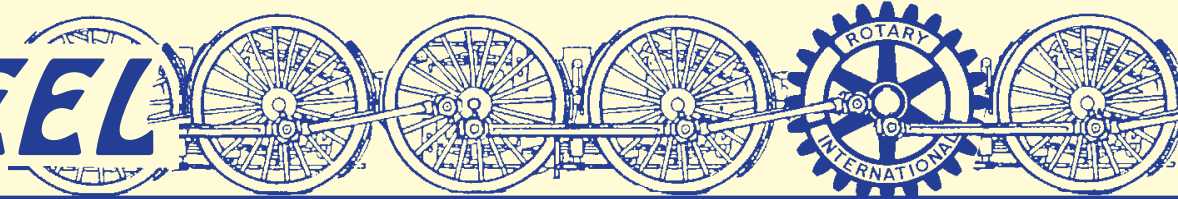


The BIG WHEEL

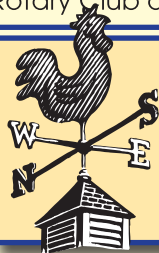


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



June 6, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 35
Editor:
By The Winner

In the Beginning

As the clock ticked to 12:15 pm, **President Tom Rickey** welcomed members, guests and asked **Reggie Winner** to give the pledge and Thought for the Day. From author **Robert Fulghum**: “If you break your neck, if you have nothing to eat, if your house is on fire, then you’ve got a problem. Everything else is an inconvenience. Life is inconvenient. Life is lumpy. A lump in the oatmeal, a lump in the throat, and a lump in the breast are not the same kind of lump. One needs to learn the difference.” from **Anon**: “May you always have: Love to share, Cash to spare, Tires with air, And friends who care.”

Visitors and Guests

There was only one visiting Rotarian, and a lofty one at that, **District Governor Steve Wright**. Guests of Rotarians included wives **Vicki McDill** and **Roberta Dunham** as guests of their husbands. Speaker **Liz Clarke** and **Erica Durwood**, guests of **Gloria Dunn-Violin** and **Laura Jess**, guest of **Lynn Dawson**.

Birthday and Anniversaries

President Tom recognized **Tiffany Fischer** and **Jorg Westerheide** as having birthdays within the week and anniversaries for **Art** and **Rhonda Crofts** and **Katie** and **Scott Chase**.

Announcements

The Debunking

Peter Pelavin reminded members of the extraordinary event happening on Friday, June 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Jonas Center. The 2025 Debunking! Let **Marsha Molloy** know if you are planning to attend.

Fourth of July Parade

Lynn Dawson announced that all four Novato Rotary Clubs will participate in the annual Novato Fourth of July parade. John Cutrufelli is lending us a truck which will be decorated, and all Rotarians are invited to walk alongside the float!

Fundraising and Social Committees

Lynn also invited any and all members to join the Fundraising committee meeting immediately following our meeting and/or the social committee meeting this same afternoon at 5 pm at the VFW Hall.

Art, Wine & Music

President Tom also invited members to join or stop by and stay hello during the Art & Wine Festival this weekend. The booth will be at Fourth & Grant Avenue both Saturday and Sunday.

District Awards

He also announced that the Club won four awards at the recent District Conference in the following areas: Community Services, world Community Services, Youth Services and Membership. He called up the various chairs of these committees and thanked each one personally.

Grand Slam

District Governor Wright followed up with his announcement of the Grand Slammer award – those members who have contributed to The Rotary Foundation in all four areas: Polio Plus, the **Paul Harris Society**, the Bequest Society and a TRF Major Donor. Our members **Ron** and **Peian Harness** were recognized as Grand Slammers!

Ripped Off Royally!

DG Wright also awarded the club the “ripped off royally” award to recognize all of our members who helped him out in his year as District Governor – **Larry Harrison** his Conference Chair who has been working for several years to produce a wonderful conference, **Sonia Seeman** who helped with awards, **Christina Stroeh** who headed up the entertainment for the District conference, **Ron & Peian Harness** who served as Assistant Governors this year and will continue next year, **Keith Axtell** who headed up the Global Grants for the district, **Russ Ketron** who headed up Polio Plus for the District and **Holly Axtell** as a very solid supporter. **Steve** “Borrowed” them all, but we can have them back now!

He also enumerated the various activities of the club – 3 global grants, 10+ community service projects, 9 new members – and invited all to stand to recognize **President Tom’s** leadership for this year. All these congratulations were followed up by a great video of the district Conference that was produced by **Mark Bosch**.

Program

Gloria Dunn-Violin introduced our speaker, **Lisa Clarke** from Sustainable Marin Schools., an organization committed to reducing carbon emissions and fostering sustainability in our K-12 public schools. With a background as an epidemiologist in cancer research, **Clarke’s** journey into sustainability began when she came to understand that climate change is the most significant threat to public health that our children will face.

Her hands-on experience with zero waster programs at her children’s elementary school, combined with extensive research into best practices nationwide, led her to establish Sustainable Marin Schools. Her mission is clear: to help schools curb their carbon

The BIG WHEEL

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?"

Keena Turner

The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run

Thurs., July 24, 2025 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm

In 1980, Keena was drafted in the second round by the San Francisco 49ers and played outside linebacker with the "Team of the Decade" until his retirement in 1990. His eleven-year contribution to the team resulted in four Super Bowl wins and a trip to the Pro Bowl. He championed the 49ers to victory as Captain of the 1984 team and was subsequently chosen by his teammates as the "Len Eshmont Award" recipient for his courageous and inspirational play.

Keena Turner, legendary #58 and 4-Time SUPER BOWL CHAMPION for the San Francisco 49ers, will join us to discuss sportsmanship, teamwork, the championship mindset and what it took to win and sustain dominance during his 11-year professional football career. Now, Vice President and Senior Advisor to the General Manager, Keena will field questions about his "Team of the Decade" and the future of today's Niners squad.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Upcoming Programs & Events

June

June 11	Board Meeting at Jonas Center
June 13	Claire Hartman - City of Novato
June 20	Christina Stroeh & Joni DeGabriele The Rotary Grammys
June 27	Debunking

July

July 4	No Meeting
July 11	RCN Board - 2025-26 Strategic Plan
July 18	Scholarships
July 24	Novato Speakers Series: Keena Turner The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Tom Rickey
President

Lynn Dawson
Vice President

Peian Harness
Secretary

Al Shirley
Treasurer

Stephanie A. Urchick
R.I. President

Steve Wright
District Governor

Stacie Vance
Assistant District Governor

DIRECTORS

John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Jeff Slavitz
Public Image & Awareness

Peter Pelavin
Community Service

Gloria Dunn-Violin
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Eliza Roesler
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Dean Heffelfinger
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Peter Oser
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Phil Dougherty
Past President

footprints, reduce waste, create green, climate-resilient campuses, and empower students to become environmental advocates and future leaders in the green economy.

Currently, **Clarke** partners with the Novato Unified School district, delivering comprehensive programs in zero waste, decarbonization, campus greening/resilience and environmental literacy across eight schools. She also thanked our Rotary Club for our support of her initial endeavor at Rancho School, saying it was key to the support she has received from the Marin Community foundation, the fellows from the California Climate Action Fellows and NUSD.

Following her lead and putting in the hard work, all eight of the schools she works with are compliant with CA SB 1383. She has seen lots of good changes over her three years of work with the district, including the forming of a district-wide Sustainability Committee.

Special Presentation

Mike Morrissey did a quick presentation to **Penny Hansen** to thank her for encouraging him to submit a photograph to the RI Magazine photo contest. He submitted one photo and won first place! **Mike** presented **Penny** with a beautiful first print of that photo.

Sad News

President Tom announced that he had just received a text from **Past President Phil Dougherty** letting him know that his father had passed away peacefully this morning at the age of 100!

The Raffle Winner

Peter Rubens won the \$25'er! Don't spend it all in one place!



Rotary CALGARY 2025

MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Register today at convention.rotary.org

Rotary
Club of Novato



**YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS
ARE STILL
NEEDED**

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

*All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!*

**Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net**



Art Wine & Music

Rotary booth set-up on Saturday Grand Opening. Pictured left to right, Rotary Club of Novato President Tom Rickey, Rotary Club of Novato Sunrise President Bruce Goines, Rotary Club of Novato Evening Membership Chairwomen Shelly Scott, Rotary Club of Ignacio Past President Don Wichman,



D.G. Steve Wright describes the third donation area to become a Grand Slam Donor.



Christina Stroeh organized and conducted the 2025 District Conference entertainment, which included the vocal performance pictured above. Christina was one of several RCN members DG Steve Wright "borrowed" for the Rotary year.



Larry Harrison (L) was another RCN member DG Steve Wright (R) "borrowed" for the Rotary year. Larry was the Chair of the 2025 District Conference.



RCN Community Service Committee won District Awards. (L to R) Peter Pelavin, Jim Spilman and Eliza Roesler.



Environmental Sustainability Director Gloria Dunn-Violin introduces our speaker.



Speaker, Lisa Clarke from Marin Sustainable Schools.



To reduce waste, milk dispensing machines replace individual cartons at Novato Schools.



As a thank you, Mike Morrissey presented Penny Hanson with the first print of his RI award winning photo.