

2019 - 2020

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Joan D'Onofrio : Editor  
Mary Kernitz  
Rich Lueck  
Clayton Worsdell: Photographer

## ROTARY DISTRICT 5160

Tina Aikens: District Governor  
Cheryl Wilson: Assistant DG

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julia Dawson Aguilar : President  
Vicki Sexton: President-elect  
Vicki Sexton: Treasurer  
Fred Nelson: Secretary  
Rob Waldman: Sergeant-at-Arms  
Irene Davids-Blair: Vocational  
Monica Fraga: New Generations  
Ken Nishimori: RI Foundation  
Clayton Worsdell & Bob Huck: Community Services  
Tommy Wolf: Membership  
Ewa Sobillo: International  
Barbara Reifschneider: Club Services

## CHARITABLE BOARD

Chris Ruzicka: President  
Vicki Sexton: Vice President  
Steve Weir: Secretary  
Renee Rushworth: Treasurer

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Miles Bell: Program Chair  
John Wenzel: Webmaster  
Bill Kinsey: Public Relations Chair  
Bill Selb: Pancake Breakfast Chair  
Rich Lueck: Cars2ndChance

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## IMPORTANT MEETINGS 2020

2/11 Board Meeting 7 AM  
Buttercup Restaurant  
2/10 Charitable Fund  
US Bank



# MEET THE NEW FOOD BANK'S CEO



**Joel Sjostrom** has been appointed the new President and CEO of the Food Bank and taking over the reins of Larry Sly who retired. Joel, a long-standing resident of Contra Costa County, previously served as CEO of Fair & Swanson said: *"This is an incredible opportunity to pursue my passion for community service and combine it with my professional business experience. I intend to grow this incredible organization and continue the momentum towards the Food Bank's 45th anniversary."* Our club has a long history with the Food Bank, so it was with great pleasure to present Joel with a check for \$2,705. The funds were collected by the generous matching program organized by **Bob Hooy** whose late father, **Bill Hooy**, actually started the program. Each year the Food Bank distributes 25 million pounds of food to over one hundred thousand families. The amount donated by us will provide five thousand meals. Joel was born in Minnesota and lives in El Sobrante with his wife Sherry.

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



## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY: *Monica Fraga***



*“My mind is like my Internet browser, at least 19 open tabs, three are frozen, and I have no idea where the music is coming from.”*

## **TODAY’S GUEST**



**JOEL SJOSTROM**  
CEO of the Solano & Contra Costa County Food Bank

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Director Clayton Worsdell** said that **Frank Westphall** went to the one person on the job worksheet Saturday who wanted her kitchen sink 'looked at,' but when Frank got there the woman said: "Oh, never mind, my brother-in-law fixed it yesterday." Guess we'll never know what was wrong with the faucet.



## CLUB SERVICES



**Director Barbara Reifschneider** announced that we have a full table for the upcoming crab fest. **Miles Bell** said the Concord Rotary Crab Fest he was at was pretty spectacular. Not only was it a full house, but they took in close to \$20,000 during their live auction. He said that one of the cakes alone went for \$500. **Russ Anderson** said that his dad started that Crab Fest over 20 years ago.

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

## Treasurers' Input

**Treasurer Vicki Sexton** explained multiple billing on Rotary statements when **Larry Hutchings** called it to her attention. Rest assured, said Vicki, "no one was double or triple billed."

**Treasurer-elect Ewa Sobilo** asked for a few volunteers to help at the sign-in table at each Thursday meeting. **Monica Fraga** and **Mary Kemnitz** stepped up to the plate. It is necessary to have someone in this spot on days when Ewa may not be able to be present.



## Call for Hosts

**Ewa Sobilo** is still asking for a few family volunteers to host students from Kitakami High School on March 27 for two nights. They will be visiting with students at Clayton Valley High School as part of the Contra Costa County Ambassadors Sister City program.



## Clunkers Keeps on Giving



What a way to end the month of January. On Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> **Clayton Worsdell**, **Miles Bell**, and **Dave Kemnitz** attended the Lamorinda Rotary Club meeting and presented a \$6,900.00 check for their partner share of the 2007 Corvette sale that was donated by a member of their club.



## Milestone Celebrations



How cool it was to celebrate **Russ Anderson** and **Steve Weir's** milestones at today's meeting. Russ and his wife, Annette, are celebrating 27 years of wedded bliss, while Steve decided to contribute \$100 for his birthday last year. He said he will donate \$100 for this year's birthday, but it will have to wait till next year. But guess what? Steve's birthday is in March. He is actually celebrating 24 years of Rotary service.

## Passport to Adventure



Our District Governor **Tina Akins** says:

*"The 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!"*

*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.**"*

# CLUB ASSEMBLY

## Rotary Foundation

### Global Grant Management Training Seminar

Director **Ken Nishimori** thanked the members who attended the grant seminar: **President-elect Vicki Sexton**, **Past President Irene Davids-Blair**, **Newsletter Editor Joan D'Onofrio**, and **Treasurer-elect Ewa Sobilo**. Everyone said they learned a lot and our club is now set up to apply for grants.

### Every Rotarian Every Year

Ken explained that Every Rotarian Every year (EREY) is the initiative used to encourage all Rotary club members to contribute \$100 every year.

### Paul Harris

Ken announced that **Lois Nelson** is now a Paul Harris +1 Fellow as part of the spousal program. Congrats, Lois.



## Charitable Fund



**Past President Chris Ruzicka** raised the issue of how to allocate funding for projects throughout the Clayton community. He also asked for suggestions and ideas for what type of funding projects we should pursue. Someone raised the idea of providing scholarships to students at the Clayton Valley Charter High School. Getting the Rotaractors more involved was also discussed. Maybe it is time to apply for a grant that involves scholarships.



## The Clunkers Project



### Donations

**Mary Kemnitz** reported that the year-end usually brings many donations as folks are looking for a tax credit. This year was very quiet, but as we moved into 2020 the phone started to ring. Just in the past week alone we received 5 donations. Four of them from a contact we have at a San Francisco Mitsubishi/Isuzu dealership. Huge Isuzu trucks that have failed smog test are worthless here in California but very valuable outside of the US. A Prius that was donated was picked up by California Vocations and delivered to Paradise.

### Paradise

**Brodie Hamilton** from the Davis Rotary donated his 2007 Prius with the stipulation that it go to a Paradise Fire victim. Brodie sent Mary this photo of the day they volunteered at the Salvation Army's Bell Ringing event.



## ***President-elect***

### **R85**

**Treasurer Vicki Sexton** explained the **R85** membership issue. She explained that when a month contains five Thursday meetings, they do not have to pay the \$20 for the fifth week otherwise they will be paying \$100 per month instead of \$75 if they attend every meeting.

### **The Questionnaire**

Vicki asked the members to please fill out the questionnaire she emailed us several weeks ago. She is in the process of researching ideas for what our Club needs to tackle. She wants to find out what activities will be of interest to the membership. So please fill out the questionnaire or just jot down your ideas and email them to her.

## ***Youth Services***

**Director Monica Fraga** has been the director of Youth Services for many years. She said there are two spots for Camp Royal and decided to ask the teachers to recommend two students for this program.



## ***By Laws***

**Secretary Fred Nelson** reviewed the By Law changes and asked that a motion be made to officially change them.

Article I, Section 3: The position of 'Vice President of Finance.' was dropped.

Article III, Section 6: The duties of the Immediate Past President were added. This officer, by virtue of past experience, shall preside over both the Board of Directors and the Club meetings in the absence of the President, sharing both advice and counsel when needed or requested.

Article IV, Section 4: New Generations Director was changed to Youth Director.

Also Fred explained that Directors were elected to serve two year terms. Now the Directors can serve as long as they like.

The proposed changes and additions passed unanimously.





# HAPPY BUCKS

**Tommy Wolf** happily reported that his chiropractic center is trying to educate the community on the hidden stressors in life and how it impacts the central nervous system. He had the opportunity to speak to the students of Benicia High School about stress management. *"It was great," he said, "as the students were so engaged, asked really good questions, and I might have inspired one of them to become a chiropractor."*



**Irene Davids-Blair** thanked **Vicki Sexton** for serving as the dedicated driver when she and Joan were the passengers on the drive to the grant meeting.

**Monica Fraga** is happy to be home after 10 days on the job in various places in Mexico and four days on the ocean. She said that January and February are the busiest time of the travel season.



**Bill Huck**, after ignoring his wife Aleta's cell phone calls, found out that she had an automobile accident. Seems she was struck in the back by two uniformed police officers driving in an unmarked car. No one was hurt.

**Russ Anderson** had the happiest bucks of all. Remember that he and his wife Annette just celebrated their 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary in splendor at the Plaza Hotel in Monterey. Sure they had room service and champagne, but they also had it in a one thousand dollar suite complete with two bedrooms, two fireplaces and two TV's. Seems they were two lucky guests whose bathroom sprung a leak and they were moved to the pure luxury of a very high class suite. Happy anniversary.



# THE GALLERY



From the lens of Clayton Worsdell



# PONDER THIS

## Superbowl

It's the day of the Superbowl and a man makes his way to his seat. He sits down and notices that the seat next to him is empty.

He leans over and asks the guy if someone will be sitting there.

"No," he says.

"So the seat is empty? That's incredible," he says. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Superbowl and not use it?"

The man says, "Well, actually the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she died. This is the first Superbowl that we haven't been to together since we were married."

"Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that. That's terrible, but couldn't you find someone else, a friend, relative, or even a neighbor to take her seat?"

The man shakes his head and says, "Oh, no, they're all at the funeral."

## What Did You Do That For?

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks it up and throws it as far as he can.

Three years later there's a knock on the guy's door. He opens it and sees the same snail.

The snail says: "What the hell was that all about?"

# ***And Then the Fight Started...***

Courtesy of Rich Lueck

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started...

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My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, "What's on TV?"

I said, "Dust."

And then the fight started...

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After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's License to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home.

I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt.' So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair.

She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability too.'

And then the fight started...

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My wife was standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror.

She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment."

I replied, "Your eyesight's damn near perfect."

And then the fight started....

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One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started...

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I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And that's when the fight started.....

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I rear-ended a car this morning...the start of a REALLY bad day!

The driver got out of the other car, and he was a DWARF!! He looked up at me and said 'I am NOT Happy!'

So I said, 'Well, which one ARE you then?'

That's how the fight started...

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