



Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for April 13, 2009

It's as easy as riding a bike..... maybe.

By Bo Kerschen

Preliminaries



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Coming Up:

4/20 - The Great Santa Rosa Earthquake of 1906, Jim Johnson (joint meeting with Santa Rosa East hosted by our club)

President Dave called the meeting to order somewhere in the vicinity of 12:30 and promptly wheeled and faced the flag for the pledge.

Chuck Baker provided set up, **Fred Zmarzly** greeted our visting Rotarians and guests, **King Louie** acted as cashier and Dale Sipe handled tickets.

Fred introduced Visiting Rotarians, Don Mahlen and Mark Burchill of the Downtown Club.



Announcements & Such

Board meeting scheduled for April 14th.

We will have a joint meeting with Santa Rosa East on April 20th at St. Rose.

There will be a dinner party at **Dave & Kim McDonald's** home on April 18 for the members of The Cool Team, winners of the membership contest, board members and red badgers.

Everyone is invited to a Happy Hour at Cafe Portofino on April 15 from 5-7. (RSVP to **Janet Coddling**)

The District Conference is scheduled for May 15-17. Some rooms are still available. We will be dark on May 11.

The Jack Levar Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by the downtown club for their scholarship fund, is scheduled for May 14 at Oakmont followed by dinner at The Quail Inn. **Guy Fieri** will emcee the dinner. Tickets are available for the dinner only as well as for the tournament and dinner.

To great acclaim **Louie Capuano**, as chair of the recent ex-presidents council, announced that **Janet Coddling**

had been nominated and had accepted the nomination as president for the 2011-2012 Rotary Year. The nomination was enthusiastically endorsed by popular vote.

Mike Merrill announced that Rotary International plans a rule change affecting club Paul Harris credits in July. Currently, clubs can bank credits for deceased and former members which can then be used for matching member donations and like purposes.

At present we have some \$17,000 in banked Paul Harris credits but, under the pending rule change, these would be extinguished in July. To make use of these credits the club is giving a 5 to 1 Paul Harris match for all donations of \$50 or more to the Rotary Polio Eradication Program. The polio donations, which previously did not earn Paul Harris credit, will be applied to the club's obligated contribution to Rotary International's match of funds donated to this purpose by The Gates Foundation.

With a desire to put this 5 to 1 match to it's best use, prior to the start of the meeting, **Jim Valinoti** covertly polled **Jim Sullivan, Mike Merrill, & Phil Talamantes**, to contribute \$50 each, thereby creating a 5 time match total of \$1000 for an instant Paul Harris Fellowship. The intent was to recognize one of our members who embodies the true spirit of Service Above Self in his everyday life as well as within our club.



When **Mike Merrill** made the announcement that our newest Paul Harris Fellow was to be **Gary Lucas**, as expected, our gentle giant of a guy was humbled and nearly brought to tears.....but that's our Gary! A true Rotarian of heart, and spirit. Congratulations **Gary!** (-Ed ☺)

Spurred on by the spirit of donation and an unbeatable 5 to one match many club members joined the flood of Foundation donations for the cause of Polio Plus!



Ginny Pitts advised that the annual Cinco de Mayo party would be on May 4th at her Harvest Moon Winery beginning at 5:00 PM, and therefore it would be more accurate to say that this would be a Quatro de Mayo celebration. She also wanted us all to know for certain, that the now famous Margarita Machine would be up and running. This is a change of venue meeting. So the change part is that we won't be meeting at noon at St. Rose but will be meeting at Harvest Moon at 5:00 PM. So in other words, there will be no luncheon meeting that Monday, May 4th.



And finally, **Tarina's** Sunshine Report was a sad one as she related to us the loss of Scott Bartley's Mom, **Mildred**. Those of us who have been around for a while remember both of Scott's parents, and especially his Dad **Bob Sr.**, who was just hands down one of the funniest story tellers we have ever experienced. And through all of the Bartley years of service in Rotary Mildred was a good sport through it all.....especially each year on one usually cold night

in September when about 100 crazy guys (in the early years there were no women) descended upon their otherwise quiet country property to drink, dig up meat that had been buried in the ground earlier that day, and cavort with each other under the stars.....sometimes even in the rain for what we now know as.....THE BARTLEY BARBECUE...AH! THE GOOD OLD DAYS! Thanks **Mildred!** (-Ed ☺)

Recognition

President David spent a little time recognizing **Gail Johnson** who had recently been to the east to enjoy her grandchildren.



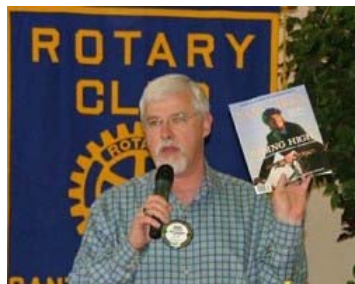
Next, we had a **Joe Perez** apparition. **Joe**, who is frequently traveling to different parts of the country was in town and at the meeting today, so President David, not being one to miss an opportunity to "visit" with Joe, did his best to extract a recognition donation from him. Joe, being the stand-up guy that he is, helped David out by volunteering a \$50 donation! Order up! (-Ed ☺)

President David got **Judge Bryan Jamar** in his sites and another recognition fee made it to the club's coffers.



The Pres then found his way to **Louie's** table to recognize him for achieving yet another year on this earth. Louie related that he had received a call from his mother early that morning to wish him a Happy Birthday and remind him that 60 years ago this morning was the happiest day of her life because she finally delivered her 10 Pound 8 ounce baby boy!

Program: It's as easy as riding a bike..... maybe.



Scott Bartley introduced our program speaker today.

Christine Culver, is the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. The Coalition has some 1,000

dues paying members, a five person permanent staff and an annual budget of \$350,000 funded primarily by dues and grants.

The Coalition's programs include Safe Routes to Schools and it was influential in obtaining \$1 million in federal funding for this purpose. Other programs are Valet Bike Parking in conjunction with the downtown Farmers' Market, Bike to Work Day, a Diversion program working with the county courts relative to bike related violations, publishing a Bike Map which highlights safe routes and calls attention to gaps in the network and general Advocacy before county and city boards and commissions on many bicycle related matters.

A spirited Question and Answer session followed *(that put to the test most of Christine's skills at fielding some pretty hot anti-cyclist vrs motorist scenario questions. At that point yours truly had to exit stage right and return to work – Ed☺)*

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Your Bulletin Editor:

Jim Valinoti

