


The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

District 5130 Governor Jennifer Strong



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

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President 2022-2023: **Hal Kwalwasser**



“All the News that Fits We Print”

🍎 BEFORE THE BELL 🍎

There was a crowd filling into the Community Church to visit with Jennifer Strong, District Governor. She greeted members as they arrived and passed out colored sheets of paper. The color of the paper designated which table you sat at.



🍎 AT THE BELL 🍎

President Hal Kwalwasser rang the bell to open up the meeting.

Dave Madsen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keller McDonald served as song leader and led us all in the *My Country tis of Thee*.

Kathy Hicks shared the wisdom of the day: “*Refuse to let an old person move into your body.*” -Wayne Dyer



🍎 Future Programs 🍎

November 25, 2022

Dark

December 2, 2022

**Andrea Card – Champion
Axe Thrower**

December 9, 2022

**David Schreibman – Safari
Adventures**

🍎 Coming Events 🍎

Holiday Party

December 17, 2022

Crab Feed

February 11, 2023

🍎 Miscellany 🍎

MAKEUP NOTIFICATIONS:
scottbriggs50@yahoo.com

On-line Make-Ups:
www.RotaryEClubOne.org

Domestic Violence Hotline:
707-546-1234

🍎 GUESTS 🍎

There were several visiting Rotarians and visitors today!

President Hal introduced our current District Governor, Jennifer Strong from the Rotary Club of Lakeport and Jennifer introduced her Lieutenant Governor, Marilyn Lira from the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East West.



Bob Rogers introduced Past District Governor Doug Johnson from the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa and his wife, Rebecca Joy Johnson, also from the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa.

Ellen Harrington introduced returning guest Kalen Wood. Welcome back Kalen.



Aleia Coate

introduced next year's outbound exchange student from Analy High School, Josie Porter.



On that note, check out the update from our current outbound exchange student,

Aliyah Contreras:
<https://aliyahtoitaly.blogspot.com/2022/10/my-exchange-year-so-far.html>

🍎 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🍎

There were only a couple brief announcements by **President Hal**.

The Holiday Party will be held on December 17th at **John and Patty Blount's** home.

The club's Foundation Raffle will be held at our next meeting, December 2. Anyone who donated to last month's District Foundation or this month's club Foundation campaign is eligible. Prizes include fine wine and gift certificates. If you have not yet contributed, you still have time on December 2 before the raffle.

🍎 THE PROGRAM – DISTRICT GOVERNOR JENNIFER STRONG 🍎

Area Governor, **Dan Rasmus**, introduced our 5130 District Governor Jennifer Strong. She joined the Rotary Club of Lakeport in 1998. She has served as club President twice, most recently in 2015-16. That was when the Valley Fire occurred in Lake County. Jennifer started the Lake Area Fire Relief Fund with the simple goal of raising \$50,000. Over \$1 Million was raised! It later became the District 5130 Disaster Relief Fund and assisted many in Sonoma County during the wildfires of 2017. Jennifer is a Certified Financial Planner and owns and operates Strong Financial Network in Lakeport serving nearly 2000 clients throughout 22 states.



Before starting on her District 5130 Governor message, Jennifer had a couple important pieces of business to tend to.

First she invited up Past District Governor, Doug Johnson to the front for a special presentation. He invited up Past District Governor and Rotary's "End Polio Now" Coordinator for the Northwest U.S., **Bob Rogers** to join him. Doug presented **Bob** a generous donation of \$50,000 towards PolioPlus, The Rotary Foundation's Fund for ending polio worldwide. The donation was an official gift from funds budgeted for Doug's year as District Governor - but not used - because of the COVID pandemic during the 2020-21 year he served. Eradicating Polio in the world is Rotary International's #1 top Humanitarian Priority and Doug Johnson could think of no better way to utilize the unused funds.

District Governor Jennifer Strong then presented 7 Paul Harris Fellow recognitions to members. **Scott Briggs, Laura Victor-van Gorder, President Hal Kwalwasser, Mark McDonell, JT Martin, Steve Prandini and Robin Maybury**. Congratulations to all of them and keep up the good work! Rotary Foundation Month ends on December 2, when a raffle will be held. Business was brisk at the back table with members filling out raffle tickets. Way to go!!!





Jennifer started her message by explaining why she has stayed in Rotary. She asked the audience “why are you here, giving time to Rotary”? She pointed out that the concept of time once spent can’t be gotten back. She then explained that the motto, “*Service Above Self*” is dead wrong. She went on to say that it should be “*Service Feeds Self*”. This motto shows that Rotary feeds our soul and takes Rotary out of our head in into our heart.

She then called up **Dave Schreiber** for a one on one about why they both were in Rotary. **David** explained that he wanted to give back to the community. Jennifer said she did it for business purposes. **David** became an Interact club volunteer but didn’t feel he was having an impact in the students until the Interact club decided to raise money for their International Service by funding seven kids heart surgery in Vietnam.



Jennifer explained that she almost resigned in 2015, that she wasn’t feeding her soul with her time in Rotary. Then she was asked to step in, once again, as Club President and the Valley Fire (Lakeville) happened. The club decided to replace all the burned bicycles at a BBQ for fire victims. Then they decided to put names on all the bikes. Ten days after they started fleshing out the details of getting the bikes to the kids, 250

bikes show up with tags with kid’s names on them. An anonymous donor had mysteriously donated them.

Jennifer then told a story about how she was at the BBQ just before the party started. A little girl came up with her bicycle that had her name on it. The little girl said that her family was still living in the shelter, and she gave Jennifer a hug. That was the moment when Rotary went from her head to her heart.



Members were asked to discuss what Rotary means to them at their tables. The tables were immersed in conversation and a few stories were shared with everyone at the end of the table discussions.





Jennifer closed her presentation by bringing a basket of goodies from the last club she visited to be auctioned off. The proceeds would go the Rotary Foundation and Jennifer would match the donation with PHF points. She called up **Past RI Director and Past District Governor, John Blount**, our resident Auctioneer. The winning bid from **Tony Given** was for \$500 for the basket with the benefactor being the Rotary Foundation.



🍎 THE FINAL BELL 🍎

President Hal gave the bell a hardy ring at 1:30pm.

🍎 AFTER THE FINAL BELL 🍎

We have so much to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving! -Ed