

Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon

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

Visit our website: VOMRotary.org

Volume XXII Issue No. 44 Art Fichtenberg, President June 29, 2023



SPECIAL CLUB ASSEMBLY

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

VISITORS:

Sgt-at-Arms **Fred Merrill** announced the presence of visitors Morgan Holien from Oakmont Gardens, Leshia Ludeman, our former member Maureen McGettigan and Tim Gennert of Oakmont Computers.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Val Hulsey had a Thought:

A son and his father were walking in the mountains.

Suddenly, his son falls, hurts himself and screams: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"

To his surprise, he hears the voice repeating, somewhere in the mountain:

"AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"

Curious, he yells: "Who are you?"

He receives the answer: "Who are you?"

Angered at the response, he screams: "Coward!"

He receives the answer: "Coward!"

He looks at his father and asks: "What's going on?"

The father smiles and says: "My son, pay attention."

And then he screams to the mountain: "I admire you!"

The voice answers: "I admire you!"

Again, the man screams: "You are a champion!"

The voice answers: "You are a champion!"

The boy is surprised but does not understand.

Then the father explains: "People call this ECHO, but really this is LIFE. It gives you back everything



you say or do. Our life is simply a reflection of our actions. If you want more love in the world, create more love in your heart.

If you want more competence in your team, improve your competence. This relationship applies to everything, in all aspects of life; Life will give you back everything you have given to it."

Your life is not a coincidence. It's a reflection of you! -Author Unknown

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Art Fichtenberg let us know how incredibly grateful he is for how we all came together after COVID and how happy he was to have been able to serve our club. He thanked **Kevin Johnson** for an amazing job putting the Crab Feed together, **Val Hulsey** for everything she does for Rotary, **Mike Isola** for his many years as Foundation Chair and everyone else who contributed to make his year a successful one.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:



On that note, **Mike Isola** reported that, through our club contributions, we sent Rotary International \$27,000 and that this is the 3rd year in a row that we have 100% participation in Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY).

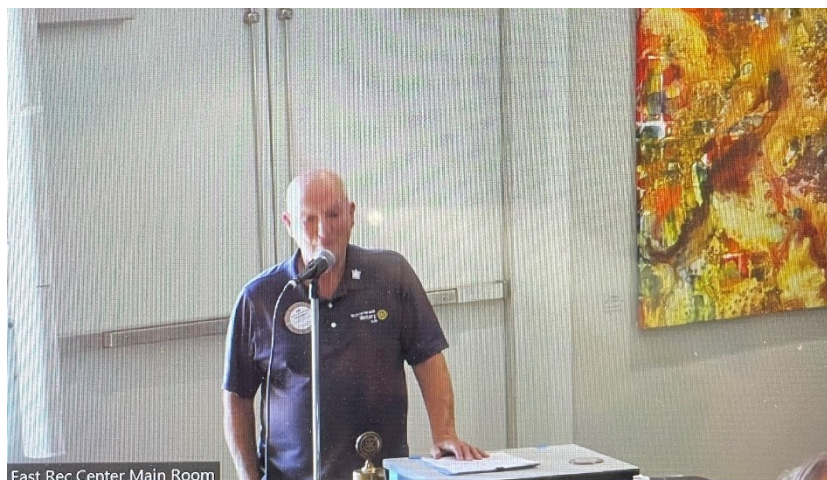
HAPPY DOLLARS:

Art was happy and appreciative that when he looks around this world he sees hope & joy. He makes a happy list, adding to it each day with a 'rule', he cannot repeat. We can choose to be happy and hopeful or in anger and despair.

RAFFLE:

Chris & Craig drew **Art Fichtenberg's** ticket number for the \$206 raffle and he drew the Joker, an appropriate win for our outgoing president, sort of like a 'thank you, Art'!

On that note, Art removed his President's badge and turned the meeting over to David Beach.





Valley of the Moon Rotary

Club Assembly

June 29, 2023



President Beach began by talking about our membership drive and urging us to read the July 8th issue of the Oakmont News written by **Star Power** where he posed in a top hat as Uncle Sam in a photo captioned, *"Uncle Dave Wants YOU!"*, inviting readers to check us out.

He welcomed Morgan Holien, Manager of Oakmont Gardens, who has submitted her application to join our club, and Leshia Ludeman, who's looking us over. We hope we meet her standards and come back again. He also welcomed Tim Gennert of Oakmont Computers, who may join us when he physically moves to Oakmont. Also joining us today was our dear former member Maureen McGettigan, a renowned, excellent photographer. We're hoping she's coming back to us.

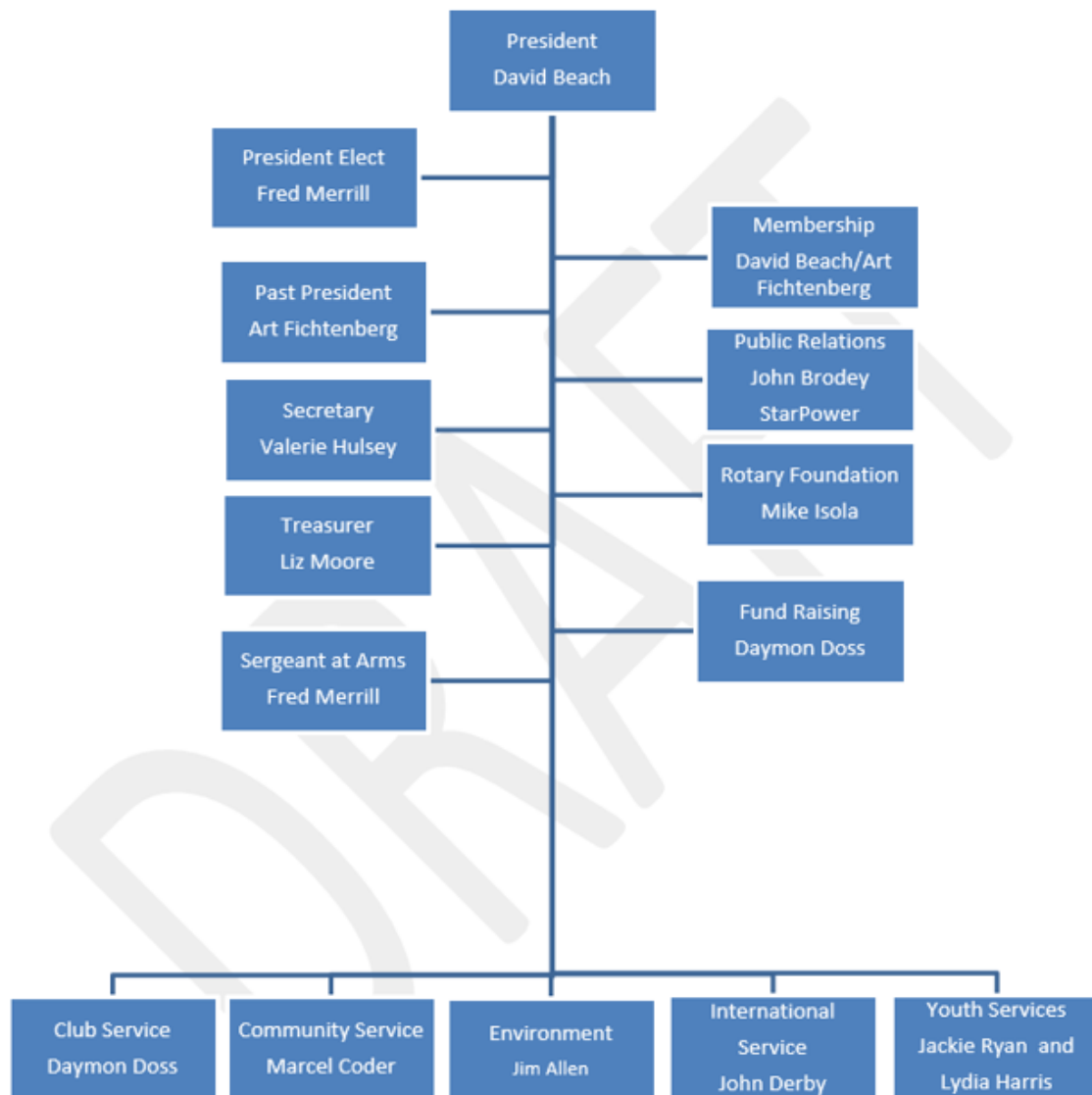


David joined our club in 2015. At his 1st meeting as a regular member, he was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Having just moved here from 20 years in Canada, he began by singing "Oh, Canada. . ." (in jest, of course), but made it through our Pledge of Allegiance.

David, coming from higher education, didn't particularly see Rotary as a fit for him. But, one fateful day, as he walked his dog on the golf course, he ran into **Judie Coleman**, a force to be reckoned with when it comes to bringing people into Rotary. She's very persistent and, 3 weeks in a row, she picked him up and dragged him to Rotary meetings, until he finally relented and joined. He said that for years he came to meetings sporadically, not really seeing the 'big picture' until he was asked to be president. The training he went through and the help he received from our members, brought it all home to him.

David talked about how wonderful **Art** has been throughout his journey as our president, and **Val Hulsey** for everything (Club Secretary, Lieutenant to the District Governor, and System Administrator for the District,) and **John Derby** for suggesting this town hall-type meeting today (as John played "Hail to the Chief" from his computer).

Board of Directors 2023-2024



David mentioned a few of the changes in our Board of Directors and other positions. **Daymon Doss** will be our Head Crab, along with the other duties he performs. **Marcel Coder** will take over as Community Service Director. **Jim Allen** is heading up the new Environmental Director and is looking for volunteers to help him out on this new venture. **John Derby** takes over as International Service Director, formerly directed by **David Beach**. David and Art will be the Membership Directors and welcomed our recent new members Valerie Oliver and Matt Lewis.

- ❖ Membership: Bring in 10 new members by the end of the Rotary year.
- ❖ Engage the membership in community projects.
- ❖ Have a plethora fun activities

David covered the projects he'd like to see worked on here in Oakmont. **Art** spoke first about his disappointment in not being able to move forward with "Care Partners", which would create a space

Project Ideas

❖Oakmont

- Veteran's Day Parade Traffic Control
- Dementia Project.
- Fix-it Fair.
- Computer scams
- Benches

❖Community Service

- Desks For Kids
- Sierra Gardens
- Food Bank

❖Youth Service

- Whitehead School Reading Program
- Student of the Month.
- Music/Dementia Project.
- Scholarships

❖Environment

❖Other Ideas? Comments?

such as the West Rec where dementia patients could be dropped off for a short time by their caregivers for creative adventures for the patient and some valuable time free for caregivers. As it turned out, many bumps in the road were felt and it looks as though that might not happen. Art also started our club assisting Oakmont Kiwanis with the Veteran's Day Parade and Celebration here in Oakmont and he'd like to see that continue.

Our guest, Tim Gennert of Oakmont Computers, suggested we put on a "Fix-It Fair", where we offer to help Oakmonters fix things and even help them with small projects in their home. In the past, our club offered to help residents change the batteries in their smoke detectors and change furnace filters.

Tim Gennert also gave a short talk about the many recent computer scams, which have duped the elderly into giving them thousands and tens of thousands of their dollars. It's his priority to educate folks on how to determine if something on the computer is real or a scam.

In the past, our club participated in Sierra Gardens, across Hwy 12 from Oakmont. Sierra Gardens still needs our help. **Karen King**, Zooming in from Montana, remarked that our former member, Susan Boak, was very involved in Sierra Gardens, but moved away to Fairfield. She still comes to the Gardens to help. They are open on Saturdays from 8:30-noon and some weekdays. Contact Liz Moore who also works in the Garden if you want more info.

Daymon Doss talked about a food packaging program he learned about at a District Conference in 2018, where food packages were assembled and sent around the world. Our club was scheduled to be involved in this program until COVID hit. He wondered if we'd be interested in doing this type of project or maybe something closer to home. Our club has always been involved with Redwood Empire Food Bank, mostly financially, but several years ago, we held our meeting at their warehouse out off Airport Blvd, learned about this incredibly huge operation, and then helped by bagging carrots for several hours. It was quite an eye-opener and a feel-good for several hours.

We discussed several projects relating to Youth Services. In the past, we had a reading program at Whitehead Elementary School, where the 1st-grade students read to us. It's a very delightful and fulfilling brief interaction with the children. Also, our pet project has always been our Student of the Month award that we gave to a student the school/teacher/principal has chosen as an exemplary student worthy of acknowledgment.

Another project we did in the past involving middle school students was our Music/Dementia Program. We paired several of our members with several middle school students and introduced them to dementia patients at a local care facility. We asked the patient what type of music they liked and then had the students load that music to an iPod with earbuds. We then presented each patient with the music and watched their reaction. Not just the patient's reactions, but also the students, many of whom had never been around a dementia patient. We were also able to contact relatives if the patient wasn't able to convey the information to us. It was an incredible meeting

to see everyone's reactions to the music. Some patients who perhaps never uttered a word would start singing or moving their arms and feet to the music that perhaps took them back to happier times. The students, our members, and the hospital staff all enjoyed this program.

As our time ran out, and much more to talk about, we touched on the Oakmont Bench project that we did several years ago and continue to clean a couple of times a year. It was brought up that one of the benches on Pythian had been destroyed, wiped out, and the city had filled in the post holes that held the bench. We're hoping we can figure out how to replace that bench and continue this project.

Chris Severson is looking for a volunteer to replace him at the Raffle desk. Craig said he's staying, but Chris needs a break. He said it's a great way to get to know our members!

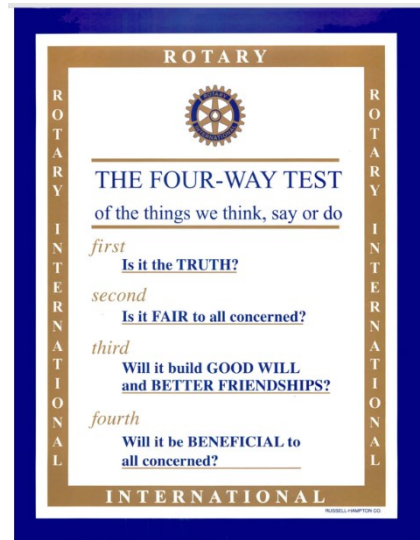
ADJOURNMENT:

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:



7/6/23 – Sturgeon Mill, Bill Hanson
7/13/23 – Conservation Corps North Bay.
Anastasia Pryor
7/20/23 – Open
7/27/2023 ADVO Kids, Margaret Coyne, ED



MEMBERSHIP:

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?

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. Guests and potential Rotarians are invited twice at the Club's expense.

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

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

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Introducing 2023-24 Rotary Theme:

