**Santa Rosa West Board Retreat**

**June 22, 2019**

**President-Elect Chuck Baker held his Board Retreat at Sam’s For Play where he shared with us a little about his personal, professional and Rotary history. He suggested that this would be an “interesting” year for the club. He will rely on his Board and intends to delegate because we are a team and this is not “his year” but truly “Our Year”.**

**His major focus will be Membership – both retention and growth. We will be trying new things, having more projects, more socials and ensure that the member experience is more interesting and engaging. To this end the floor was turned over to Mike Merrill, our membership chair for the majority of the meeting.**

**Some of the key points that came out of Mike’s comments and group discussion included:**

* **Younger members need to step up in recruitment efforts as bringing in new younger members is the key to our longevity and success**
* **Every effort must be taken to ensure that the communications with members is top most on our minds. Information leads to involvement and engagement**
* **More outreach to “Friends of Rotary” will be initiated to solicit participation and interest in the club and our activities**
* **We need to involve Youth Exchange families in our club before, during and after their time abroad**
* **We will award every returning Youth Exchange student a Paul Harris**
* **It is the responsibility of every Board member to engage fellow club members in becoming more involved in club activities – projects, socials, fundraiser/s, etc.**

**Kris Lepore shared that he will step up efforts around Community Service activities. He plans a quarterly project such as Laguna de Santa Rosa, a local high school, and the homeless. Suggestions are welcome. We will continue with the 3rd grade dictionary project, Redwood Empire Food Bank and Salvation Army bell ringing. MCDC remains a focus for us and the yard project is near completion. The Holiday party for MCDC will be 12/7/2019 at St Rose**

**Don Johnson will be focusing our International efforts on Brazil. He wants to put together an exchange team to build interest and relationships. We will be participating in a grant to build a dental office/facility for the underprivileged in a rural area.**

**Our annual fundraiser will be held 2/22/2020 at the Friedman Center. This will be a Crab Feed and have a Hawaiian theme.**