

The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

Hon. Robert Boyd – The Electoral College



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President 2020/2021: Dan Rasmus



"All the News that Fits We Print"

🍎 **BEFORE THE BELL** 🍎

Rotarians gathered on Zoom and at the Russian River Vineyards for another exciting meeting. The pre-meeting Zoom conversation took on some of the controversies of the day including a discussion of whether or not Julie Cugini and Lu Frazier were sitting on Lu's couch at her house or in Hawaii. Also visitor Brian Langerman popped in and mentioned that the Gym was open. (In the old days a finable offense, today just information) Also discussed was **Bob Rogers** recent haircut. This club does not shy away from the Big Topics.

Bob Boyd popped in on the speaker view in what looked like a judge's chambers. Although officially retired, he is spending the day at work. (How does that happen?) He was preparing to present the program later and looked all dressed up and ready. He even had some tech advice from one of his staff. (Do retired people have staff?)

🍎 **AT THE BELL** 🍎



President Dan Rasmus rang the bell early today – at 12:10 to put a fine point on it. There was a large and what appeared to be largely ruly crowd in attendance at the Russian River Vineyards. More and more, Sebastopol Rotarians are venturing out into the world again and one place they are doing it is at the hybrid meeting at the Vineyards. Not yet at capacity at the Vineyards, Rotarians should strongly consider attending in person soon. See what other Rotarians look like in three dimensions.



Future Programs



April 2, 2021

Brandon Spars, PhD

Tales From Sumatra

April 9, 2021

Kent Porter

***Life As A Press Democrat
Photographer***

March 26, 2021

Cordel Stillman

***The New Advanced Energy
Center At Sonoma Clean
Power***



Miscellany



MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS: scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:

www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:

707-546-1234

sebastopolrotary.com

David Schriebman led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dorothy Rodella offered these Thoughts for the Day.

*What you think,
You become.*

*What you feel,
You attract.*

*What you imagine,
You create.*

Buddha

In honor of Women's History Month – **President Dan** showed a video of old photos of famous women altered by Artificial Intelligence to make it appear that they were singing. **HH** found this video and gave it to **Dan**. It was fascinating. It was also a little strange.



VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS



Bruce Campbell, visiting Rotarian from Nevada checked in.

Visitors included

First Lady Fran Rasmus



Sharon Daviero



Brian Langerman

And Julie Cugini

🍎 THE PASSING OF GARY KIMES 🍎

John Blount took the microphone to speak about the recent passing of Gary Kimes. Gary was a long time Sebastopol Rotarian. He was Club President in 1978-1979 and served as club secretary for over a decade. He had since moved to Colorado but through the magic of Zoom he had begun attending our meetings recently. Many Rotarians remember Gary well and many got to know him on the Zoom meetings. He loved the Breakout Rooms and always had plenty to contribute.

John noted that Gary was a Funeral Director in Sebastopol. He was one of the first Rotarians to reach out to **John** when he joined the club. They became fast friends and fellow Rotarians. Gary had political ambitions and convinced **John** to assist him in running for Supervisor and Assemblyman. Neither campaign succeeded but Gary served on the School Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

Gary Kimes will be missed.



🍎 PUERTO VALLARTA SUR 🍎

Steve Prandini took the lectern to discuss the many collaborative projects that the Sebastopol Rotary has done in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta Sur. In 1985 several members of the Sebastopol club visited Puerto Vallarta and struck up an international friendship. The first projects involved providing medical assistance followed by helping with a teacher exchange program. In the 1990s the club essentially adopted the Paso Ancho School providing all manner of assistance. These projects were always done in conjunction with the local Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta Sur.



Dorothy Rodella stepped up to introduce John Powell. She also gave a shout out to Jorge Zambrano of the PV club . John Powell discussed the Programa de Becas. This program provides direct sponsorship of students who are high achievers academically but who are financially unable to continue with their education. Mexico only provides for basic education until age 12 at which time many students are forced to drop out.



The Programa de Becas chooses high achieving students and matches them with sponsors. This program began with a few sponsors from the Rotary Club of Sebastopol but has now grown to 371 students sponsored by Rotarians from around the world.

163 of these student study at University level. \$250 a year sponsors a pre-university student. Many Rotarians sponsor a student for an extended period, following the same individual for many years. Many visit Puerto Vallarta and are introduced to the student in person. This worthy program is always looking for new sponsors.

Club Rotario Puerto Vallarta Sur	
	
Programa de "Becas" Sponsor: Dorothy Rodella Peña Mercado, Perla Jacqueline Date of Birth: January 04, 2000 Father's Name: Luis Ramón Peña Rubio Occupation: Taxi Driver Mother's Name: María de Jesús Mercado Ramírez Occupation: Mother of the House I attend: CUC Enfermería and I am at the: 2 ^o Semestre My grades are: 9.4 Level: University My email address is: perla.jacqueline@gmail.com My brothers are: Oscar, Ibar and Itan After school I: do my homework, help my mother & babysit In the future I: wish to study for a degree in nursing	
427	Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

🍎 DERBY DAY RAFFLE 🍎

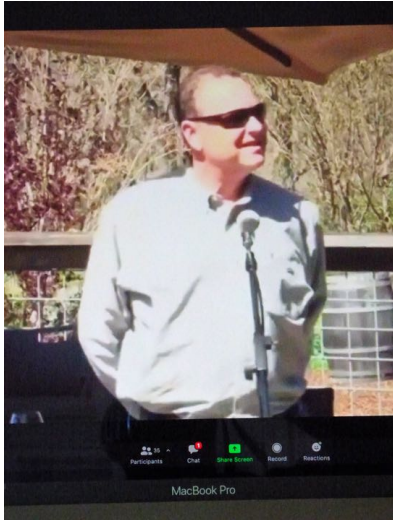
Aleia Coate stood up to remind us that the race is on and it's going to the finish.

Teams are already reporting sales. Current standing are as follows:

- 3rd place - Cool Kid's Camp
- 2nd place – West County Education
- 1st place – Community Grants.

Money is already banked and more pledged. **Aleia** urged the teams to get in the game and move up in the standings.





President Dan Rasmus introduced **David Schreiber** with a quick video on a theme. And the theme was...*Always Be Closing*.

David knows sales. He urged us to sell sell sell. He noted that what usually holds people back from selling is simple FEAR. But FEAR is only *False Evidence Appearing Real*. Don't hold back. **David** urged us to think of selling raffle tickets as offering someone a plate of warm cookies. They might take one, they might take many but do not fear the person who doesn't take any. It's their lose.

Remember the website has everything there is to know about the raffle.

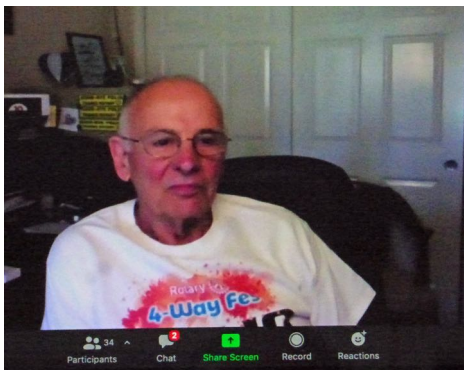


RECOGNITIONS



Nao Noguchi had a recent birthday and was treated to a birthday cake baked by his 12 year old granddaughter. He also enjoyed a Zoom birthday party.

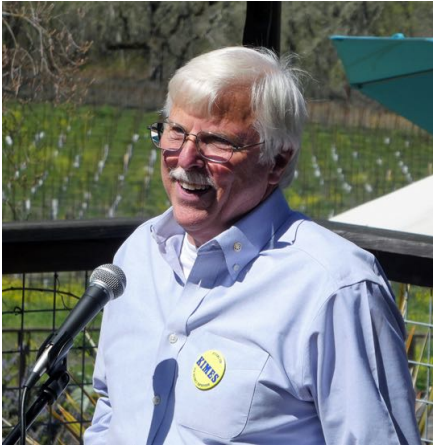
Michele Kimble had a birthday dinner recently. She has been recovering from a recent anniversary celebration with husband Dave where they tried to do everything by way of celebration that they haven't been able to do for a year. All in twenty four hours. Healdsburg may never be the same. There is a lot of pent up demand out there.



Bob and Peg Rogers celebrated their anniversary by rounding up a picnic at Big John's Market in Healdsburg, then driving the back way over to the coast. Sounds like that road is challenging but they made it and had a great time.

Meredeth Bertacco was honored for her 9th year as a Rotarian. President Dan had a picture of her from the 1991 Rotary conference when she was just a sprite.

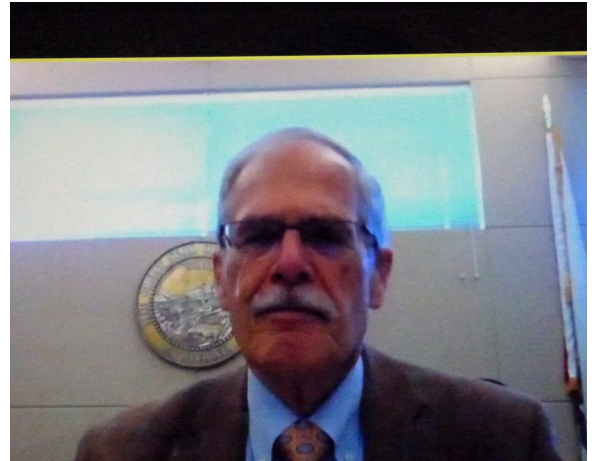
🍎 THE PROGRAM 🍎



John Blount introduced our speaker, the **Honorable Judge Robert Boyd** or as his fellow Rotarians call him **Bob**. **Bob** is a University of California Berkeley and Hastings School of Law graduate, a Navy veteran and a retired Judge.

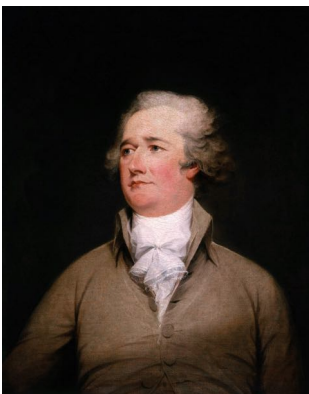
Our recent presidential election brought up the idea of the Electoral College in many ways

and **Bob** was asked to research the matter and explain the history of this unique institution. **Bob** took us back to the Founding Fathers for a look at what the Electoral College is and why it exists.



The Founding Fathers had a few must haves when they began to design the government of the brand new United States. They knew that they did not want an all -powerful leader in a single individual. They also knew that they wanted the government to be run by the voters, in other words a republic where the citizens were represented by people that they elected.

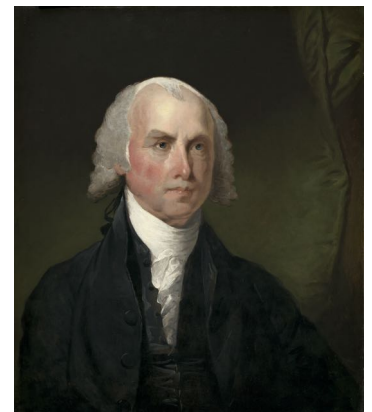
There was no precedent for such a government. The Founding Fathers were starting from scratch. As they soon found out - everyone doesn't always agree on everything. The first attempt – forming a government where everything was run by a group of state representatives (essentially a Congress) failed. The Congress could pass the laws but there was no one to execute the laws. Called the “Articles of Confederation” it was clearly a fail and a reboot was required.



Hence the Constitutional convention. Again, the must haves – a weak executive and representational governance. Agreement on how to work this out was not easy. Small states wanted representation. Big states wanted fairness. No one really thought “the people” would be able to make a proper choice. So who picks the President? The Governors of the States? The Congressional Representatives? Certainly not “The People”.

Various schemes and plans were put forward. Various conflicts were not resolved. How about the big states with small voter populations (

Virginia) ? How about the states with big populations but no slavery(Pennsylvania)? These questions just about wore out the delegates until they came upon a plan that no one really loved but mostly they could live with. Each state would elect a slate of electors based on population but each state would have at least three votes. After the election, the Electoral College would meet and the slates of electors would cast their votes for a candidate. The person who got the majority of



the votes would be elected President. In case of a tie, the House of Representatives would decide.

And so – worn out and ready to move on – the Founding Fathers approved what became the Article 2 of the Constitution. It has been amended slightly over the years so that the second highest vote getter does not become Vice President. (Aaron Burr – Oops)



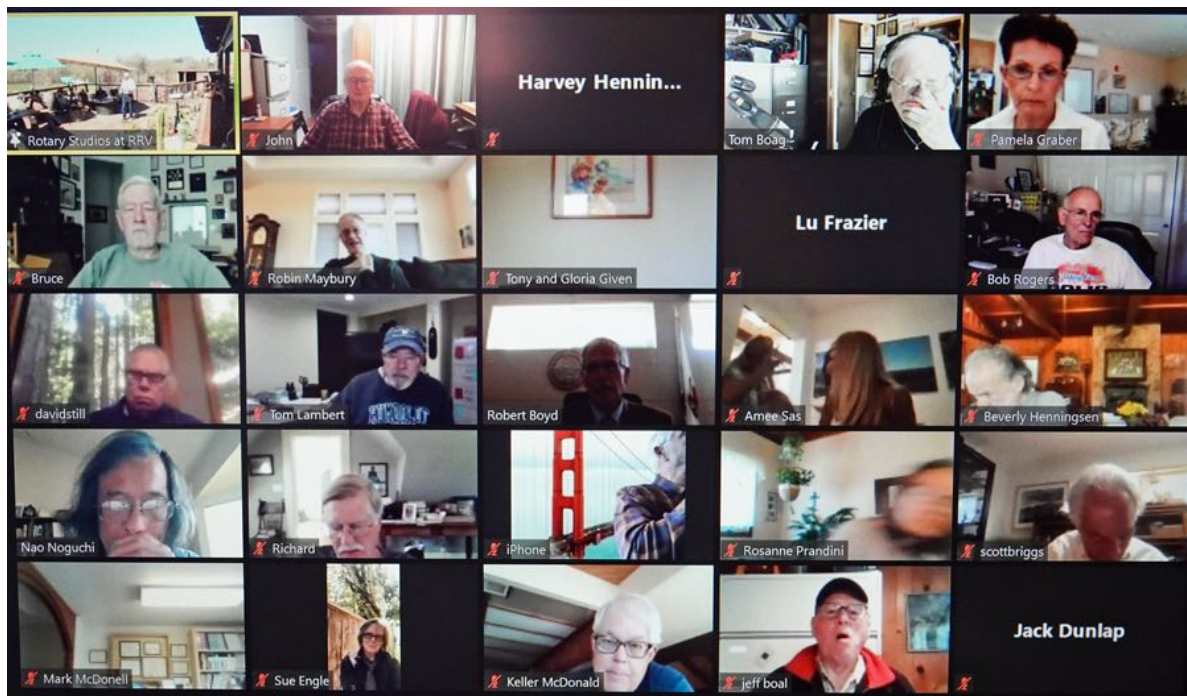
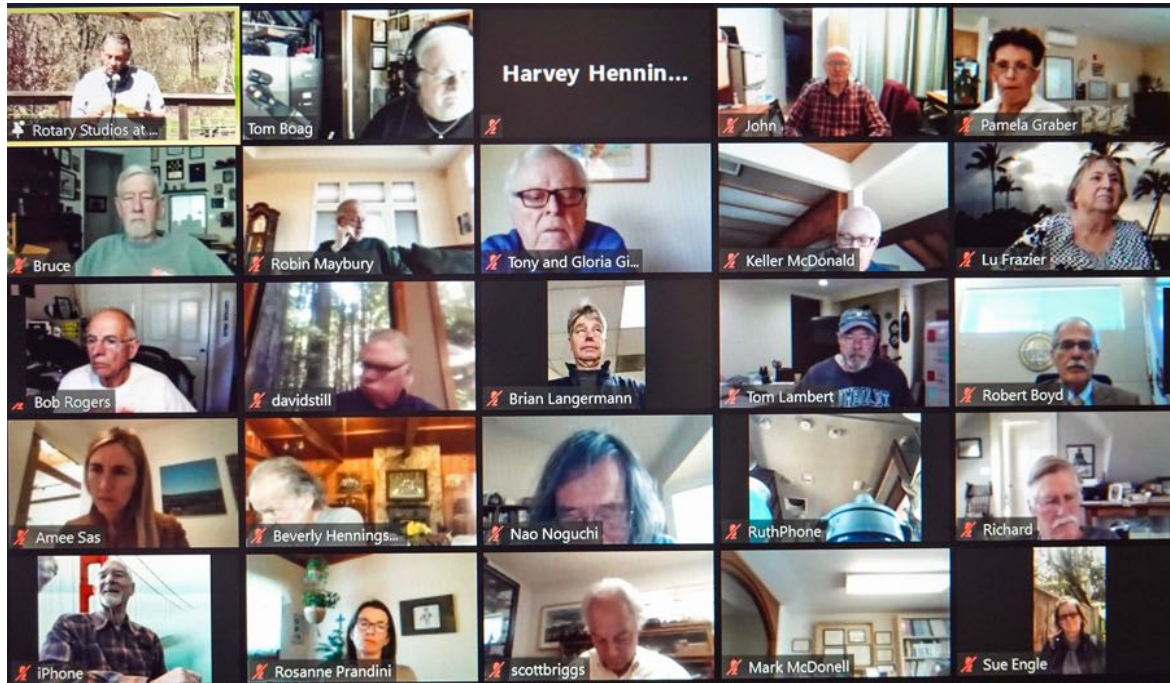
There have been calls to abolish the Electoral College for many years. On five occasions the person elected president was not the winner of the popular vote. Would this have bothered the Founding Fathers? Who knows. They didn't trust "The People" to decide directly. And that's how it's been for over two hundred years. Want to amend the Constitution? That might deserve a separate program. Want to make an end run around the Electoral College? Well you will just have to line up the legal experts and have them go at it. Do you really want that?

President Dan thanked **Bob** for his informative program and..



He rang the bell at precisely 1:15 pm.







sebastopol-rotary-education-foundation.org PO Box 213 Sebastopol CA 95473

SEBASTOPOL ROTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE: APRIL 16, 2021

The *Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation* seeks nominations for the most outstanding West Sonoma County Teachers. This year awards will go to three teachers, one in each of the following categories:

- New Teacher
- Innovative Teacher
- Career Service Teacher

Students, parents, alumni, community members, colleagues, children, and others are invited to submit nominations.

Each West Sonoma County Teacher of the Year will receive a \$1000 cash award and will be recognized, along with their guests, at a Sebastopol Rotary Club meeting in May.

Information about the Teacher of the Year, with a link to the online nomination form, is available at www.sebastopol-rotary-education-foundation.org. The completed form can be submitted online (our preference), or can be downloaded and sent by email to dianagrigh@gmail.com or by regular mail to Diana Rich, SREF, P.O. Box 213, Sebastopol CA 95473. Deadline: Friday April 16, 2021 (midnight).

For more information, contact Diana Rich at 707 479-1717 or dianagrigh@gmail.com.

SEBASTOPOL ROTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION WEST SONOMA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION CATEGORIES

New Teacher: This award honors the new teacher (three or fewer years) whose efforts and enthusiasm merit recognition of the effort they are putting in to become a great educator.

Innovative Teacher: This award honors a teacher who has promoted an **innovation** that has had a material impact on your school or district.

Career Service Teacher: This award honors an elementary, middle or high school teacher who has had a long, valued career at your school.

Nomination Deadline: April 16, 2021 (midnight) Submit online (our preference)
www.sebastopol-rotary-education-foundation.org

Other alternatives: print out and email to dianagrigh@gmail.com, or
print out and mail to Diana Rich, SREF, P.O. Box 213, Sebastopol CA 95473.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 2, 2021 - *Tales From Sumatra - Storytelling Lessons* - Brandon Spars, PhD.



Sonoma Academy where he teaches describes Brandon as “our resident storyteller”. His home state of Missouri, travels, and marriage have informed his rich and entertaining stories not only in the classroom but as a workshop leader, as a TEDx speaker and a multi-champion of the nationally famed Moth story telling contests including GrandSLAMS at the Castro Theater in San Francisco and at the Mystic Theater in Petaluma. He has contributed to countless workshops and conferences on the intersection between storytelling, ancient history, and pedagogy. Add to this, Brandon is a published author.

Bridging a great California academic rivalry, Brandon attended Stanford for his undergrad education and UC Berkeley for his MA in South & Southeast Asian Studies, as well as his PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies. He spent seven years teaching at UC Berkeley and other international universities before coming to Sonoma Academy.

April 9, 2021 - *Life As A Press Democrat Photographer* - Kent Porter

I started at the Press Democrat in August of 1987, previously at the Midland Reporter-Telegram in west Texas for four years. I grew up in Lake County, where I started my career and the Lake County Record-Bee.

I picked up a camera at the age of eight, documenting family trips to the Central Plains, eventually graduating to a 35mm Yashica and a Pentax K1000 in high school. After graduation, I took classes at SRJC under the tutelage of John LeBaron and Thomas Chown.



At the Press Democrat, I've covered numerous Super Bowls and World Series events, traveled to Cuba, Canada and Mexico with 45 different states in between for coverage of one type or another. I spent a week on the Prince William Sound in a fishing boat, documenting the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and another two-weeks in airplanes, helicopters and automobile, photographing the extent of the economic damage in Valdez, Anchorage and Cordova. I covered the Loma Prieta earthquake from the get go, on the field at Candlestick Park and eventually at the Bay Bridge.

I'm very concerned about climate change, and my recent coverage during the past six years of calamitous wildfires, whiplash flooding and drought has made me well adapted to dive in to the coverage even deeper as we pull out of the pandemic. I've won international, national and state awards, and was also on the 2018 Pulitzer Prize team for our coverage of the 2017 fires that burned our communities. I'm a big believer in newspapers and journalism as a whole, passionate about community communication and using all channels available to tell stories in our region.

I have a 21 year-old son, who is a firefighter. I love the southwest canyonlands, I like to chase severe weather in the heart of our country and live by the seat of my pants most days. I'm also an avid gardener, love to fish and am currently attempting to hike every local and state park in Sonoma County during 2021. I'm about one quarter of the way through.



April 16, 2021 - *The New Advanced Energy Center At Sonoma Clean Power* - Cordel Stillman

In his role as Director of Programs at Sonoma Clean Power, Cordel Stillman works directly with the CEO to set the strategy for distributed resources and customer programs. Mr. Stillman also works closely with Programs staff and the Director of Power Services to develop and evolve SCP's Integrated Resource Plan.

Formerly the Deputy Chief Engineer at the Sonoma County Water Agency, Cordel has over 28 years of experience in the public sector in planning, design and construction management.

Under his guidance, the Sonoma County Water Agency achieved its goal of Carbon Free Water through a combination of energy conservation measures and

renewable energy development.

Mr. Stillman was one of the early pioneers of forming Sonoma Clean Power, including forming and administering the Steering Committee, commissioning and overseeing the feasibility study, securing early financing for the Agency, and working with County Counsel on the development of the Joint Powers Agreement which made SCP possible.