In the Beginning...

President Phil got us up for the Pledge, led by Phil Brown and Jorg Puhr-Westerheide provided the thought of the day. Jorg referred to International President of Rotary, Gordon McInally’s theme of the year. “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness. Let us, my fellow Rotarians, continue in creating hope for the world!”

We had no visiting Rotarians. Guests of Rotarians included: Roberta with Alan Dunham; Peter Oser again brought prospective member Jackson Coster; Peian Harness introduced Anne Wade, past president of Rotary; Keith Axtell introduced Jacqueline Lee, with Haiti on the Rise; Maggie Shao introduced Sean Finn.

President Phil called on Marty Wickenheiser and Reggie Winner for Community Care.

Reggie announced member Diana Tomasini had passed away. She was a great and long time friend of the Bramons.

Reggie called on Rob Haff to announce his good news. He is out of the quagmire of Silicon Valley Bank and now is with Bank of Marin and yes, he can even walk to work!

Marty stated Mike Morrissey cracked his knee cap on day two of his trip to Mongolia. He soldiered on and is now seeking medical advice.

Peter Pelavin and Roy Pfeifer were called up to turn in their red badges and receive the blue badges. Way to go!!!

Announcements

Peter Pelavin mentioned a car wash meeting. Contact Peter if you wish to be in on the meeting.

Holly Axtell mentioned the World Service Committee awarded a $500 grant presented by Rob Marshall to purchase eye glasses for Guatemala. Holly reminded us these grants are open to any member to pursue. The max is $500.

President Phil is organizing a Project Amigo trip to Colima. He is hoping for up to 20 participants. The trip coincides with spring break, April 8-15th for the high schools.

All kinds of socials going on:

McDill Non-Spaghetti Feed this Friday, 6pm. Bring appetizers to share.

The following Friday the 27th the mixer will be at Mamita from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. Club buys the appetizers, members buy the drinks.

PP (President Phil) reminded us of the Marin County Salute to Rotary. Contact DStone@marinscope.com if interested in purchasing ad space.

Picture Time

President Phil rousted all the rotarians to the steps outside the building. There were mutterings of tallest on the bottom of the stairs or was that tallest to the top of the stairs. Many were wearing Rotary attire, including Ron Harness with a Rotary themed Hawaiian shirt… had to see it in person. Speaker Dr. Smith stepped up to take the group picture. What great multi tasking!!

The Speaker

Lynn Dawson introduced our speaker, Tracy Smith, Superintendent of Novato Unified School District.

Dr. Smith mentioned our long time friend and Rotarian Jan La Torre-Derby. She is the reason why Dr. Smith pursued her career in education. Dr. Smith is thankful for the support of Measure A and G.

Dr. Smith has many local connections. While she grew up in Santa Maria her parents went to Drake. Samuel P. Taylor was a relative (darn lost that land to pay back taxes) and Trumbull family in Novato. She visited the Marin relatives often and knew this beautiful place was where she wanted to live and work. She graduated from UC Berkely with a Spanish major. She has been principal in San Rafael, Ross Valley and Miller Creek. She also worked in Sonoma, Rincon Valley.

It has been interesting times, to put it mildly, to work through COVID and the Kincade fires.

She proudly announced all teaching positions are filled and good numbers with support staff.

Enrollment is slowly increasing. Transitional kindergarten, age 4 is operating. The universal meal program, meaning any student can have breakfast and or lunch is up and running as well as universal extended care TK through 6th grade… no cost. This program also offers enrichment programs such as art, sports, and music.

She briefly touch on using a portion of the general fund to investigate work force housing.

All in all Dr. Smith feels the District is in a positive place and the students are well cared for.

25er

Keith Axtell won the pot.

In Memoriam

Diana Tomasini
April 16, 1949 – October 9, 2023

Continued on page 3
The Four-Way Test

“Of the things we think, say or do:
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

The Four-Way Test

“Of the things we think, say or do:
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

OFFICERS
Phil Dougherty
President
Tom Rickey
Vice President
Sonia Seeman
Jim White
Co-Secretaries
Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer
Gordon R. McInally
R.I.President
Laine Hendricks
District Governor
Stacie Vance
Assistant District Governor

DIRECTORS
Roy Preiber & John Reuscher
Club Administration
Kyle Frazier
Public Image
Peter Pelavin
Community Service
Gloria Dunn-Violin
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)
Holly Axtell
International Service
Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)
Marisa Remak
Youth Service

Vicki and Bill McDill will be opening their home for the Annual Non-Spaghetti Feed. Everyone should bring a finger-food to serve 4-6 people and their good humor, so we can enjoy the fellowship and celebrate Spring. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill
Interactors creating battery recycling boxes for San Marin High School

Sponsorship

Sponsored by
NOVATO CAR WASH
(across from Marin Community Clinic and Marin County Ford)
6981 Redwood Blvd.

All Proceeds Support Novato Teachers

Visit novatorotary.org or use this QR Code below for tickets or more info

Pre-Paid Donation $10 per Ticket Good for Drive-Thru Express Wash $12 Value
Holly Axtell reports on International donation to Robert Marshall’s Guatemala School water filtration project.

The Guatemala school targeted for a clean water filtration system from Rotary.

President Phil awards full membership from Red to Blue to Roy and Peter.

RCN Speaker Dr. Tracy Smith, Novato’s new Unified School District Superintendent is focusing on post-pandemic student emotional and educational needs.

Keith Axtell introduces Randal and Jacqueline Lee, Executive Director of Haiti On the Rise Scholarships for Haitian youth.