



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for March 10, 2008 SMART! Will it ever come to town?

By Scott Bartley

Preliminaries



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Coming Up:

3/17 - Special ST. PATRICK Meeting

3/24 - Jerry Johnson - Safari West

3/31 - Katherine Barnet – Savory Magazine

Past Pres Chris Parr-Feldman let us in the pledge to the flag, followed by some "what it is" words of wisdom from **Gary Lucas** for our Rotary Moment.

Phil Talamantes was our greeter and he would have been great if there was any one to greet. No visitors today, so he recognized **Mike Moore** and **John Palmer** for being there.



Announcements and Such:

Ah announcements announcements.. where would we be without them? But first some minor recognition of those having birthdays this month by our illustrious **President Fred. Gary Lucas** turned 70, **Jeff Ray** 68 and **Jimmy Underhill** will be 50 next year. What? You don't believe me? just look at them and judge for yourselves!

The Sonoma County Association of um.. what is that group called again **Mr. Pres?** It use to be so much easier when the just called it the President's & Secretary's meeting. In any event it is on March 27th hosted by Rohnert Park this month. Anyone interested in going should just contact Janet.

Pres Fred announced that he has put legal eagle **Chuck Stark** in charge of preparing the packages for the District Awards program this year.

Pres-Elect David McDonald gave a sunshine report on **Richard Standard**. **Rich** is going in for bypass surgery later this month. Give him a thought and a note to cheer him up.



Mr. McDonald is just back from the PETS conference where is was injected with the majesty of Rotary. He announced next year's Theme which is "Make Dreams Real".

The GSE team from Nigeria will be in the District for 5 days starting on May 10th. **President Fred** is looking for Rotarians from the club who might be interested in hosting one of them in their homes for that period. They will be heading down to San Francisco for the District Conference on the 16th. If you have an extra bedroom and an interest in hosting one of these your professionals for a few days let the Pres know. There schedule will be handled by the District with events so the impact on your schedules will be insignificant.

Jim Valinoti's son is an EMT at Palm Drive Hospital. He has inventoried a lot of medical supplies they have on hand that are going to expire and is asking any members who know of a need out there for medical supplies to give **Jim** a call. They are working on a long term solution to this issue so this is a one time issue with supplies currently on hand.



Harry Rubins made his annual announcement of the Club's Paul Harris Fellow matching grants for the year. He will be handing out current status updates to all members next week or the week after. If you have made your \$140 contribution for the year, you can made an additional donation up to \$300 and the club will match that amount. A great way to complete your PHF or add another one!! Let Harry know.

Next week's meeting will be our St Patrick's Day event at St. Rose at 6pm or so. We will be dark at noon. Let **Janet** know if you will be attending and make sure to bring your Significant Others!

Craft Talk:

Ralph Lassa gave an refresher Craft Talk today, reminiscing about his early days in the ER and some of the things he saw in there with patients.



Recognition

Finemaster **Mike Moore** has returned from his gated Palm Springs estate to help the Pres with fines.

First on the fine list was our brave pilot **Joe Perez**, who has thankfully rejoined us after his brief encounter with some PG&E equipment while flying a few weeks ago. He assured the club that he did not intend to do what he did, but is very glad to be able to talk about it... as opposed to the alternative. He gave a little donation to the club for the recognition.



Ginny Pitts is enjoying her new Lexus SUV, with its fancy gadgets which she does not understand and the great color scheme she just loves. Green with a creamy tan interior. The same color as money.. how nice, no wonder she loves it. She will figure out how it works once she returns from Panama with her girlfriends.

And lastly, **Jim Hinton** and **Jeff Ray**, for being the only two of the annual Rotary ski trip group to be well enough to show up for the meeting today. Hence my replacing **Bill Bronchitis Dodson** as bulletin reporter. **Jeff** and **Jim** indicated that it was the lightweights among them that got sick; **Peter LaMonica**, **Dodson**, and **John Hathaway**.



Raffle

*(I know we had a raffle for the MONEY and the wine because once again I broke the old bank buying tickets.....**LOSING TICKETS AGAIN!** I might add. GEEZE Mrs. McGillicuty, what does it take to win this pot 'o money? Ed@))*



Program: SMART! Will it ever come to town?

Willard Richards introduced today's speaker, **Chris Coursey** representing SMART (the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit). Oh what an opportunity... after all these years sitting in public meetings with **Chris** sitting listening as a reporter for the Press Democrat.... It's payback time!!! Just kidding.



Chris got off to a bit of rough start because of technical problems with the PowerPoint presentation. Certainly the train system will run better than the program used to sell it.

Chris outlined the plans for the train from Cloverdale to Larkspur pointing out that they think the majority of the riders will be boarding and getting off at the stations between the endpoints, so its primary purpose would not be to commute to San Francisco. The sales tax measure is coming back to voters this fall again for approval to fund development of the train.

The sales tax will generate 2/3 of the operating cost for the system for the next 20 years. Fares from ridership will generate 9% and the balance will come from various state and federal funding sources. The SMART website is: www.sonomamarintrain.org/

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Your Bulletin Editor:

Jim Valinoti

