

Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon

6520 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Visit our website: VOMRotary.org

Volume XXIII Issue No. 22 David Beach, President January 11, 2024



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

The **Four-Way Test** of things we think, say or do:

Is it the **Truth**?

Is it **Fair** to all concerned?

Will it build **Goodwill** and better **Friendships**?

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

President **David Beach** rang the opening bell at 8a.m and **Art Fichtenberg** led the flag salute.

VISITORS:

Sgt-at-Arms **Fred Merrill** announced the presence of Karen Ritter (**Chris Severson**), Lawrence Burns (**Fred Merrill**), and Eris Weaver, our speaker.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Kevin Johnson found this one for us from Chief Seattle:

“This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

PRESIDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prez Beach asked **John Brodey** to please get the sign-up sheet passed around for Thought For the Day and Getting to Know You segments of our meetings. John advised that the sign-up sheet is almost full.

David also asked **Kevin Johnson** to try and find a Greeter coordinator. He is.

CRAB FEED UPDATE:

- Rumor has it that the Rohnert Park Rotary Crab Feed tickets are going for \$85pp and ours are only \$75, but they're also serving clam chowder.
- **John Brodey** reported on the progress (or lack of) for the Wine Wall, which is a big hit at the CF. He's only received 10 bottles! Please start bringing in one or two bottles of nice (at least \$25 a bottle) red, maybe some white. There will be a box at the coffee table for your bottles, but please, please sign in with your name and wine label, so I know who to yell at! Those of you with wine club memberships would be helpful and get on it. The tickets for the Wine Wall at the CF go for \$25 each and have a number on them. That ticketholder goes to the Wine Wall and gets the bottle with that number on it. It seems to be popular.
- **Lydia Harris** reported on Raffle items – there had been a surplus of raffle items in the storage shed from the Covid days, but now they are depleted, so we're in need of stuff. Maybe you have things in your closet to re-gift? Kitchen items are very popular, also gift cards.
- **Valerie Oliver** got some VERY desirable items donated from the Saddle Club. Two dinners for 8 there, valued at \$1200 each.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Art Fichtenberg had a birthday yesterday. He said he turned 50, AGAIN! He had a wonderful time with his daughter. **John Derby** led us in “the” song.

HAPPY/CRAPPY DOLLARS:

Mike Isola had a new heart valve put in on November 30th and IT WORKS! (We're so glad, Mike!)

David Beach had a nice trip to Carmel last week. It was beautiful, even though they got rained on a bit.

Val Hulsey broke her wrist! (Owie!) Not a bad break, tho, and probably no surgery needed. Good news is that it's her left hand and she's right handed! (Can't keep a good woman down!)

Jim Reed played in a bridge tournament last week. You don't make any money, but earn Master Points. He did better than anyone in SoCo!

Art Fichtenberg said he had several heart valves replaced about 18 years ago and they're all still working!

Fred Merrill's little granddaughter was born and she's PERFECT!

Craig Clissold's wife Adriane had a birthday last week (sorry, we missed announcing that). They went out to Shogun Japanese Restaurant on Farmer's Lane and it was nice.

Our guest Larry Burns reported on a new bike path in Oakmont that's really nice. (But I didn't catch where he said it was – oops, I did it again!)

RAFFLE:

Craig Clissold drew **Jim Allen's** number, but he didn't draw the Joker.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Fred Merrill introduced us to our guest speaker, Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

Eris is "on fire" about saving our planet by getting people on bikes. She asked us to remember our very first bike and how it felt. Maybe some had a fear of falling, but maybe you had a feeling of freedom, joy, independence? She also asked the reason we don't ride bikes now? Mostly, the fear of getting hit by the giant vehicle traversing our roads.

The Coalition works to get more out on bikes and to make it safer for. She laid out the plans SCBC for this solution which included not only bicyclists, but drivers and pedestrians alike. Education, encouragement, advocacy are the key words. They are working with 60 schools in SoCo to teach kids to be safe on bikes and learn the rules, etc. They actually have "Bike Rodeos" at the schools where they lay out an obstacle course on the blacktop as a help tool. The kids have fun while they're learning. Remember the old days when our kids rode bikes to school? Now, not so many. It's just too dangerous out there.

The Coalition also works with the Parks & Recreation Dept. teaching bike safety classes to both adults and kids for free. But, education classes alone don't change our behavior. She talked about bikers following the same traffic laws as vehicles. She somehow overheard me mention under my breath that they don't and launched into a passionate discussion about how us drivers don't always follow the rules! She's right, we're all at fault here. It was a good discussion, but I sure learned to keep my opinions to myself. We're no doubt all guilty of some speeding, lane changing, or rolling through a stop sign when we see it's clear (my first moving violation ever).

Getting back to her presentation, she talked about how there are more people on the roads with higher, heavier vehicles that damage the road surfaces, which don't seem to get repaired too quickly. We all know about potholes! Also, a lot of the roads throughout the County are narrow which makes the bike lanes narrower and more treacherous. Be visible, bikers! Wear bright colors and be predictable about your path direction. Drivers! Put your cell phones down and pay attention! We're all responsible for the safety of ourselves and others. The world is just too fast-paced and too many distractions!

She talked about town structures and how they used to be more bike friendly and how different the bike culture is in the Netherlands. Eris recommended we advocate by attending Government meetings, write letters, plus report hazards to an appropriate entity (?), and to VOTE!

You can find more information by logging onto Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

Eris fielded quite a few questions and, you can bet, she had answers for all of them and stayed after the meeting to chat with our members. She was a well-spoken speaker and certainly got her points across.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Beach thanked Eris and adjourned our meeting at 9a.m. and we recited the Four-Way Test.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

1-18-24 – PRSL (Prescott Regulators and Their Shady Ladies), Monty Packard

1-25-24 – Jewish Interest Group, Carolita Carr

MEMBERSHIP:

First Posting for potential new member Karen Ritter.

Share Rotary with your friends. We should invite business friends and neighbors to a meeting. Who do we do business with, what neighbors do we know, and what former Rotarians could be asked to join us? Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club's expense.

When introducing your guest at a meeting please do not introduce them as a prospective member. No one can be a prospective member until the Board votes on their application. Just introduce them as my friend or neighbor or whatever is appropriate.

MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE JOINED ROTARY HAD SOMEONE ASKED THEM!

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Editor: Star Power

Club Officers:

(E-mail – starpower7@att.net)

Publisher: Valerie Hulsey

Photographer: John Derby

President: David Beach

Immediate Past President: Art Fichtenberg

President-Elect: Fred Merrill

Secretary: Valerie Hulsey

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Community Service –Marcel Coder

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