



# *The Appleknocker*

## *Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin*

**Senator Mike McGuire**



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**President 2019/2020:** Keller McDonald



"All the News that Fits We Print"



### **BEFORE THE BELL**



There was a certain something in the air today. Was it excitement over the visit of our State Senator, Mike McGuire? Perhaps...but what I was really getting was the aroma of crab as crab crackers and crab preparers were gathering for our pre-crab feed Rotary meeting. Busy day and busy weekend.



**Sonoma County YWCA Domestic Violence Hotline 707-546-1234**



## Future Programs

February 14, 2020

Love is in the air

February 21, 2020

Kristen Madsen

Creative Sonoma

February 28, 2019

Better Angels

March 6, 2019

Tawny Tesconi

Sonoma County Farm Bureau

March 13, 2019

Mary Blake & Greg Nelson

Owls!

March 20, 2019

Jack Blasco

Venturing into Chernobyl

## Events

## Miscellany

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS-JackEDunlap@gmail.com

On-line Make-Ups:

[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)

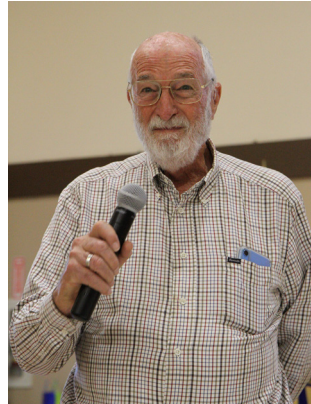
Domestic Violence Hotline:

**707-546-1234**

**[sebastopolrotary.com](http://sebastopolrotary.com)**

## AT THE BELL

But at 12:15 that master of all things crab, **President Keller**, rang the bell and called the meeting to order. **Edwin Wilson** led us in the Pledge and **Karen Daniels** led the singing of "*America the Beautiful*."



A quick thought for the day from **Frank Mayhew**: Actually, in memory of the Super Bowl that might have been, **Frank** called for a moment of silence. (which, as we know, is never easy for **Frank**!) Fortunately, Spring Training is just around the corner.

In preparation for lunch, **President Keller** invited us to join in reciting the 4-Way Test. In these days when truth is questioned and lies are treated as facts, the 4-Way Test seems more necessary and relevant than ever.

## VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Following lunch, **Bud Daveiro** stood to introduce our visiting Rotarians.

Hans Bruhner from Russian River; Doug Garrett from Healdsburg Noon; Dan Bornstein from Santa Rosa...or perhaps from Sebastopol. We are never quite sure!



It was interesting to hear **President Keller** suggest to visitors that they consider joining our club. In my business, we call that "sheep stealing." A late addition to visiting Rotarians was Bill Polster, President-Elect of the Windsor Club, but he is welcome to consider changing clubs as well.

**Jordan Burns** introduced his guest Tyler Shatto; **Jim Pacatte** introduced his wife, Rosemarie; **Aleia** introduced her guest, Gayle Gijzen. (by the way, we would later see Gayle at the Friday crab cracking and Saturday night helping in the dining room!) Welcome all!



## 🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

### Super bowl Winners!

**Torrey Olson** reminded us that this year there were only 4 winners: \$200 for quarters one, two and three; \$400 for the game.

First Quarter: In the spirit of Iowa, this might require a caucus. Matt's name was on the square, but **Aleia** claimed the cash. Hmmm.

Second and Third Quarters: Thanks to lots of zeros, **Hal Kwalwasser** claimed the cash for both.



Fourth Quarter – Grand Prize: Thanks to the late “gimmee” KC touchdown, **Bob Cugini** walked away with the cash. He will send a thank you card to the Niner defense. Meanwhile, **Kelly Beck** will never root for the Niners again! He had the pre-final touchdown numbers.

But the big winner was the Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation which received \$1000.

### Crab Feed:

Saturday Night February 8 at Holy Ghost Hall – Both seatings now sold out! All funds going to the Mark Sell Teacher Grants. Teacher Grant applications will be received from Feb. 15 – March 15. (I am in the future also, so you can see lots of great photos from the event at the bottom of this very newsletter, -Jorgen, Ed.)



## Valentine's Day at Rotary!

What better way to celebrate the day than to bring your Sweetie to Rotary! Who said romance was dead? **Gene Nelson** – I know him! – announced a special February 14<sup>th</sup> program. The program will be us...and our spouses, significant others, etc. We want you to share a story about romance...or perhaps a moment that was not quite so romantic - a proposal, a wedding, a honeymoon, an anniversary, a special gift. What went really well...or did not go so well? Make us laugh, make us cry, make us wish we were you...even if he did buy you a toaster for your anniversary! Come to Rotary with a story to tell and we will all have a great time. See you on Valentine's Day. And remember to send that wedding picture or a photo of a special time together to Dan Rasmus.



## PolioPlus and the Gates' Foundation:

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has been a major supporter of Rotary's End Polio Now program, has announced that it has extended its 2-for-1 match for the next three years. The goal is to raise up to \$150 million per year for PolioPlus.

## Dictionaries:

It was announced that we needed two more Rotarians to help distribute dictionaries, and two Rotarians stepped up and answered the call. All schools covered! Thanks to all our Rotary volunteers, and to Paul Yeomans for guiding the program.

## Libby Park Reconstruction:

The final design has been approved by the city. Hopefully construction will begin in the spring. Both local Rotary clubs will be asked to help out. All that work making and selling tamales will soon pay off!



## Anniversaries:

Tom and Pat Dilley – Feb. 1. Tom reported that they took the Pacattes out to lunch, as the Pacattes had recently celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary. However, Jim reported that they had taken the Dilleys out to lunch. Well, somebody must have paid for lunch! But Happy Anniversary to all.

## RECOGNITIONS

The North Bay Business Journal had a great article featuring our own **Dorothy Rodella**. **Dorothy** was not present to receive her well-earned recognition, but since she was wearing her Rotary pin for all to see in her Journal photo, President **Keller** decided to fine all non-pin wearers \$5.

**NORTH BAY**  
**Business Journal**  
NORTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA: Sonoma, Napa and Marin Counties  
Since 1987

**Curiosity and tenacity:  
How Exchange Bank's  
Dorothy Rodella rose  
from teller to regional  
manager**



**Rotary**  
Club of Sebastopol

**Greg Jacobs** and **Kathy** visited Yosemite and then did some serious bird-watching near Colusa. What else do you do near Colusa? But they did spy some rare birds that excited our bird-watching **Prez** – a Black and White Warbler and a Vermillion Flycatcher. \$`10 for such excitement.

**Greg** also announced the great news that the McDaniel Charitable Trust, through a local family member, has donated \$6000 to our Learn to Swim program! Now that is Service Above Self!



## 🍎 RAFFLE 🍎

Alas...our visiting President Elect Bill had the right ticket but failed to choose the black ball. Pot near \$100 now.

## 🍎 THE PROGRAM 🍎

Senator McGuire began by sharing what polls indicate are the three top issues for Californians: 1) Homelessness, 2) Climate change, 3) Housing. California Republicans actually put immigration near the top of the list. Interestingly, he is the only Senate Democrat who represents a district with a significant rural population.





And polls show that 31% of us get our news from internet web sites – sites with which we agree politically. So both the Right and Left tend to live in a news bubble, hearing only what they want to hear. By the way, only 6% report getting their news from newspapers. He then said that in his talk, he would like to focus on three topics: the economy, education, and wildfires/PG&E.

### **Economy:**

In spite of what we might hear from Texas or the White House, California remains #1 in the U.S, in job growth, actually producing 100,00 more jobs than Texas. We are also the #1 manufacturing state and are responsible for 25% of the US gross domestic product. And California is paying down its debt, now with \$21 billion in our Rainy Day Fund.

### **Education:**

After having been last in the US in per pupil spending in public education, California now ranks 32nd and in 24 months should be up to 25<sup>th</sup>. In the coming years Community Colleges in the state will be tuition free. Senator McGuire also emphasized the need to put more money and planning into career training education, because a large percentage of our students do not go on to college after high school.

Talk of education led to a discussion of income inequalities in California and homelessness. 2/3 of minimum wage earners in our state are women, many women with children. \$13 an hour cannot support a family, even when a person works more than one job as many do. And so we see that women over the age of 65 and single women with children are disproportionately homeless. California is now prepared to spend \$10 billion dollars over the next few years in order to develop more affordable housing. \$1 billion will be spent this year on homelessness alone, with \$16 million coming to Sonoma County. And there are renewed efforts to deal with the chronic homeless, many of whom suffer from substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Counties using state funds will contract with the state to provide housing units that include necessary services such as drug counseling. These facilities are having significant success in keeping the chronic homeless in decent housing and off the streets. The Palms Inn in Santa Rosa is an example of a housing facility having an amazing impact on the lives of the formally chronic homeless.

### **Fires and PG&E**

Senator McGuire took no prisoners when talking about the management of PG&E. First, the official fire season in California has now expanded to an average of 222 days, even as average temperatures in the state have increase by 2 degrees. To continue to deny that climate change is playing a huge role in our fire danger is to choose to live in some kind of strange alternative reality. Cal Fire will be adding 600 new firefighters and will continue making significant upgrades in equipment such as helicopters and air tankers.



In terms of PG&E, McGuire called it a dysfunctional company and demanded the resignation of the CEO and the entire Board. Some of the problems?

- Lack of investment in infrastructure. Equipment is dangerous and outdated and the company is billions of dollars behind in necessary upgrades.
- The PUC. He called it a company lapdog, comfortable in PG&E's pocket and unable or unwilling to oversee anything the utility does
- Climate change. 20 years ago, 15% of PG&E equipment was in a fire zone. Today, 50% is located in fire zones. And the utility seems unable to respond.

Senator McGuire insists that executive pay be tied to safety and a safety plan must be implemented that holds the company responsible and accountable. The company must be required to set aside reserves for

crucial maintenance. When a bankruptcy agreement is reached this spring, again the CEO and Board must go. The company should be given three years to make safety improvements in fire zones. The company is \$60 billion in debt and the situation is worse than it looks. If necessary, the State of California can take it over or find some entity to do just that. Whew! That was a lot in a short period of time.

## THE FINAL BELL

With another successful meeting down, **Keller** brought the hammer down at 1:30pm sharp.

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

#### **February 21<sup>st</sup>: Kristen Madsen of Creative Sonoma**

Kristin Madsen, Dir. of Creative Sonoma, a department of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, will present an overview of the place of arts in the economy of Sonoma County. The purpose of the Creative Sonoma department is to help the arts community in Sonoma County by developing the skills of all creative people in Sonoma County to enhance the value of the work they provide. Creative Sonoma is helping to foster new ways of presenting artwork to the community, both for the economic enhancement of the artists involved, as well as to the general exposure the public to works of art.



#### **February 28<sup>th</sup>: Better Angels**

Better Angels is a national citizens' movement to reduce political polarization in the United States by bringing liberals and conservatives together to understand each other beyond stereotypes, forming red/blue community alliances, teaching practical skills for communicating across political differences, and making a strong public argument for depolarization. They unite red and blue Americans in a working alliance to Depolarize America. Instead of asking people to change their minds about key issues, they give all Americans a chance to better understand each other, to absorb the values and experiences that inform our political philosophies, and to ultimately recognize our common humanity. If feelings about our political adversaries can be represented on a spectrum, our objective is to move Americans from Hatred to Respect & Appreciation.

#### **March 6<sup>th</sup>: Tawny Tesconi of Sonoma County Farm Bureau**

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.





## AFTER THE BELL



For many of us, it was a quick exit, a change of clothes, and off to Greg Gill's property to crack crab. Below, you can see images covering the spectacular event which took place on Saturday night.