

2019 - 2020

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## IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

2/11 Board Meeting 7 AM  
Buttercup Restaurant  
2/11 Charitable Fund  
US Bank



## SPEAKING UP FOR YOUTH ONE CHILD AT A TIME



**Madam President Julia Dawson** and **Program Chair Miles Bell** presented our guest speaker, **Ann Wrixon**, with a generous donation for the CASA program of which Ann is the Executive Director. Ann and her three siblings were also foster children all of whom were separated when they entered the system. Ann was also thrilled to be signing the book which is part of our Literacy Program. All of our guest speakers sign each book after their presentations and then donate it to the Clayton Public Library.

# **“WILL THE MEETING PLEASE COME TO ORDER”**



## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY: *Jeff Wilson***



*“The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.” — Abraham Lincoln*

*“People say nothing is impossible but I do nothing every day.” — A.A. Milne*

## **TODAY’S GUESTS**



**ANN WRIXON, LCSW MBA**  
**Executive Director of CASA**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Breakfast food liaison, **Director Clayton Worsdell**, secured a new breakfast menu for us after spending several hours consulting with the kitchen staff. Notice how oatmeal and French toast were on hand this morning. He reassured us that Oakhurst never served us powdered eggs, and eggs benedict will be improved.



## CLUB SERVICES: Crab Fest

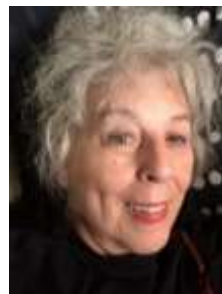


**Director Barbara Reifschneider** announced the much requested Crab Fest will be held February 21 courtesy of the Concord Chamber of Commerce. She has reserved a table for 10. The cost is \$60 per person and more information will follow.

The Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury is requesting volunteers to apply for one year of service. Applications are on the Treasurer's table.

## District 5160 Foundation Day

**Director Ken Nishimori** reminded us that Clubs planning on applying for a District or Global Grant for the 2020 – 2021 Rotary Year must attend the Grants Management Training session Saturday, January 25 as this is the only time the training will be offered. It will take place in Woodland at the Pioneer High School. The event begins at 9 am and ends at 3pm. All District Rotarians are invited to learn more about the opportunities made available by The Rotary Foundation. Sessions will cover in detail areas such as Donor Recognition, District Grants, Global Grants, and Club Qualification. Special sessions will be conducted for area Foundation Ambassadors, Club Foundation Chairs, and prospective grantee presentations. So far **Vicki Sexton, Joan D'Onofrio, and Irene Davids-Blair** have registered and will attend.



# Corporate Wellness Webinar



**Tommy Wolf** announced that their New Health Chiropractic Center's corporate wellness program will be a webinar. If you would like to attend, great! If you have family or friends that you think would benefit please let them know. They meet at 12:00 pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 22  
Tuesday, February 4  
Monday, February 10  
Wednesday, February 12

All meetings begin at 12:00 pm

## Passport to Adventure

From our District Governor Tina Akins:

Our biggest Rotary event of the year is the **Passport to Adventure**! Ask anyone who's been to a district conference and you'll likely hear "I loved it!" Why? Take your pick... inspirational speakers, Rotary fellowship, awesome pre-conference activities, meaningful breakouts... it all adds up to a weekend you won't want to miss!

Want to see more? Check out the speakers, the agenda, and the pre-Redding is such a beautiful area. Majestic mountains, commanding rivers and lush green landscape frame your environment. Breathe crisp, fresh air and take in the views as you explore -- I promise you'll love it.



The 2020 District Conference Passport to Adventure is scheduled for May 1 - 3 at the Sheraton Redding Hotel at the Sundial Bridge, Redding CA. **Register NOW**

## Art Forum Update

**Tineke Jacobsen** is the newest member of the Arts Forum. She will join the team and work with the current San Felipe COBACH High School students preparing for the art competition. April 16 is the date set for the Clayton Valley Charter High School's annual Art Expo. The Team: **Anna McCourt**, San Felipe is the Youth Development Coordinator, **Tineke Jacobsen**, **Joan D'Onofrio**, **Vicki Sexton**, **Clayton Worsdell**, and **Rich Lueck** comprises the USA members.



# MLESTONES

## January 2020 Birthdays

January is a busy month for birthdays. Here are the members who grew a year older this month



**Rich Lueck**, born on the 29<sup>th</sup> was Past President, is a Paul Harris Fellow, and was Rotarian of the Year.

**Bob Hooy**, born on the 6<sup>th</sup> is a Paul Harris Fellow and Past President.

**Barbara Reifschneider** born on the 10<sup>th</sup> is a Paul Harris Fellow and was the Club's first female President.

**Vicki Sexton**, born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> is our current Treasurer, a Paul Harris Fellow, and President-elect.

**Bob Sundberg**, the 7<sup>th</sup> was a Past President, is a Paul Harris Fellow and will be the 2020/21 SSA.

## Length of Service

Check out these dedicated members and how long they serve:



**Bob Sundberg** is a past president, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a 17-year member. **Renee Rushworth** hit her second year of service, is the Charitable Fund Treasurer, and the 2018/19 Rotarian of the year.

**Irene Davids-Blair** celebrates 12-years of service, was a Past President, Rotarian of the Year, and is a member of the Paul Harris Society. **Steve Weir** is a 24-year member, the Secretary of the Charitable Fund, and a member of the Paul Harris Society. **Dave Kemnitz** marks 11-years, was a Past President, Rotarian of the Year, Member of the Paul Harris Society, and the force behind Clunkers4Charity.

**Frank Westphall** was Rotarian of the year and is now a 16-year member. **Torsten Jacobsen** also hit his 16<sup>th</sup> year, was a Rotarian of the Year, and is a Paul Harris Society member. **Joan D'Onofrio** reached her 6<sup>th</sup> year, is a Paul Harris Fellow, and the Newsletter Editor.

# NEWS FROM SAN FELIPE



**Tina Sweeney** reported that each year the scholarship program has an essay contest. This year's question was: "If you could change one thing in San Felipe, what would it be and how would you accomplish it?"

The scholarship student **Clayton** and **Carol Worsdell** sponsored is **Melissa M. Guzman Romo** who won third place and was awarded 200 pesos.

## THE ESSAY

Hello, my name is Melissa M. Guzmán Romo and I'm a student of the COBACH San Felipe in group 534, this time I come to propose you in a simpler way how to create a better future for the port. First, the garbage, unfortunately when it rains it floods easily because sewers are clogged with trash, so, if we fix that simple detail the port would no longer have to pay for flood repairs. Second, a page on some social network, the internet is moving the world and if we don't move with it it will leave us behind, a page where San Felipe is promoted is a very good idea, that all important events be published for more people to come, because it is true, before our economic income was fishing, now it is tourism and that we must put effort so that revenues rise and thus have a better economic and social development. Another important point is the lack of work, many people migrate because they do not get a job or are not given the opportunity because they have no experience, we need more open minds, people who are really willing to work, to get ahead for his family and for himself. Without ports there are no civilizations and something ideal would be to consume less energy, less fossil fuels, because they directly affect the environment of our port.

One way to attract tourists would be to open an aquarium, that kind of thing people like, but something unfortunate is that we are very lazy beings, if we see that someone does something for the port we load his hand, a clear example is Mr. Martin Romo, a great example to follow, every day he does something for the port and without having to ask him, more people like this need to make this work, because tomorrow I'm graduated and with my university degree I want to come to San Felipe and tell everyone proud that I grew up here and that it will always be my beautiful port.

## THE WINNER



**MELISSA M. GUZMAN ROMO**

## THE PROUD SPONSORS



**CLAYTON AND CAROL WORSDELL**

# HAPPY BUCKS



**Bill Selb** is sure happy these days. Seems his Kaiser copays went down from \$30 to \$10, and he found out that the Social Security Administration gave him a raise. It seems we retirees got a small benefits increase starting this month but most of us didn't even know it. We all went home to check our files and sure enough there it was in black and white:

*Your Social Security benefits will increase by 1.6% in 2020 because of a rise in the cost of living.*

Thanks, Bill. Now we are all happy.



**Jeff Wilson** is at it again: Showing and closing, closing and showing house after house after house.



**Ewa Sobilo** said she had a great time at the Xmas Party, but her husband wanted to know why Rotary doesn't do good works for people in our own country. That got the group going and several members started ticking off all the volunteer work and good deeds our club, in particular, does for the people all around Contra Costa County.



**Rich Lueck** happily told us that his son and twin grandchildren visited for the holidays. It was wonderful catching up on everyone's status and life activates. He also told us that he subscribed to 23andMe and who knows what he will learn about himself now.

**Julia Dawson's** oven is fixed. But the best news is that her son Jordan's friends are beginning to move back into the neighborhood and, hopefully, so will he. Stay tuned.



# TODAY'S SPEAKER

***"Many things we need can wait. The child cannot."***



**Program Chair Miles Bell** introduced today's speaker, **Ann Wrixon**, who is the Executive Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). There are over one thousand abused or neglected youth that come under the Contra Costa County care system because they are no longer able to safely live at home.

Can you imagine being taken away from your parents, your friends and

life as you know it, not because of anything you did, but because they cannot, or will not take care of you or protect you? Then dozens of strangers enter your life: police, foster parents, social workers, judges, and lawyers. This is a common scenario that abused and neglected children and youth face when they enter foster care, and that is where Ann Wrixon comes in. Through the CASA, Ann is the advocate who steps in to speak for the youths' best interest. Ann, who serves on the CASA Board, provided additional information about this wonderful organization.



CASA provides volunteer advocacy services to children who are dependents of the Juvenile Courts. The CASA volunteers are appointed by the Juvenile Court and work one-on-one with these children, fostering a unique atmosphere of trust and mutual respect leading to a meaningful relationship. CASA volunteers visit the foster home, meet with teachers, mental health providers, attorneys, and social workers so they can provide a complete and detailed report to the Juvenile Court about a child's situation and make recommendations for improvement. For more information, check out: [www.cccocasa.org](http://www.cccocasa.org).

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



**Ann Wrixon's** interest in evidence-based research on child welfare, and ways to help children heal from abuse and neglect led her to devote her life's work to providing advocacy service to foster youth in the court system. Ann is the Executive Director of CASA and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in California. She earned her Masters of Social Work from California State University East Bay, a Master's of Business Administration from San Francisco State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Rutgers University. Ann has always enjoyed reading research reports, and her blog contains short summaries of the research she read about child welfare with links to the full articles. She has co-authored two books herself: *Another Choice* and *True Stories of Open Adoption*.

# LAST LAUGHS

## ***Learning to Fly***

Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground.

After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts.

Finally, the female bird turned to her mate. "Dear," she chirped, "I think it's time to tell him he's adopted."

## ***Ring the Bell***

Passing an office building late one night, a blonde saw a sign that said, "Press bell for night watchman."

She did so, and after several minutes she heard the watchman clomping down the stairs.

The uniformed man proceeded to unlock first one gate, then another, shut down the alarm system, and finally made his way through the revolving door.

"Well," he snarled at the blonde, "what do you want?"

"I just want to know why you can't ring the bell for yourself."

## ***The Mule***

A pastor went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the church yard. He called the police. Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the pastor to the health department. There he was told since there was no health threat that he should call the sanitation department. But the sanitation manager said he could not pick up the mule without authorization from the mayor.

Now the pastor knew the mayor and was not too eager to call him. The mayor had a bad temper and was generally hard to deal with, but the pastor called him anyway.

The mayor did not disappoint him. He immediately began to rant and rave at the pastor and finally said, "Why did you call me anyway? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?"

The pastor paused for a brief prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. Then, he replied "Yes, Mayor, it is my job to bury the dead, but I always like to notify the next of kin first!"

# ***I've Been Working on the Railroad***

Billy Bob wanted a job as a signalman on the railways. He was told to meet the inspector at the signal box.

The inspector asked, "What would you do if you realized that two trains were heading for each other on the same track?"

Billy Bob replied, "I would switch the points for one of the trains."

"What if the lever broke?" asked the inspector.

"Then I'd dash down out of the signal box," said Billy Bob, "and I'd use the manual lever over there."

"What if that had been struck by lightning?"

"Then," Billy Bob continued, "I'd run back into the signal box and phone the next signal box."

"What if the phone was busy?"

"Well in that case," persevered Billy Bob, "I'd rush down out of the box and use the public emergency phone at the level crossing up there."

"What if that was vandalized?"

"Oh, well then I'd run into town and go get my Uncle Lester."

This puzzled the inspector, so he asked, "Why would you do that?"

Billy Bob answered, "Well, Uncle Lester ain't ever seen a train wreck!"

*. . . That's all folks.*