



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for August 27, 2007 Water, Water, Everywhere?

By Diane Winsby

Preliminaries



President Fred called the meeting to order promptly at 12:30 PM. He asked **Chuck Baker** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and **Ginny Pitts** gave an Eleanor Roosevelt quote as the Moment.

Bill Dodson introduced visiting Rotarian Keith Lynch from the Windsor club.



Guests attending the meeting were introduced: **Dave Wattell** introduced his daughter **Kelly** who will be leaving soon to participate in graduate studies at the University of Kent in England.

President Fred acknowledged all members who performed club meeting duties for this meeting. He also thanked **Chris Parr** for taking his place at last week's meeting. He also notified the membership that the District Governor had sent a letter of thanks for his reception at our August 13th meeting.

Announcements and Such:

Fred announced that he had applications for a Rotary MasterCard. He said that our club would receive a \$25.00 donation after the first \$75.00 purchases in the first 90 days of the cards being issued. After this initial donation Rotary International will receive donations for members using the cards from Bank of America.

Fred reported that **David McDonald** will host the President's Council meeting of the five Santa Rosa clubs on August 31st due to a conflict in his schedule that will not allow him to attend. **President Fred** announced that next week, September 3rd will be dark due to the fact it is a holiday. **Chuck Baker** was recognized for gracefully getting older.

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Coming Up:

9/3 - Dark

9/10 - Susan Nowacki on Rotary Information

9/17 - "Lingering County Issues," Supervisor Tim Smith

9/24 - Sonoma County Economy, Ben Stone

10/1 - Earl Baum Center for the Blind

10/8 - Sonoma County Recycling, Pam Davis



Chris Parr presented the club with its new brochure for 2007-2008 at **Fred's** request. He also announced that the Sonoma County Association of Rotary Clubs dinner is this Thursday and that anyone wishing to attend should contact **Janet Coddling** to make a reservation.

Jim Hinton gave a brief report on the status of plans for the Crab Feed in January. He announced that **Ginny Pitts** had generously donated \$100 to be used for airfare and **Marvin Hyman** had donated \$200 towards this fund too. **Jim** said that the committee hoped to be able to offer airfare for the donated two week trip to Tuscany to make the trip more attractive to bidders. He asked that other club members think of donating towards this goal too.

A short report was made about the recent golf tournament by **Jeff Ray**, Chairman of this annual event. Accolades were given to everyone that worked on the committee as they did a wonderful job planning and executing the food. Bill Dodson made the only ACE on the 6th hole at this event, his first Hole-in-One! He generously contributed \$140.00 to the Paul Harris Foundation in thanks.

Recognition

After a short story about the "Crusades and a Knight's dubious best friend's control of a key" a mention of this year's pre-billing of fines came up. **Fred** said that he had had some feedback from some members that they felt it had "taken the fun out of the club". So, **Fred** promptly put a little fun back into the club by fining several members.

Dave Wattell was fined \$10.00 for a week's trip to Tahoe. When asked if bankers gambled he replied, "They do, but not with their own money." A wise decision for sure.

Ray Madison was also fined \$10.00 for chairing a business meeting in San Diego and **John Hathaway** said that he was glad to pay a "self-fine" for the excellent outcome his Granddaughter had had when she recently underwent a brain operation in Southern California. We all were glad to hear this good news!



Raffle

Raffle winners were **Chris** who didn't get the right marble so next meeting the raffle will be even more and **Ginny Pitts** won the bottle of wine.

Program:

Susan Nowacki introduced the speaker: Santa Rosa City Council Member **Susan Goran** who spoke about the current water shortages in Sonoma County.

Councilwoman Goran said that water is the most important subject for Santa Rosa now and in the future. Water has become a very important issue if the area is to meet future projected growth in the community. She discussed the current mandated water conservation by the State of California.

Where does most of our water come from? Susan said that the Sonoma County Water Agency is the agency which monitors how water is used in this area. They have the jurisdiction in allocating water from the Russian River; the river's water comes from the Eel River stored at Lake Berryessa, which is then transferred to Lake Mendocino to feed the Russian River.

The river's water is used by Mendocino County, Sonoma County and some water is shipped to Marin County. Along the way several cities pump their water from wells located along the banks of the river too to supplement their allocations.



Sonoma County has the second most private wells in the State – over 40,000 and that today there is no way to monitor how much of the aquifer is being used which is a concern to the Water Agency and possible future monitoring of this use may be implemented.

She said that efforts are underway to begin using recycled water in Santa Rosa on parks and public facilities. This program, however, is showing itself to be a costly project. She also said that discussions are beginning on how to build a transfer system from Lake Sonoma because the costs will be very high. **Susan** said that this issue will continue to be worked on and that the future system must be paid for by the water consumers.

Susan said that many questions are being submitted from Santa Rosa and other city water users as to why water conservation is necessary at this time. She said that it is an environmental issue – it is because of the fish in the Russian River. There are three types of Salmon species that live in the river and they are considered endangered species.

Susan said that Sonoma County water users have had a bad record of conserving water in the past but are making headway now. As an example, Santa Rosa has saved 3,700 acre feet already. The City has put a low flow toilet retrofit program into place. This year the lowest flow, since 1991, has been put into the sewage treatment facility. Santa Rosa also has begun "Cash for Grass Program" that people who replace their lawn in sidewalk boulevards can receive up to \$250 from the city.

She said that water conservation next year will be required due to growth in the area, in addition to environmental concerns. If we have another drought year this winter we will probably go into mandatory water programs much more stringent than this year's program. Drilling more wells isn't the answer to water shortages; we all share the same water basin and there really is no way to develop "new water sources" in the area.

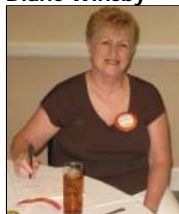
Growth has become the big issue too. Susan said that the City Council members are receiving a lot of feedback about this issue. Many of the comments indicate that this is a concern to many. As an example, Santa Rosa is projecting that in 2015 water needs in the city will rise from the current 29,100 acre feet to 35,000 acre feet – this is a little over 20% projected water increase. The water from Lake Sonoma is the only answer unless growth is curbed.

Several questions were asked of Susan. The most interesting one was what about

desalination programs being tried here. **Susan** said that Marin County has one in the testing stages and it is showing itself to be a huge energy user which is very costly and the problem of what to do with the brine after water recovery is a major issue.

President Fred thanked our speaker for a fine presentation and the meeting was adjourned.

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