

FORT BRAGG ROTARY

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THIS WEEK IN ROTARY

Our club's next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 10, 2021**, at 12:15 pm at *Silver's at the Wharf*. Our guest speaker will be **Elizabeth Cameron** from *Mendo Parks*.

LAST WEEK IN ROTARY – 11-10-21

by Kathy Holmes

At 12:15 pm **President Gary Champlin** tapped the Rotary Bell, welcomed those present and officially called the meeting to order. After our president led the Pledge of Allegiance, **Rob Scott** gave an inspirational prayer and those present were served their lunch by the staff at *Silver's at the Wharf*.

Guests: Today our guests were three prestigious members of the Board of Directors of the *Mendocino Coast Health Care District*: **John Ennis**, **John Redding**, and **Norman de Vall**.



John Ennis



John Redding



Norman de Vall

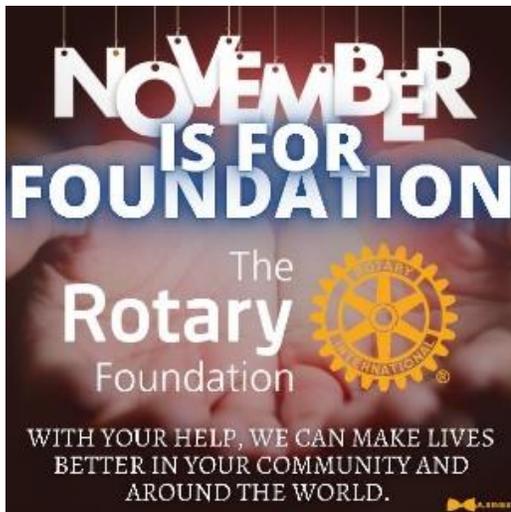
Trip Reports: **Doug Hammerstrom** and his wife **Diane Harris** drove to Vancouver, Washington last week to visit his sister and his nephew.

Announcements: **President Gary** reported that his wife **Eve** fell off her bike last week and hurt her knee. She has since been walking with crutches and we all hope she has a speedy recovery.

President Gary reminded our members that the **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** will once again be sponsored by *First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg*. Last year they served over 800 meals and this year they will be preparing 1,000 meals. Anyone can request a free meal for curbside pick-up or home delivery. Starting **Wednesday, November 10th**, **Eve Nighswonger** will be taking meal orders and **Gary Champlin** will be signing up volunteers to help prepare food and deliver meals. For details go to: www.fortbraggpresbyterian.org.



"Tomorrow is Veterans Day!" announced our president who thanked all our club's Veterans for their service and added, "Freedom is not free."



CLUB BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

The meeting ended at 1:29 pm after **President Gary** presented today's speakers with Fort Bragg Rotary Pens. **Tim Bosma** had the winning raffle ticket but he did not select the winning white marble and our raffle cash prize increased in size once again.

COMING EVENTS

- **November 24** **DARK FOR THANKSGIVING**
- **December 1** **Vincent Raj will discuss volunteerism.**
- **December 22** **DARK FOR CHRISTMAS**
- **December 29** **DARK FOR NEW YEARS**



PROGRAM

Today's speakers were John Redding, Board Treasurer, and Norman de Vall, Member at large, from the *Mendocino Coast Health Care District (MCHCD)* which owns the facilities leased to *Adventist Health* and *Mendocino Coast Clinics*. *Adventist Health* operates the hospital, but the *MCHCD* is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the hospital and clinics. The hospital celebrated its 50th birthday on June 27, 2021. On July 1, 2020, *Adventist Health* and *Mendocino Coast District Hospital* signed a 30-year agreement allowing *Adventist Health* to operate the hospital which secured the continuity of health care on the coast. This financial arrangement provides money needed to spend more on deferred maintenance, retire 100% of the District's long term debt, and reserve \$25 million for a new hospital facility. There are future plans to add a skilled nursing facility. *Adventist Health* celebrated its first-year anniversary this past July. This summer a Community Pulse Survey resulted in 507 returns—a 50% response representing 5-8% of the households in Fort Bragg. There were over 400 written comments. In summary, there were mixed results. Most are pleased with care given by *Adventist Health* but are frustrated with the clinics. The overall hospital care was considered good with a two to one positive responses. *Mendocino Coast Clinics* earned a 1.5 to 1 response positivity rate. These results are being used to reinforce what is being done well and to make improvements as needed. You can read this report on their website: www.mcdh.org. *MCHCD* completed their audit which confirmed that the District is eligible to keep \$4.4 million of CARES funding provided by the *Department of Health and Human Services*. Our 50 year-old hospital will lose its license in 2030 if it is not upgraded to current earthquake standards. Two years ago, it was estimated that it would cost \$24 million to retrofit the existing hospital. Due to inflation, that cost has increased to \$30 million. A new 25 bed hospital is expected to cost \$62 million and a 10 room (expandable bed) facility comes in at \$35 million. *MCHCD* is developing plans for a new, modern, acute care hospital.



Norman de Vall reported that the life expectancy of males in our county is less than that of the state of California. Our county is fourth in the state in the number of child death—944 per 100,000 compared to state's 738 per 100,000. Real objectives are to analyze the direction our hospital is going, meet improvements head on and make the necessary changes. The goal is to balance hospital's needs vs. community needs. There is a need for more outreach, to create more housing, and expand the economic development in Mendocino County. Teachers, nurses, and doctors need a place to live. Local housing is 52% higher than that in Sacramento. The District's goal is to retire all long-term debt by 2030. There is \$2.6 million in Measure C money. Current lease payment is \$1.75 million, expanding to \$2.9 million in year 5. CARES Act provides \$5.7 million. *MCHCD* is sitting on \$10 million in reserves which will grow to \$30 million in ten years. It is estimated to take 7 to 8 years to build a new hospital. Mendocino County needs to reassess building variances with less set-backs and allow more granny flat units. The purpose of *MCHCD* has been and continues to ensure the continuity of essential health care along the Mendocino Coast. For more information phone: (707) 962-3175 or email: district@mcdh.org.



Email from Judy Leach

Updates from Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Medical Group:



The transition to a new, modern electronic medical record (EMR) has created temporary challenges for patients of our rural health clinic. You deserve the very best, and we are deeply sorry for delays. Our dedicated associates continue working to provide excellent care. In addition to installing and implementing new technology in recent weeks, the ongoing pandemic and nationwide healthcare staffing shortages impacted our ability to accept incoming patient calls in a timely manner. The good news is that we do now have some patient centered resolutions in place.

Key updates:

Medication refills are being managed through the EMR in collaboration with local pharmacies, which is a faster, electronic service.

Adventist Health has found resources located in other locations to support our local clinic team with answering phones, scheduling appointments and facilitating medication refills.

We welcome Brittany Ramirez, MD, Family Medicine who has moved to Fort Bragg and other providers who are increasing access to local care.

Online appointment scheduling for our primary care providers so patients are able to make appointments online 24/7.

Our clinic visits have increased by over 20% during the last 12 months. Thank you for your patience as we address the growing needs of our community.