



Grass Valley South

www.gvsrotary.org

November 2016 Newsletter

A Club on Track



Letter from the Editor: A Rallying Cry

by [Ben Avansino](#)

Another long, bruising election season has passed, and all sides likely agree that this election has been filled with rancor and vitriol. The venom of particularly vicious national campaigns will be bubbling in all of our minds for a while to come, potentially inciting deeper divisions between us despite all we share.

Though I have not been a Rotarian for long, I feel it is our duty, our moral obligation, as individuals, to open ourselves to our ideological opposition—against the order of natural instinct—to choose to employ empathy in understanding the condition of another. Yes, our club—and all Rotary clubs—extend their intentions beyond the reach of partisanship, but I

feel, we must set an uncompromising example for our neighbors, through the generosity of our actions and the selflessness of our intent, to be the warm, welcoming, enduring American neighbors we know our strong community to be. As Rotarians, we already seek to be greater than the sum of our political differences, and though this role we play is not new, our country needs—now more than ever—a calm, steady course through a turbulent trajectory toward unity.

This reminds me of our Rotary motto: “Service Above Self.” Through our shared ideals—a common creed born from good hearts—we, along with many organizations and private citizens in our community, embody the same virtues of an enduring lighthouse in a relentless storm—guidance for the lost to find a way back home. The beacon of American Exceptionalism still shines bright today, and we, as Americans and Rotarians, possess a responsibility to never falter in doing our part to show our fellow citizens that this country is a home for us all.

Rotary Club of Grass Valley South: Membership and Event Success



An Evening by the Fire

With new faces, established members, and inquiring minds together, November 1 marked the joyous celebration of a growing Rotary club (ours!). Joey and Bill Jordan graciously hosted a fireside in celebration of Rotary and the prospects of acting on our collective community interests. A generous supply of cheese and delicious desserts stood alongside a healthy supply of wine to bolster the evening’s promise, and Grass Valley South Rotary can be grateful for new members to come. Be sure to thank Joey and Bill for their wondrously successful efforts.



New Faces and New Paul Harris Fellows

As November 1 presented meaning and purpose to those curious about joining Rotary, the November 15 meeting—the one that was supposed to go dark—existed for the purposes of inducting new members, recognizing new (also recurring) Paul Harris Fellows and to signal the return of Ed's bell (the jury is still out on who-done-it). Absent a speaker, the weekly gathering featured plenty of filled seats and optimism for our growing membership. Our three newest members are Adam Weiss, David Jones, and Candice Niederberger.

In addition to new club members, Charlie Litton, Grass Valley South Foundation Chair, named these members as first-time Paul Harris Fellows: Tim Foley, Joey Jordan, Tracy Pepper, Ben Avansino, Bethany Trevethick, and Greg Trevethick. In addition, James Arbaugh was recognized for his third time being named a Paul Harris Fellow.

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Let the Lights Fly: Neon Golf

Against the cool breeze and the backdrop of the night sky, the flight of glowing golf balls could be seen from the warm, beverage stocked clubhouse at the Nevada County Country

Club. Not only did the Grass Valley South Rotary Club bring a wild golf and thirst quenching paint-n-sip experience, our club also offered an opportunity for those who participated in the event to give back to the community in which we all live. Our club donated to the Interfaith Food Ministry a value matching that of the sum of ten of the fifteen raffle items won by guests. In addition, several guests donated directly to the Interfaith Food Ministry, and all of the donations given to this NPO were for holiday dinners as Thanksgiving was only a month away. The Neon Golf event, put on by our very own club, boasted better turnout and greater donations than the previous year; we should all be proud of the hard work of those who organized this event and look forward to the next one!

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Rotary Foundation Dinner: **Ideals Brought to Life**



The halfway point in November, the 16th, was the evening our district put its firm stamp on the Rotary Foundation Month this year. Held at the Foothill Event Center and fed by Antonio Catering, the Rotary Foundation Dinner brought the clubs of our district together to recognize the good that the Rotary Foundation brings to the world, to celebrate our district's commitment to the Foundation, and to reaffirm our collective promise to the ideals cemented by and shown in our actions throughout our community.

John Blount, who has held numerous leadership positions in the Rotary organization (like former Rotary International Director), headlined the event; Blount, burdened by the challenge of using words to describe the value of the Rotary Foundation, spoke of his personal story to reach beyond the limits of language and connect his audience to a more clear understanding of how their own experiences in Rotary have shaped them and their world. A few years after becoming a Rotarian at the age of twenty-seven, the young dentist in Sebastopol changed his perspective from "what can Rotary do for me?" to "Service Above Self." Through recounting his own experiences in Rotary, he reminded the room, full of

proud Rotarians, that the implications of our actions reach far beyond our personal sphere, and through the Rotary Foundation, we can achieve our collective ambition—to serve the world—more easily and fully. This was a marvelous event!

Calendar of Events

11/16: Rotary Foundation Dinner

11/24: Happy Thanksgiving!

11/29: Evening Social at 151 Union Sq.

*12/3: Women of Worth work party—need volunteers! Contact Mike Austin for details

*12/16: Interfaith Food Ministry volunteer day! Contact Carol Scofield for details

Be on the lookout for a Christmas Party announcement!

Guest Speaker List:

11/22: Joanna Britt, Good Women International
“Taking on Human Trafficking”
530-613-2747

Grass Valley South Rotary Club

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Meetings are Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m.

At

151 Union Square

151 Mill Street, Grass Valley, California 95945

Rotary

