roto-flock to attention. **Hal Kwalwasser** led the flock in the flag salute. Up next, our smooth baritone crooner, **Steve Beck**, launched into a mostly on-key version of "Oh Beautiful fir Spacious Skies." **Jim Passage** gave us a great quote from Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can or cannot, you're right."



Future Programs

March 8, 2019

**Lee Rink
Treating Stroke Victims**

March 15, 2019

**Jo Sletbak
Norwegian Consular General**

March 22, 2019

**Quinton Martins
Living with Mountain Lions**

Events

**Golf Tournament
April 29, 2019**

Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS-JackEDunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Bud Daviero announced that there were no visiting Rotarians today, not surprising since most of the roads in and out of our fair city were under five to six feet of water. There were a couple of guests who managed to make it to the Roto-Palace. **Richard Power** introduced Jim Horn, Palm Drive Hospital District Board Member. **Jim Passage** introduced our guest speaker, Sebastopol Mayor, and former Rotarian, Neysa Hinton. Neysa introduced her guest, Marcos Suarez, from the Sonoma County Economic Development Board.



Marcos announced that the Board was implementing emergency measures to help businesses impacted by the flood. The board is handing out micro loans of \$5,000 to \$50,000, and is waiving payments for six months, and application fees. Additionally, Marcos announced that staff from the Mexican Consulate are in Sonoma County, to assist any Mexican citizens who may have lost passports or other documents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two weeks after the Crab Feed ended, NASA engineers finally calculated the total raised. After 5 trillion cycles through a super computer, and 300 math teachers double checking numbers with slide rules, it was announced that just under

\$24,000 was raised for the Mark Sell Rotary Teacher Grant Program.

Patrick Dirden shared the good news with the roto-flock, and thanked everyone who attended and volunteered.





President Larry gave a big shout out to our resident Ansel Adams, **Harvey Henningsen**, and our Steven Spielberg wanna-be **Tom Boag**, for orchestrating our club group photo. It takes a PhD in cat herding to control this flock, so hats off to these two! And a special thank you to the flock for being on their best behavior, which is a tall order!

Bob Rogers stepped up to the Roto-lectern to update everyone on all of the World Community Projects our club is involved with. The first project is battling Cervical Cancer in Senegal. Over 85% of the Cervical Cancer cases worldwide are occurring in developing countries, with Senegal having the 15th highest amount of cases worldwide. Our club is one of several clubs partnering with the Rotary Club of Chicago #1 (the first Rotary Club), which is raising \$250,000 for the fight. Our club has raised \$2,000 for the effort. The second project is one of our on-going projects, the Keeping Girls in School project in Uganda. The project addresses the high dropout rates of girls from school when their menstrual cycles start. The project fights the stigma associated with menstrual cycles by educating children about the cycle, providing reusable sanitary pads, and improving conditions in the schools. The project is a Global Grant recipient. However, Global Grant money can't be used for construction. This is where **Frank** and **Kathie Mayhew's**

organization, The Anthill Foundation, comes in. Their organization has helped fund construction of new bathrooms and new classrooms.

The third project is the water catchment program in Tanzania, a project we participate in with six other clubs. Our efforts have helped construct rainfall collection systems and storage tanks. Before this, girls were forced to walk four miles daily to collect five gallons of water daily. The project also funds new toilets. The fourth project is the Chidamoyo Hospital project in Zimbabwe. This project has supplied this hospital with a new ambulance, mattresses, and a container full of supplies. **Steve Prandini** witnessed surgeons perform a C-section by candlelight when their backup generator failed. The fifth project is a water purification project in Puerto Vallarta. Our club works with the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta to provide clean water. Club members construct sawyer water filtration systems, which can handle 1 million gallons of water, and are good for ten years. Our funding has helped purchase 62 filters.

On March 23rd, club members are invited to travel to Puerto Vallarta and help deliver the new filters. If you are interested in going, talk to **Bob Rogers**.



Larry handed the mic over to **Richard Power** and Jim Horn to talk about Measure A, coming up on next Tuesday's ballot. Measure A authorizes the Palm Drive Hospital District to lease the Palm Drive facility to AAMG Group, with an option to purchase. **Richard** characterized the situation as a bird in hand and chaos in a bush. **Richard** spoke in favor of Measure A, saying that the potential sale will help with paying off the debt. Jim Horn, speaking against the sale, said we could lose money on the sale, due to all of the renovations required. A recent appraisal shows the facility's value has depreciated 86%. In all, both agreed there are no good alternatives. If voters turn down measure A, AAMG will walk away from the facility, and an RFP will be issued to sell off the property.

Mia Del Prete had two reasons to have a smile a mile wide today. First off, **Mia** celebrated the birth of her new granddaughter. She started a new Paul Harris fund for her. Second, **Mia** was named Citizen of the Year! She will be in the Apple Blossom Parade next month. **Mia** announced that Pacific Market was named business of the year.





RECOGNITIONS



We learned that **Jack** and **Ruthie Dunlap** are proud new owners of a Tesla. It begs the question, do **Jack** and **Ruthie** argue over who gets to drive? Well, we learned that the answer to said question is settled by a coin toss. **Jack** was fined last week, **Ruthie**, it's your turn!

Some members of our club spent Tuesday preparing the Sebastopol Cultural Community Center for the flood. **Jim Pacatte**, **Bob Rogers**, **Tom Boag**, **Jack & Ruthie Dunlap**, and **Jorgen Holst** pulled the carpets.

Linda Irving announced that ten families from her district were hit hard by the flooding. They're starting a fundraising drive called Coins for Kids. Donations and gift cards can be dropped off at any of the local schools.



RAFFLE



There was just enough time for the raffle today! **Ron Puccinelli** was the lucky victim....err...winner today. Would he outwit the dreaded bolo balls. He managed to get one, and walked away \$6 richer.



THE PROGRAM



Jim Passage stepped to the lectern to introduce our guest speaker, Sebastopol Mayor Neysa Hinton. She started with a quick update on the flood emergency. The flood has been a moving target for everyone. The city has assisted with the evacuation shelter at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. She thanked the community for helping, and Pacific Market for offering food for evacuees. The shelter was scheduled to stay open until Saturday. The city was able to pull all the portable trailers from Park Village.



Mayor Hinton spoke about where the city's money comes from. We learned that the majority of the money comes from sales taxes (51%), property taxes (28%), transitory occupancy taxes (6%), and other sources. We learned that the city spends most of it's money on the police department (44%), public works (12%), and the fire department (9%). The city also helps local nonprofits. The Sebastopol Community Cultural Center receives \$148,000 annually. Community Benefit Grants program, which helps lots of organizations, receives \$70,000 annually. Ives Pool receives \$65,000 in help annually. The Sebastopol Senior Center receives \$65,000 annually. While the city runs a tight budget, expenses slightly outpaced revenue this year, due to some capital projects. The city has developed a savings account to address the increased cost of pensions. The was set so the city could tap into it to meet pension obligations. However, the account can be used for other uses in times of emergency.

Mayor Hinton spoke of some of the things the city is doing. One project, which you may have noticed, is the "Locals who make a difference" program. This 3-year pilot program honors citizens of Sebastopol who have made incredible contributions to the city. People can be nominated for this honor, and these folks don't have to live within the city limits. The city has spent \$2.9 million dollars on infrastructure projects. Some

of which are new crosswalk signals on Bodega Avenue, new pipelines, and a traffic study for Highway 116. Another project is the Park Village project. This project provides transitional housing and resources for homeless individuals living in Sebastopol. The project is administered in cooperation with West County Community Services. The project costs \$95,000 annually, and has received over \$400,000 in grants.

Mayor Hinton spoke about the new electric buses serving Sebastopol, the first used in Sonoma County. Since the buses have launched, bus use has increased 57%. Is it because of the phone chargers on board? You may have noticed new directional signs across Sebastopol. It's a part of the new wayfinding and pedline walk tour. The objective is for people to park their cars, and walk to destinations around town. She also talked about everyone's favorite subject, the new bike lanes on 116. The lanes were approved in 2009, and were constructed in concert with a paving project instituted by CalTrans. The new Hotel Sebastopol will have hostel rooms targeted to bicyclists passing through Sebastopol, which should hopefully attract a few more bike lane users.

One of Mayor Hinton's objectives as mayor is transparency. She wants people to have access and freely connect with city government. The city is on Nixle, Nextdoor, social networking outlets, and other means. She encourages everyone to attend Council and Committee meetings. She also used the time to thank city staff. Mayor Hinton ended by telling everyone in the room that they can be mayor too! She qualified this by saying that serving on City Council is like serving in Rotary. Will the next mayor be from this club?



THE FINAL BELL



After an interesting meeting, **President Larry** struck the hearty Roto-bell at 1:30PM sharp!

Rotary



MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

One of my favorite Norwegian words is 'Dugnad'. It describes a group of people who come together to work, whether it's to fix a house, clean a neighborhood or solve a problem, for a short period of time of effort. There isn't really an English equivalent of the word, but there is definitely in spirit.

I joined Rotary at the suggestion of a family friend, right after we moved to Sebastopol from Norway in the summer of 2016. I had visited many times, but living here was something completely different, and I was looking for a way to get to know people and understand the area better. Rotary definitely helped me with that, and I was welcomed with both arms, sometimes a bear hug, into the Rotary family. My grandparents in Norway were Rotarians, and I understood this once I joined, because I recognized the logo from their home in my childhood. Rotary in Norway, however, is very different from here. It is much more of a social connection point and networking opportunity. The state covers a lot in Norway, pretty much everything, takes care of people in a different way than here, and it's much harder to fall through the cracks, so to speak. So the fund raising they do in Norway is aimed at projects in the developing world, not so much their own neighborhood.

Here in Sebastopol, I quickly learned, there is a need for a local focus as well. In early December, just a few weeks after I joined, I met with some of my fellow club members, and a boisterous Rick 'I don't need no stinkin' microphone' Wilson in a Santa costume, and helped deliver Christmas food and presents to families here in our town who needed it. Having previously only seen the sunshine and wonderful parts of Sonoma and Sebastopol, I was shocked to discover that there were people in need living a literal stone's throw from our very own house. It was a reality check. I was shook into understanding a lot about my adopted country, county and town, and I realized I had joined the right group of people to help make a difference.

After that humbling day, I see our town differently, on a deeper level, and I am more than happy to step up and participate, to do my duty in 'Dugnad' and offer 'service above self'. Thanks for welcoming me into your club!

Jorgen Holst

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 8: Lee Rink - New Practices related to stroke victims

Lee Rink, Stroke Coordinator RN at Santa Rosa Memorial and Petaluma Valley Hospitals will be presenting a program on the latest information and treatment of strokes. Some of the latest treatments are life-changing. Lee is driven by the belief that every time a stroke patient arrives at an Emergency Department, there may be an opportunity to preserve someone's quality of life if there is a knowledgeable, well-oiled team that acts quickly. She has a passion for helping to advance stroke care in these exciting times by embracing new technology and building partnerships to better serve stroke patients.

March 15: The Honorable Consul General of Norway Jo Sletbak

Jo Sletbak took up his post as Norway's Consul General in San Francisco at the end of August 2017. He started his diplomatic career in the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990, and has held several positions both at home and abroad. He has worked in various areas such as humanitarian and European affairs. He served as Deputy Director for Balkan Affairs in the Ministry for five years.

He also served as the Director of the Section for Official Visits, in the Department of Protocol for six years, where he was responsible for all high levels visits in to Norway and the Royal Family's official visits abroad.

He will come talk to us about the green shift and green innovation, and how he is working to build international relations between Silicon Valley and Norwegian startups.

