



Rotary Club of Lakeport

Meeting of October 12, 2022

Written by the esteemed: Thomas Lincoln

Club Leaders



[Laura McAndrews Sammel](#)
President



[Mark Lipps](#)
President-Elect



[Martin Diesman](#)
Treasurer



[Kelly Butcher](#)
Club Director



[Pamela Harpster](#)
President-Nominee



[David Herrick](#)
Club Director



[Faith Cheyenne Hornby](#)
Club Director



[John Lawson](#)
Club Director



[Marie Schrader](#)
Club Director



[David Paul Schwenger](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Denise Combs](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Bruce Maxwell](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Jeffery B. Warrenburg](#)
iPast President



[David Moon-Wainwright](#)
Assistant Governor

Call to order: President Laura opened the meeting at 12:-05 p.m.

Invocation: Pastor Greg made special mention of the passing of Eureka Rotary Club's president Gerald Reece.

Pledge: April led the salute to our flag.

Guests: President Laura welcomed Pamela Duncan, president elect of the Kelseyville Rotary Club as well as our own Siri who has been absent without leave, but was attending as a visitor. Dr. Mark introduced his wife Monica. The two have been in real estate purgatory for the last several weeks as they move stuff to their new home in Texas and keep their fingers crossed that their ranch in Kelseyville will sell soon. Beautiful horse ranch if anyone is interested. And the entire club welcomed guests Trudy, Jackie, Ellie, Denise and Lorna, all representing the Scotts Valley Women's Civic Club which ran one of the rest stops during the recent last ride of the Konocti Challenge.

Interact: Local Interactors, Ashton and Bella gave a brief rundown on what's happening on the high school scene. We are now in homecoming week and, yes, the kid's Halloween parade will be coming back this year, now that we've kinda, sorta whipped the Covid demon.

Sunshine: Beth completely winged it on the sunshine report, claiming that her dog ate the information sheet that she had prepared. So she begged for self-reporting. Andy fessed up to a birthday and graciously donated \$50 in case he got nabbed by the detective too. Laura volunteered a joke, which had everyone pining for the return of past president Bruce whose jokes always drew standing ovations. Things then proceeded completely downhill.....

Detective: The detective failed to show, so President Laura filled in. Roller Derby Jeff apparently bought a new car and donated what was left in his pocket (\$100). Lawyer John volunteered that he took his wife to Levi Stadium to see Elton John perform. The fine (\$25) was less then the concert tickets by a mile, and John shared that it was the best concert he ever attended. Main Street Marie bragged about the recent performance of "Lord of the Lake." It cost her \$10. Pam apparently appeared in the same performance and had her picture in the local fish wrap which cost her an amount that I didn't write down. Same for Beth who tried to rat out Jennifer for something, but Jennifer turned that tables on Beth and actually expressed her gratitude for Beth and hubby Jeff doing last minute catering for the Rotary Foundation dinner in Rohnert Park. Foundations dinners are very important. If they don't go well, the district governor (Jennifer) gets all the blame. Kudos to Beth and Jeff for stepping up, and kudos to Jennifer for having them as good friends!

Program: Konocti Challenge, the final ride. Jennifer tried to make the success of the 30-year-long ride the work of many people, but we all know that it would not have had as long and successful a run as it did if not for the person who ran the show for the last 17 years. That would be Jennifer Strong. She took us through the history of the ride, from the early days—known then as Pedal he Puddle—at Library Park with no electrical power and lighting, to the Lakeport Yacht Club where we butted up against competing bass fishing events, to the Skylark Motel which became the site of many rides, including the last ride on October 1.

When Jennifer took the reins 17 years ago, she committed to running the event for three years. Didn't happen. It became part of her life as well as that of her son Gabe who learned that late summer/early fall was Challenge time. The event earned national recognition and even attracted riders from other countries. In 2014 some 900 riders registered and competed in the Challenge. And it injected tens of

Birthdays

Faith Cheyenne Hornby
October 31st

Beth Havrilla
November 3rd
Frederick L. Christensen
November 3rd
Melissa Fulton
November 20th

thousands of dollars into the local economy. Over 85% of the riders were from out of county, and ridership could have easily exceeded 1,000 if there were more motel rooms available.

The Konocti Challenge was a unique event in the world of cycling, particularly the rest stop competition feature where local non-profit organizations volunteered to staff rest stops and develop themes that competed for prize money. Over the years the club donated thousands of dollars to these non-profits and the competitiveness among the participants became legendary.

But as time wore on ridership began to slip, then Covid hit and the ride was canceled for two years. The decision was finally made to permanently discontinue the event after holding one final ride. Over 400 riders competed and Jennifer was beset with pleas to extend the life of the event. It had become an annual retreat for many riders. Relationships blossomed, some riders fell in love and married; one couple after the final ride renewed their wedding vows, officiated by Sheriff Brian Martin with Clear Lake and Mount Konocti as the backdrop.

Lastly, the two final reststops, staffed by the Kelseyville Rotary Club and the Scotts Valley Women's Civic Club, were each presented with a \$1,000 check. Jennifer singled out several Lakeport Rotarians for their years of service to the event. They included Lance, Ruth Darling, Beth, Siri, Dr. Mark and the L.C. Diamonds as well as dozens of faithful sponsors over the years.

Congratulations to Jennifer!!