



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East

The Crown Jewel of District 5130

December 15, 2020

Edited by: Les Chauncy



Openings

President KIM McDONALD (PKM) rang the bell at precisely 12:08pm. Jeff Schutt shared his thought for the day, by Warren Arnold, but your editor's fingers were not writing as quickly as the brain was listening to get the quote. Our favorite songmeister, Larry Lira, wearing a Hawaiian Christmas shirt in honor of Tom Chauncy (thank you, Larry) and, because one of the primary colors of the holiday is red, serenaded us with "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer".

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

There were no visiting Rotarians and our guest, Che Casul, was also our speaker!

Che Casul introduced himself when Fred Ptucha went unable to attend due to an emergency.

Presentation

Che Casul is a 7th generation farmer on his mother's side which now has 213 acres accommodating goats and cows and 25 acres of grape vines. He is hoping his 2-year old son will become the 8th generation. Che's passion is Ecological Restoration.

Che is operating a Center for last chance youth, primarily of high school age, called The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship. They have several students, ages 18-25, working for them in a paid vocational program, earning \$15.00 per hour and receiving benefits. This program teaches them landscaping and ecological restoration.

The students are taken to the Center where there is a mandatory 30 minutes of Quiet Time where they can rest, reflect, read or write but without speaking to one another. They are then taught career components for such careers as construction, masonry or landscaping projects.

Their first graduate, after 11 years, returned to report on his healthy, crime free life and thanked the program for helping him.

The Center operates a summer program for high school students, unfortunately cancelled in 2020 due to Covid, which is a Green program.

A Fire Fuel Mitigation program has crews of their young people working on such projects as clearing 16 miles of road on Skaggs Springs Road and helping residents make their property safe and preventing wildfires burning their properties. In many cases the fire mitigation is through hand dug fire breaks. Their fire school is called "Fire Forward". Their funding is a fee for service-based program.

The program is going to build 18-25 low income units, with Windsor's blessing, for students while they are in the program. Che is currently working on 3 grants to allow them to provide business management classes for youth.

For anyone who might be interested in fire mitigation, please contact him at (707) 328-6776 or email him at che.casul@cfses.org. The Center's website link is: CFSES.org.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Happy Dollars

Larry Lira presented a report from the Distribution meeting. The committee has chosen to donate five (5) \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors of Santa Rosa Prep. Well done!

Jean Chirhart celebrated her birthday and asked to put \$100.00 towards her Paul Harris.

Marilyn & Larry Lira are donating to the Paul Harris Fund, the amount is TBA, for their daughter, Melissa's first home.

Judy Carr, who waved at everyone from off-screen, celebrated her birthday, 31 and holding! Ken donated \$100 to the George Batchelder Education Fund.

Joe Maurer gave \$20 Happy Dollars in honor of his Alma Mater. His San Jose State University Spartans are in the Top 25 this year. Congratulations, Joe!

President Kim announced that next week's meeting (December 22nd at 12noon) will be a Club Assembly and discussion of a possible merger of the Santa Rosa East and Santa Rosa West Rotary Clubs. Please send any questions regarding the merger to Brian Reed and cc PKM. For any SRE questions, please email them to PKM. Brian's email is breed@summitstatebank.com and PKM's is kim-mcdonald@leavitt.com

MPKM rang the closing bell, with flair, at 1:04 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

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| December 22 | Club Assembly – please send any questions to Madame President, Kim, prior to the meeting. |
| December 29 | Club Talk by the October winner of the October North Bay Spirit Award, Maite Iturri, of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District. |
| January 05 | Club Talk: Voting, 2020 and Fire-Related Assessments by Deva Marie Proto, Sonoma County's Clerk-Recorder- Assessor-Registrar of Voters. |
| January 12 | Club Talk: The Climate Crises, by Rotarian John Mathers of Rotary's Environmental sustainability Rotary Action Group / Rotary Climate Action Team. |
| January 19 | Club Talk by Jeanne Kearns of the American Heart Association. |
| January 26 | Club Talk by Denise Redeker, Founder & CEO, of Heartfelt Help Foundation. Denise is a heart transplant survivor and counselor to other survivors. |

The Link to Zoom Meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/880106692>

See you on Tuesday!!