



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for September 17, 2007 Sonoma County Supervisor Tim Smith

By Ruth Lincoln

Preliminaries



President Fred Zmarzly welcomed all to the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa at 12:30 p.m. precisely, according to his GPS wrist-watch, not the wall clock.

Pledge: Susan Nowacki

Moment: Bill Dodson shared a money moment; according to our California State Governor Arnold, "Money does not make you happy. I'm just as happy now with \$50 M as I was with \$48 M."



Visiting Rotarians were introduced by **Scott Bartley**: **Barbara Beedon** and **Mark Burchel** visiting from the Downtown Club. Guests: **PP Bill Gittins**; former Club member **Arnie Carston**, **John Meislahn** and **Teddy Sipe**.



Rotarians were thanked for their service and contributions to today's meeting logistics

Set-up: **David McDonald** and **Dale Sipe**

Greeter: **Scott Bartley**

Cashier: **Carl Munoz**

Tickets: **Dale Sipe**

Photography: **Jim Valinoti**

Bulletin: Ruth Lincoln

Bulletin Editor: **Jim Valinoti**

Program: **David Wattell**

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Coming Up:

9/24 - Sonoma County Economy,
Ben Stone

10/8 - Sonoma County Recycling,
Pam Davis

10/15 @ 5:30 pm - Bartley BBQ

10/22 - Greenhouse Gas
Emissions, Sam Pierce

10/29 - John Samples on
Children's Language/ Learning
Center

11/5 - Safari West

11/12 - Global Warming, Fred
Zmarzly

Announcements & Special Occasions

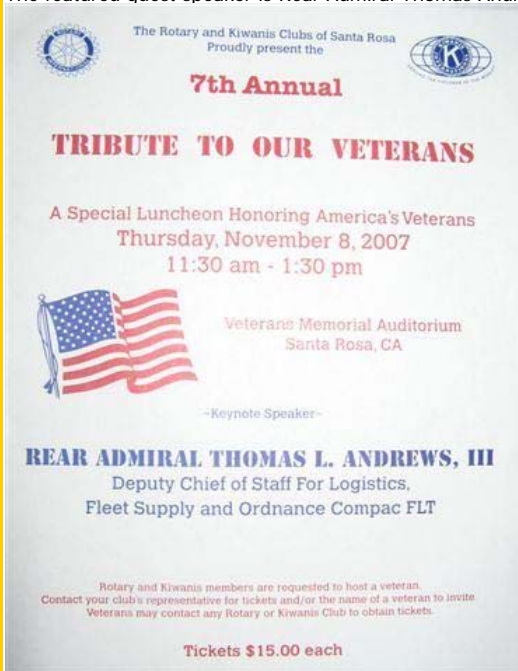
Ruth Lincoln's 1st year Club anniversary was the most important announcement of the meeting.



Newest Honorary Club member **Teddie Sipe** was welcomed by all.

A Bartley BBQ reminder was shared by **Ginny Pitts**.

David McDonald called on us to support and honor our Veterans on Thursday, November 8th from 11 am to 1:30 p.m. and enjoy lunch for \$15 dollars instead of the customary \$20. Remember to bring a Veteran and buy tickets. The featured guest speaker is Rear Admiral Thomas Andrews III. The Club will be dark on Monday, November 5th.



Bo Kirschen requested International Committee Club members to remain for a short meeting to make a decision following today's meeting.

President Fred shared that Robert Foster's resignation was submitted and accepted as a result of his relocation to Florida.

Pete LaMonica reported we now have 22 to 23 live auction items – some really cool stuff, such as trips to Tuscany, Spain, Sicily, etc. The focus has shifted to silent auction items, such as short trips, dinners and other items. He expects the tickets to be available in November and sold out before the New Year.



Jim Hinton reminded us about the value of cash donations needed to off-set airfare. Pete could accept a couple more fabulous live auction items, up to 25 items max.

Welcome back **Ralph Lassa**, who is very happy to be with us.

Pam Davis invited us to join her on Oct. 9th at the Waste Management fireside starting at 5:30 p.m. President Fred confessed he was wearing a Jerry Garcia tie to commemorate a life changing event when he met his lovely wife at a Warlock's concert. The tie was a gift from his sister-in-law and linked to Jerry Garcia's career with the Grateful Dead after he left the Warlocks.



Harry Rubins paid \$10 for attending his 50th high school reunion held in Indiana with 250 people in attendance. He strongly recommends being around for your 50th reunion as the alternative is not good. Harry segued to the Rotary Foundation kick-off starting Monday, September 24th. 100% participation is our goal with \$140 per member.

"**Smiling Jim**" **Hinton** paid for a sweat-equity trip to Lake Tahoe, pipe repairs that involved a partial kitchen remodel in preparation for intrepid skiers. Mr. Fix-it, Jim is known for do-it-yourself projects including auto re-upholstery and more.



Matt Delaney paid \$10 for his wife's 30th birthday and a Las Vegas anniversary get-away.

Raffle

Supervisor Tim Smith drew the ticket and this week's note taker left the black marble behind to ramp up even more sales next week. **Janet** reported \$112 dollars in ticket sales with just a few marbles left as of our 9/17 meeting.

Program: Supervisor Tim Smith

Dave Wattell introduced our program, **Supervisor Tim Smith**.



Sup. Smith predicted he will have 5 grandchildren by the time he retires from office in 16 months. He has three now with two more on the way. Congratulations! He shared an interesting perspective on his 19 years in public

service, "It's been quite a ride, 8 years in Congress in the House of Representatives and multiple terms as County Supervisor." The program highlighted lingering things or, as he described, unfinished business facing the County. He also shared lessons learned in public service including how complex and truly difficult it is to solve day-to-day problems ranging from water to gangs, EIRs and more. After serving as President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) in 2003, he realized Sonoma County was doing quite well.

He provided a brief recap of the County's Strategic Planning effort led by Bob Deis, County Administrative Officer. Key points highlighted were:

- The cost of providing services is outpacing revenues available to support them;
- County demographics are changing, particularly with growth in the younger Latino population and in the number of seniors estimated soon to be 120 thousand residents older than the age of 60;
- A number of County facilities are at the end of their useful life; and
- Sonoma County services are not well understood by the public.

Sup. Smith called out a \$1.2 billion dollar budget with 25 departments and approximately 5,000 employees. Reliance on property tax, specifically transfer tax is problematic. Property tax is down by approximately 50% which translates to a \$2-3 million dollar decrease per percentage decrease. The County provides infrastructure and services including: parks; health and human services; criminal justice system response ranging from bookings, prosecution to detention facilities and probation.

The national health care crisis with Federal and State health care reform are also contributing factors with revenue impact. The need to look at something different in Sonoma County is under review with the creation of a Health Improvement Council. Sup. Smith predicts "changing times ahead clearly indicate that the matrix is going to look a little different in the future. Cooperation and working together with partner agencies will be crucial."



Q & A followed regarding multiple topics including the County's airport plan and surrounding wetlands, funding competition for high traffic roads, as opposed to rural low traffic areas; water use reduction; SMART rail from Cloverdale to Marin, and potential voter initiatives, such as measures M & O. Sup. Smith concluded that he does not like pushing paper, he likes getting things done.

Your Bulletin Reporter:

Ruth Lincoln



Your Bulletin Editor:

Jim Valinoti

