

Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for February 1, 2010 A Visit from "Mr. Sonoma County Water," Tim Anderson

By Ken Prouty

Preliminaries



President **SUSAN NOWACKI** called the meeting to order and asked **PE JANET CODDING** to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

President **SUSAN** also recognized each of Director of Club Service **TARINA HALL's** volunteers for this meeting:

Cashier **CASEY WILLIAMS,**

Set-up **PP DAVID McDONALD,**

Tickets **CHRIS YOUNG,**

Double-duty Greeter and the Rotary Moment **HARRY RUBINS,**

Photos **PP JIM VALINOTI,**

Bulletin **PP KEN PROUTY,**

Program **MATT DELANEY.**



DALE SIPE and **TEDDIE** again were accompanied by their daughter **Cheryl Bennett**, soon to be moving to a new home west of Petaluma. **PP BILL FISHER** introduced his guest **Lidio Tropeano** who was sitting next to **PP CHRIS PARR-FELDMAN's** guest **Paul Doyle**. **PE BILL DODSON** introduced his wife **Toodie**.

Two visiting Rotarians were **SHAUNA LORENZEN, PP** of Santa Rosa Sunrise Club and Restaurateur **PIERRE LAGOURGUE** of the Sebastopol Club.

Announcements & Such

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY, THE 27TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

President **SUSAN** and Club Secretary **PP JIM HINTON** gave a brief and as yet incomplete good-news report

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Coming Up:

2/8 - Ursuline High School seniors Natasha Qabazard and Stephanie Pires

2/15 - DARK

2/22 - Kay Schultz, Superintendent of the Mark West School District

3/1 - Mark Doolittle, Support Our Students

3/8 Dr. Doug Chase, DDS, Sleep Problems, Neck and Back Pain

3/15 - St. Pat's Day Party

about the very successful annual Club Crab Feed last Saturday evening. Some 600 people enjoyed the decorations, costumes and happy-times atmosphere while looking over silent auction tables and browsing among the beverage stations. Crab Feed Chair **CASEY WILLIAMS** and his Crab Feed Team got a well deserved standing ovation from the membership.



Members were reminded of our October 19th program by Jim Carriere of the San Rafael Rotary when he brought us a complete display of a Shelter Box. Jim enhanced the Crab Feed display by setting up a Shelter Box and contents next to the stage. It is identical to the Box that our club purchased and sent to Haiti. The ten person shelter tent and survival equipment found in the waterproof Shelter Box is just one of some three thousand such Shelter Boxes that Rotarians around the world have funded and sent to Haiti. Many Crab Feed attendees donated to help fund another Survival Box from our Club.



Past President **DAVID MCDONALD** gave a very special thanks to the Scouts and Leaders of Troop 125 who helped with setup, serving and cleanup of the Crab Feed. Our Club sponsors that Troop and includes them when distributing donations to worthy local non-profit groups. Many guests said their thanks with tips to the Scouts to help with their projects, camps and volunteer work.

PDG MIKE MERRILL reported on the Rotary Leadership Program, a three day course, the first day of which will precede the District Conference in Ukiah in May. Those interested should contact **MIKE** directly. **MIKE** also reported on our Club participation in a joint project with District 5100 funding a mobile library for rural Costa Rica.

First Vice President (President Elect) **BILL DODSON** announced his nomination of Board members and Committee Chairs for the coming Rotary Year. They are **JANET CODDING** to be First Vice President (President Elect); **PP JIM HINTON** Secretary; **BARBARA LARSON** Treasurer; **SUSAN NOWACKI** Past President; **GARY LUCAS** Sergeant-at-Arms; **TARINA HALL** Director of Club Service; **MATT DELANEY** Director of International Service; **CASEY WILLIAMS** Director of Community Service; **DARCIE FELLOWS** Director of Community Service; **PP JIM VALINOTI** Communications Director; **GINNY PITTS** Fellowship Director; **TRACY KLINE** Membership Director; **PP CHRIS PARR-FELDMAN** Public Relations Director.

Also, **DIANE WINSBY** Attendance Advisor; **HARRY RUBINS** Foundation Chair; **PDG MIKE MERRILL** Membership Retention Advisor; **PP PHIL TALAMANTES** Special Advisor and Sunshine. The Foundation Chair will be announced later.

Club Secretary **PP JIM HINTON** announced that the Nomination Committee will nominate **CHRIS YOUNG** to be Second Vice President (President Elect). Other nominations will be accepted in writing by the Club Secretary and/or may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting prior to the formal election of officers.



Program: A Visit from "Mr. Sonoma County Water," Tim Anderson

Program Chair **MATT DELANEY** introduced **Tim Anderson**, Government Affairs Coordinator for the Sonoma County Water Agency.



The Agency is the wholesale supplier of some 60,000 acre feet of water each year to eight cities and water districts in Sonoma County and parts of Northern Marin County. The population served is some 600,000 people.

Tim talked about what he would have said several weeks ago when this talk was arranged compared to today. We were well into our third drought year when the perfect series of storms arrived with enough time between them so there was almost no flooding. Over a ten day period, thirteen inches of rain fell on our watershed and as a result, our water storage has improved substantially. He cautioned that winter is not over and we still do need more rain but preferably in March, after the flood threat ends, so that more water can be added to Lake Sonoma.



The Water Agency and The Corps of Engineers have separate responsibilities, water distribution and flood mitigation; thus, each has control of different parts of the water pool. The Corps of Engineers will not allow the pool to rise to the maximum holding capacity because they must hold space unfilled until the possibility of flooding passes. From March on, they permit additional water to be retained.

Mr. Anderson mentioned the Dry Creek riverbed between Warm Springs Dam and the Russian River. It was just a seasonal stream before the dam was constructed but now it is a year around stream needed for delivery of water to the Agency's water extraction wells downstream. That has changed the creek habitat and environment and has caused some stream erosion. The Agency may be required to install a 14 mile bypass to reduce the Dry Creek water flow. If that comes about, it will be a very expensive project.

Among the questions he answered was, "During water conservation, we reduced our water use but we pay the same amount as when we used more. Why?" The Agency does not set rates for the cities it serves. It is a government agency that must charge a sufficient amount to cover the cost of its operation. Fixed expenses aren't reduced when we sell less water.

"How are the fish in the Russian River doing?" There is a seasonal dam in the river at Mirabel. The dam has two fish ladders, one on each side. The Agency has windows for identifying and counting the fish moving upstream. The Coho salmon are declining but the Chinook salmon are doing well. The Steelhead that are counted are mostly hatchery fish that are returning.

"Can the Agency cover ever increasing water needs?" The Agency delivers 50,000 to 60,000 acre feet of water per year. We can deliver up to 75,000 acre feet without going to the State Water Board, presuming there is enough in the reservoirs. With approval, our system could go as high as 100,000 acre feet. The capacity is there. Will the water be there for us?

Water conservation will remain important regardless of how much water nature sends to us on any given year. Our population will continue a gradual increase and that means a continuing increase in water demand. And we all remember what Lake Mendocino looked like last year.....now don't we!

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