

Bulletin for June 9, 2008

River Rock Casino continues to rock the Alexander Valley

By Susan Nowacki

Preliminaries

President Fred opened the meeting at 12:30.

Bill Dodson led the pledge. The Rotary was moment given by **Gail Johnson**.



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Coming Up:

6/16 - Rotary GSE Team to Nigeria, Augustino Orozco

6/23 - Beyond Vietnam, Rotarian Gary Lucas

6/30 - TBA

Thanks went to **Carl Munoz** for being our cashier, **Tarina Hall** for tickets, Dale **Sipe** for Set up, **Bo Kirschin** for Greeting our guests, and to **Susan Nowacki**, for being our Bulletin Reporter.

Guests were **Chuck Baker's** wife **Barbara**, and daughter **Laura**. We had 2 visiting Rotarians whose names were not recorded.



President Fred acknowledged birthdays for **Gail Johnson**, **Barbara Baker** and **Gil Lucas**. Club Anniversaries were **Mike Merrill**, **Gil Lucas**, **Chuck Baker**, **Scott Bartley**, **Ken Dansie**, **Marv Hyman**, **Ken Kushnir** and **Bob Marigo**. Wedding anniversaries noted were **Pam Davis**, **Jim Sullivan** and **Peter LaMonica**.

Announcements and Such:

There will be a board meeting and luncheon at Joseph's tomorrow, June 10th for current as well as new board members. Please be there by 11:45.

Mike Merrill presented Paul Harris awards to **Harry Rubins**, **Chris Young**, **Laura Baker**, **Bo Kirschen**, **Mike Moore**, **Fred Zmarzly**, **Dale & Teddie Sipe**, **Chris Rosell**, **Jim Hinton**, **Bill Dodson**, **Phil Talamantes** and **Gil Lucas**.



Mike Moore, Phil Talamantes and Harry Rubins are getting close to becoming Major donors, which is at the \$10,000 level. Because of the money given to the Rotary Foundation we have gotten very close to eradicating polio, with Afghanistan, Pakistan and India being the last countries remaining with outbreaks of polio. Also, through the foundation we have been able to fund numerous GSE teams including 4 team leaders, and provided ambassadorial scholars.

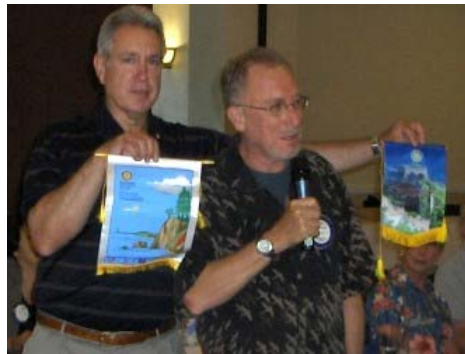
Recognitions

Mike Moore recognized **Bob Reinking** who bet on Big Brown in the Belmont Stakes and lost, **Peter LaMonica** for his new grandson in Seattle, and **Susan Nowacki** returned last month from a vacation in the Bahamas. She mentioned disappointment in not being invited to Mariah Carey's wedding, which was only 1 mile away.



Neil Silverman for a trip to China where his son was recently married.

Neil mentioned he was on the 38th floor in Beijing when the earthquake hit. He and others had to walk down 38 flights of stairs.



Raffle

The lucky raffle ticket was held by **John Palmer** who was unable to pull the elusive black marble from the bag.

Phil Talamantes won the bottle of wine.



Program: River Rock Casino continues to rock the Alexander Valley



David Wattell introduced our speaker **Eugene Dvrok**, Project Development Director of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, and assisting him Dave Hyman, Director of Public Relations. Their program focused on the new resort project, which will be the biggest project in the North Bay right now. The Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians is a sovereign nation with a Rancheria in the Alexander Valley established in 1915. The tribe has 974 members. The Tribal government uses the profits from River Rock Casino to fund education, housing and healthcare programs for its members and to provide generous donations to local schools, fire departments health care providers and non-profits. Last month Healdsburg Hospital announced a \$1.8 million donation from the Tribe and River Rock Casino for a Women's Health Center.

Building the new resort for the Tribe is a very large effort utilizing the Redwood City firm of Rudolph & Sletten who will be the general contractor. Qualified local subs will be utilized wherever possible. Construction will be in 2 phases: Phase 1 will be constructed on the current parking lot of River Rock Casino, leaving the tent in place until Phase 2 happens. There will be 257 hotel rooms, a spa, casino, 5 restaurants, show lounge, wedding chapel and meeting areas. In addition to this resort project, the tribe is undertaking infrastructure work on the Rancheria, building new roadways, a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility and making major improvements to Highway 128 to meet the traffic impacts of the new resort.

A 2-minute video was shown illustrating a Tuscan style, multistoried complex. River Rock Casino will stay open during construction. When phase 1 is complete the slot machines will be moved to the new resort and the tent will come down. Phase 2 will be built as customer demand dictates. There will be views overlooking the Alexander Valley. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians will seek LEED certification for the hotel portion of the project. And the parking structure on the hill will be screened either with the resort itself or with trees depending on the angle of viewing.

An historic agreement was recently reached with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, which will bring the county \$100 million in fees and also meet community concerns regarding traffic. The approximate cost of the project will be \$300 million. 600 people are currently employed at the casino with an anticipated 2000 upon completion of phase 2. Questions and answers followed with the information given that the gaming commission checks plans and no state or county permits are issued with the exception of Caltrans.

Your Bulletin Reporter:
Susan Nowacki



Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti

