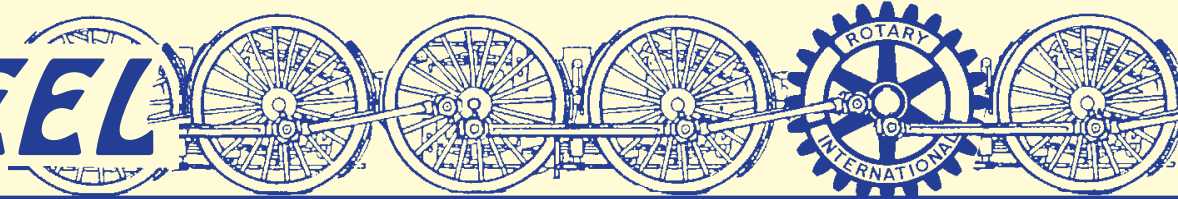


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



July 11, 2025

Vol. 77, No. 2

**Editor:
The Winner**

We're Off...

And just like that we start off a new Rotary year, **President Lynn Dawson**, sporting a Kelly-green jacket to match the new year's Theme banner.

Welcome!

President Lynn welcomed members, visiting Rotarian **Doug Somers** from Novato Sunrise and guests. **Vicki McDill** accompanied her first husband **Bill McDill**; **Carl Dawson** attended as supportive First-Spouse, **Kathy Ketron** was husband **Russ'** guest; **Hannah Simon** was the guest of her proud grandad **Dean Heffelfinger**; **Sadie Remak**, daughter of **Marisa Remak** was introduced by **PP Christina Stroeh** as a visiting Rotarian from the future; **Kathy Botko** was the guest of husband **Jim**; and **Gary Lam**, who is investigating clubs in the area, was the guest of **President Lynn**.

The Pledge

Russ Ketron was asked to lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance, and he followed that up with a recitation of the Rotary Four-Way Test, adding the fifth test from **Cliff Dochterman**, "Is it fun"!

Thought For The Day

The Thought for the Day was offered by **PE Peter Pelavin** on the theme of leadership. For himself: "Leadership is your ability to hide your panic from others." For **Tom Rickey** with thanks for a great year: "First rule of leadership: everything is your fault!" For **President Lynn**: "Leadership involves finding a parade and getting in front of it." (**John Naishitt**) and for all of us: Life is like a dogsled team. "If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes." (**Lewis Grizzard**).

President Lynn invited us to enjoy our lunch and talk amongst ourselves re: what we are most looking forward to in the upcoming year.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Reconvening at 12:30 **Lynn** wished **TJ Neff** and **Burt Hoffmann** a Happy Birthday.

Sunshine

President Lynn let us know that long-time member **Lowell Smith** is under hospice care, but wife **Marilyn** encouraged all to send cards or emails (Marilyn.r.smith@gmail.com) to cheer him up. **Suzanne Bales** announced that Ghost Member **Tom's** mother, had passed away, two days short of her 101st birthday!

President's Report

According to **President Lynn** and all who attended, the Fourth of July parade Rotary float, sponsored by the four Novato clubs, was a huge success.

As part of her new presidential duties, **Lynn** also reported that members **Rafelina Maglio** (retiring) and **Rebecca Shapiro Gonzalez** (moving to Petaluma) have resigned from the Club.

Announcements

New Shaded List

Sonia Seeman invited all to take a copy of the new, up to date (Thank you, **Bill Vespa**), shaded membership list.

Relay for Life

Dean Heffelfinger reminded all of the 2025 Relay for Life, which will be held July 19, 2025, at Olive School, (620 Olive Avenue) starting at noon on Saturday and running overnight until 10 am Sunday morning. He encouraged all to donate what they could to this important fundraiser. Make your checks out to the American Cancer Society and give them to **Dean**.

Novato Speaker Series

Phil Dougherty gave his spiel on **Keena Turner** as the last speaker of the Novato Speakers Series, scheduled for 7:00 pm, Thursday, July 24 at the Jonas Center.

Need a Volunteer?

Jeff Slavitz has a friend whose daughter is escaping the tech rat race and taking a breather and is looking to volunteer about ten hours a week if you know of anyone in need.

Scholarship Awards

John Ringgenberg encouraged all to come to next week's meeting, the always fun and inspiring Scholarship check awarding meeting.

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?"

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- **Gary Lam: Marketing Consultant, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, July 31

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, August 1

Marisa Remak
Secretary

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.novatospeakersseries.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

July

July 18	Scholarship Awards
July 24	Novato Speakers Series: Keena Turner The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run
July 25	President Lynn's Welcome Social

August

Aug 1	H2Open Doors - Robert Marshall
Aug 8	San Marin High Robotics Team
Aug 15	Rotary / UN - Eric Schmautz

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Dawson
President

Peter Pelavin
Vice President

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Francesco Arezzo
R.I. President

Mitone Griffiths
District Governor

Judy Johnson
Assistant District Governor

DIRECTORS

John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Phil Dougherty
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)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
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www.empathyestateplanning.com

Kick-Off Social

Lynn invited all to her home for a kick-off social event, an Italian Pool Party, on Friday, July 25, 4:30-6:30 pm. Her address is 759 Rowland Blvd. Parking is a bit of a challenge, so carpool, if at all possible. You will not want to miss this party as our resident Italian stud **Larry Mazzotta** promised an appearance in a Speedo!

Featured Rotarian

Lynn is starting a “new” tradition: The Featured Rotarian which will be a five-minute presentation from long-time members (formerly known as Craft Talks) to enable newer members to get to know a bit about them and their careers. The first one was our president, **Lynn**.

She was born in Cheyenne, WY and began her college career at a small liberal arts college, Colorado College with a psychology major. She then transferred to UT Austin where she met now-husband **Carl** and graduated. **Carl** had learned to love skiing, so they moved back to Colorado and spent her whole career in executive management and healthcare. She and **Carl** have one son, **Michael**, whom many of us met at the Installation/Debunking. He lives with his wife in San Francisco and plays polo (horse, not water) in Petaluma on the weekends. After retiring, **Lynn** and **Carl** bought a house in Novato -between SF and Petaluma – and after visiting often moved here permanently in 2020. She visited all the Rotary clubs in town and chose ours to join because it was larger and very welcoming! She has jumped right in and become very involved and thinks she absolutely made the right decision!

Program

President Lynn Dawson, “Looking Forward to the Rotary Year”. **President Lynn** indicated that her new Board of Directors has all been working since April to come up with a Strategic Plan for the year. Initially, she came up with her goals for the year, then each director reviewed those and developed their goals for 2025-26. They also developed a budget for the year to fit the goals.

Chris DeGabriele, our new Treasurer, indicated that the club spent about \$10K more last year than we had taken in, but not to worry, the club has a healthy reserve of about \$50K. His principal goal is to find a new treasurer for next year.

Director for Club Administration **John Reuscher** has already completed his first goal of upgrading the sound system at the Jonas Center which was roundly applauded. He plans to keep everything running smoothly for our meetings and to keep the Bar Committee sober and organized.

Gloria Dunn-Violin, director of Environmental Sustainability, has an ambitious agenda. The committee will give a short presentation on fire safety on the third Friday of each month to the club. They also plan to continue their tree planting and to educate Novato school children about the importance and benefits of trees.

Holly Axtell, World Community chair extraordinaire, announced the committee will have a couple of new small service projects. She announced that the club had just been notified of \$32K in DDF (District Designated Funds) that has been awarded to the club from TRF (The Rotary Foundation). Stay Tuned!

Patty Dougherty and **Sonia Seeman** are co-chairing the Membership committee. They have a goal of 105 members by June 2026. **Sonia** reported that the dues are due! \$1440 for a sustaining member, eating lunches, \$804 for those choosing to not eat lunch or who wish to pay \$35 occasionally to eat lunch. **Sonia** also announced a new dues policy for new members. Now for the first year, a new member pays only \$804 and receives lunches essentially free. This is a change from two years of free lunches. There is also a Young Professionals membership for those 35 and younger that is \$480/year.

Jim Spilman spoke up in his dulcet tones and reminded us that the connections that we make through all our Rotary activities – scholarships, Teacher Recognition, community projects, etc. - are good for the club as well as for the recipients. Feed the connections!

Lynn's Closing Comments

President Lynn announced the August social will be an All-Novato Clubs function at **Christina Stroeh's** home featuring the wonderful voice of **Shauna McNulty** of Beach Blanket Babylon fame. It will be on Friday evening, August 22. More details to follow. Before adjourning the meeting, which was promptly at 1:30 pm, she also thanked today's greeters Nohemi Beisseman-Mason and Christina Stroeh.

Raffle

The 25er and Moses' Secret Pool went to Gloria Dunn-Violin.



PLEASE DON'T FORGET

The Relay For Life

**Olive Elementary School
620 Olive Avenue, Novato**

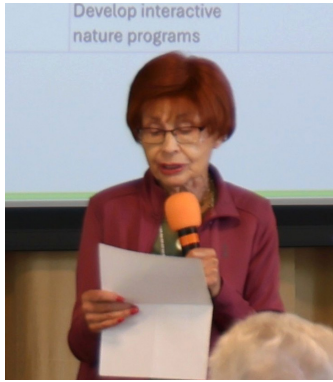
**Starts at Noon Saturday July 19 &
Runs until 10am Sunday July 20**

--- Learn, Support, Contribute ---

**Pledges are welcome; Checks are welcome;
Good wishes are welcome; Help is welcome.**

**Give Dean Heffelfinger your check
made payable to:
American Cancer Society**

Any Questions? See Dean H.



Gloria Dunn-Violin describes Environmental Sustainability Projects benefiting the beauty and health of our Town.



Mark and Phil "check the room" with Security Clearance as meeting begins with smiles and laughter.



Holly Axtel talks International Service plans.



Dean Heffelfinger reminds us that the Relay for Life is coming 7-19-25.



Chris DeGabriele reminds us of our Membership Dues.

Russ Ketron speaks about Polio Foundation



Tom joins the past president line... with Ron Harness and Bill McDill

Lobster Feed auction item from the 2025 Western BBQ



The Lobster Feed was hosted by Brad and Kathy Williams and Lou Batmale. A terrific time was had by all!