



**ROTARY CLUB  
OF SANTA ROSA WEST**

## **Bulletin - 1/22/18 - Celebrating our Heroes**

*by Christine Schieberl - Friday, January 26, 2018*

### **Bulletin for January 22, 2018**

#### **"Celebrating our Wildfire Heroes"**

**President Chris Parr-Feldman** called the meeting to order with a knock of the bell and a reminder that we are the greatest **Rotary Club** ever!

#### **Pledge:**

- **Julie Nation** led us in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

#### **Rotary Moment:**

- **Jim Hinton** says "Aspire to Inspire before you Expire!"

#### **Visiting Rotarians:**

- Our **District Governor Bob Rodgers** and his wife **Peggy**, **Kim McDonald** from the **Santa Rosa East** club and **Bob Hirsh** from the **Sebastopol** club visited us today.



**Guests:**

- **Bill Dodson** introduced wife **Toodie**, **Neil Silverman** introduced wife **Susan**, **Susan Nowacki** introduced **Brazilian Exchange Student Giordan Vilamoski** and **Darcie Fellows** introduced **Marie Winters**.





### **Our Visiting Heroes:**

- From the Sheriff's office: Sheriff Rob Giodano, Lt. Tim Duke and his fiancée Lisa Hershey, Capt. Mark Essick and Exec Asst Wendy Hoffman.
- From Sants Rosa Police Dept: Chief Hank Schreeder, Capt. Craig Schwartz, Div Mgr Keith Hinton, Lt Ryan Corcoran, Lt John Snetsinger, Lt Mike Lazzarini and Admin Secty Carrie Baylor.
- From Santa Rosa Fire Dept: Chief Tony Gossner. Battalion Chief Scott Restrope and Admin Secty Shelley McClure





### **Sonoma County Sheriff Dept:**

- **Sheriff Rob Giordano** shared **Lt Tim Duke's** story about how heroes perform in many different scenarios. **Tim** was traveling to **Istanbul** on **Turkish Airlines** when a passenger became unruly, screaming and threatening. Five crew members were unable to restrain him until **Tim** dove in and assisted to get him restrained with handcuff bands and seat belts and sat with him for the remaining 2 ½ hours of the flight. What a way to start a vacation! Our **District Governor Bob**, a retired commercial pilot, gave **Tim** a grateful hug for putting himself in danger to resolve the situation.



### **Santa Rosa Police Dept:**

- **Chief Hank Schreeder** thanked our **Rotary Club** for recognizing their diligence during the wildfires. He acknowledged the 119 officers on duty on the first day of the fires and all who worked so hard for the 2 to 3 weeks of effort to control the chaos, knocking on doors, evacuating residences, managing traffic and deterring looters.



### **Santa Rosa Fire Dept:**



- **Chief Gossner** praised his entire 127 people in his department who worked tirelessly for the 2 to 3 weeks of the event. 12 hour rotating shifts were the norm and the magnitude of the fires was overwhelming.



### **The Start of it All:**

- All three departments couldn't believe that a major event was unfolding. **Chief Schreeder** was coming back from the east coast when texted what was happening. **Sheriff Rob** was awakened in the early morning due to high winds. When he stepped outside he knew it wasn't going to be a good day. **Chief Gossner** said they had four structural fires during the day before the wildfires. **Capt Schwartz** noted that they had public and police urgencies: police officers were trapped as well as the public. Patrol cars were driven out of danger but some were on fire themselves. Initial estimates feared that many many more people would be lost but the local forces assisted by out of towners kept the death toll much lower.
- Outside help was enormous. **San Francisco Police** sent 100 officers the first day then 300 per day for 3 weeks. Firefighters came from as far away as **Australia**. In all, 6,500 firefighters assisted with **CalFire's** command center orchestrating the efforts.
- All of them couldn't say enough about our community and its outpouring of help and resilience. Food trucks made sure they ate the best food anywhere. People who knocked on doors, found and cared for loose pets, worked in disaster stations and made needed supplies, medicines, clothing and toiletries available for those recently displaced.

### **The Raffle:**

- **Jim Hinton** tried to draw the marble but got the wrong one.

### **Gratitude:**

- Our club had the pleasure of hearing their stories and didn't hesitate in acknowledging our gratitude with a standing ovation to our local heroes! Thank you one and all.

### **New Member Application:**

MARIE EXPOSIT-WINTERS, (Hair Stylist), has been approved by the board, received Rotary Information, and approved the publication of her application to the rest of the membership. MARIE EXPOSIT-WINTERS is sponsored by DARCIE FELLOWS.

Under our bylaws once the name of a prospective new member is published to the general membership, club members have ten days to bring any concerns regarding the application to the attention of the board.

Bulletin submitted by Bill Dodson

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