



# Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

## Bulletin for October 16, 2006

### Is it Smart or isn't it? The pros & cons of Measure R

By Susan Nowacki

#### Preliminaries



President **Chris Rosell** called the meeting to order at 12:00 and **Bill Fisher** led us in the pledge. The moment was delivered by **Gary Lucas**. Pres Chris thanked the following members: **Bob Zeni** for cashing, **Louis Capuano**, ticket sales, **Susan Nowacki** for the bulletin, **Jim Valinoti** for pictures, and **Gary Lucas** who was the greeter.

Visiting Rotarians were **Mark Burchall** and **Jeanne Levin**. **Phil Talamantes** introduced his guest, **David Cowell**; and **Ginny Pitts** introduced her guest **Matt Delany**.

#### Announcements and Such:

**Ginny** reminded us of the Veterans Day luncheon at the Vets Bldg on Thursday, November 2nd at 11:30. Each ticket is \$15 and our club is committed to selling 70 tickets. Every member is encouraged to buy a ticket and bring a vet. She is also looking for 4 helpers for set up and clean up.

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#### Coming Up:

10/30 - DARK

11/2 - 6th Annual Annual Tribute to Veterans: The joint meeting of Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs of Santa Rosa at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building - 11:30AM to 1:30PM

11/6 - Santa Rosa City Councilman Lee Pierce

11/13 - Nick Frey, Executive Director, Sonoma County Grape Growers



Past President **Chris Parr** informed us of the GSE applications which are due October 23rd. This program involves non-Rotarians, it is an all expense paid trip to Guatemala for individuals working in the health care industry.

**Tarina** reminded us of the Humane Society's Fireside coming up Wednesday, November 1st at the new facility located at 5345 Hwy 12 West. The event from 5 to 7 is for all our members and their significant partners. Please let **Tarina** know if you are planning on attending as they need a head count for refreshments. **Tarina** also announced our annual Rotary Christmas Party will be at **Susan** and **Dean Nowacki's** house on Sunday, December 10th at 5pm. **Susan** will bring a flyer at a later meeting.



**Chris Young** told us the dictionaries are almost ready, and that the graffiti cleanup is going well.

President **Chris** informed the members that **Gail Johnson's** mother recently passed away. **Susan** will bring a card for everyone to sign next week.

**Chris** also mentioned **Arnie Carston** sold his business and has moved to San Francisco so he felt it necessary to resign. He will be missed!

**David MacDonald** was not here but next week he will have a list of crab feed items we'd like members to commit to providing for our annual fundraiser.

## Recognition

**Chris Young's** 2 kids are getting straight "A"s and have 4.0 averages. He also bought an office building downtown and is looking for tenants. The address is 849 2nd Street. That cost him \$20.



**Scott Bartley** got tapped again, he says this is the 3rd time being recognized for his trip to Italy to join **Ginny, Terry & Tarina**. But his pockets were empty so the club had to settle for another IOU for \$15.

**Jim Sullivan** recently retired (2 years ago). Not very recent, oh well, he keeps busy helping his son with the grape harvest of Pinot Noir. He's also been babysitting his new grandson. That cost him \$20.



**Tarina** got hit for her part of the Italy trip and was surprised **Scott** did not rat the girls out for whatever it was they did. She said Scott had the best sense of direction, always getting them to wherever there was wine to be drunk. Thank you **Tarina** for \$25.

**Gary Lucas's** beeper went off and that cost him \$10 plus another \$10 for no longer being a vegetarian.



## Raffle

With only 3 marbles remaining and \$800 in the pot excitement was high for the raffle. What would become the winning ticket was drawn, and it belonged to **Jim Valinoti**.



**Jim** fished out the black marble and won the \$800



President **Chris** wasted no time in reminding Past President **Jim**, that during his Presidency ('97-'98) he extracted a fine sum from him after a similar windfall. **Jim** mentioned something about President **Chris** having an elephant-like memory, and that while he does have a wedding coming up for his daughter, he would make a contribution towards his son **Gianchristopher's** Paul Harris Fellowship, once he got a read from Foundation Chair **Harry Rubins**.

**Gil Lucas** got the bottle of wine and donated it back to the club for the crab feed.

### **Program :**

**Susan Nowacki** introduced our speakers who gave us the pros and cons of Measure R, the rail initiative.

Speaking for the train was **Nick Caston** who is co-chairing the "Yes on R" campaign. The train is scheduled to run from Cloverdale to Larkspur with much of the money going to upgrade existing rail lines as well as train cars. The SMART train proposes to remove 5300 car trips from Hwy 101 every day and gives the North Bay a badly needed transportation alternative to driving. Bike lanes will also be included in the budget. Shuttle busses would be utilized to connect riders to the Larkspur ferry. If approved the trains could be up and running in 3



years. Cost would be 1/4 cent sales tax.

**Fred Levin** is the Executive Director of The Sonoma County Taxpayers Association and treasurer for citizens opposed to the train tax. Fred is a Rotarian with the Santa Rosa Club. He made the point that the train carries too few riders to be economically viable. The main drawback is the inability to connect major cities as most successful trains do. Busses have the ability to cross the Golden Gate and are more flexible. He proposed paving over the rail line and providing that access for busses. If rail ridership does not meet expectations service would be cut back. He also pointed out the trains would not run week-ends or evenings.



After many questions from the audience and a lively discussion the meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Your Bulletin Reporter:  
**Susan Nowacki**



Your Bulletin Editor:  
**Jim Valinoti**

