



# The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

January 15, 2014

## Committees Launched

How can a small club grow and be more effective? By working together. That was the theme at the January 8<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting where 21 members met in various committees they had signed up for. Each committee plans to set goals and help the club accomplish them. They will meet periodically. Here's their progress so far:

**Work Projects** – This group should keep our club's stellar history of community work projects going. **Don** (chair), **TomB**, **Gary**, **Jan**, **Mel**, **Bill** and **Howard** barely sat down for their organizing meeting before they jumped up to visit the Red Cross house down the street. They inspected the front steps and figured out how to repair them. They also checked some damage on Rianda House caused by a leaking downspout. As soon as they have Board approval for this project they'll announce the date. Chairman Don thinks our club could do 10 projects this year, "maybe one every month or so." His committee is ready. All club members, of course, are invited to join them on work days.



Last summer our club built benches, decks and furniture for Bothe Park.

**Membership** – The club roster is a tad slim right now and this committee intends to do something about it. But **Jeff** (chair), **George**, **Jim**, **BobB** and **BobM** aren't just focused on recruiting new members. They want to "start with the base" by making sure that our current members stay informed and engaged. They hope *The Bung Starter* will help. In addition, each committee member will maintain contact with five club members throughout the year. [Have you been contacted yet?] They will follow up absences, get feedback about club activities and solicit names of possible new members. Speaking of new members, the committee made a list of places to look for potential recruits. They will organize events to attract guests, but first they want to be sure that our current members are involved and that it's easy to see what our club is about.

**Publicity & Community Outreach** How does the public find out about Kiwanis? And how does our club find out about the community? Those questions will be tackled by **Lowell** (chair), **Lester**, **Steve**, **Mel** and **Jay**. At their first meeting their goals "centered around getting all members involved in recruiting speakers," said Lowell. "We outlined a schedule to have each club member invite two speakers during the 50-week year." The committee's next task will be to develop strategies for informing the public about Kiwanis. Maybe ads or *Star* articles or social media or even a speakers' bureau. It's hard to say what this group might come up with.



Even a drought presents opportunity.

**Fundraising** – Raising money is vital to our club's mission – plenty of worthy causes need our support – but it can be a challenge. Luckily, our club has a creative committee that sees every challenge as an opportunity and every pocket as a target for fleecing. **Jay** (chair), **Steve**, **Lester**, **TomD** and **David** will swap their ideas for monetary acquisition at a meeting on 1/22. It may be a blockbuster event or a series of modest fundraisers like the beer booth and golf tournament.

**Builders Club & Youth** – Kiwanis exists to serve children and this committee keeps us on target. **Donalee** (chair), **Lowell**, **Jeff**, and **BobM** will continue supporting the Builders Club at RLS Middle School, coordinate our annual scholarship program and recommend donations to local youth programs. "The Builders Club meets weekly," says Donalee. "Kiwanis Club members are welcome to attend. We should have stuff to report soon."

The Kiwanis Club of  
St. Helena, a chapter in good  
standing of  
Kiwanis International  
since 1950,  
is dedicated to serving the  
Community of St. Helena.

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### The Powers That Be Club Officers 2013-2014

President	Lester Hardy
President Elect	Bob Matheny
Vice President	Tom Davis
Secretaries	Mike Hardy Howard Walker
Treasurer	Jeff Farmer
Past President	Lester Hardy
Directors	Bob Beckstrom Tom Belt Donalee Shackelford Lowell Smith

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### Kiwanis Foundation

President	George Watson
Directors	

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### Committee Chairs

Fundraising	Jay Lewis
Membership	Jeff Farmer
Projects	Don Richardson
Publicity	Lowell Smith
Youth	Donalee Shackelford

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### The Bung Starter

An almost regular publication of  
the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena.

Editor	Bob Beckstrom bbeckstrom@pacunion.com
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# This Week at the Club

## The Heights... and the Depths

(January 15) Our **Lest**'rious Leader boinked the bell and the meeting began with singing... such as it was... and pledging. Then **Lowell** stepped onto the balcony, adjusted his robes, scanned the assembled throng and issued appropriate wisdom: "The bad news is that there is no key to happiness. The good news is that it isn't locked." With spirits lifted and appetites keen, 18 Kiwanians formed a conga line at **Tony's** table for another fabulous breakfast, enjoyed amidst laughter and friendly banter. Apparently wanting to stop the merriment, His Leadership stepped up to the podium and told some jokes... actually "anti-jokes"... "Why did the girl fall off the swing?" etc... which had the predictable effect of a group groan. When will he learn? So **LeaderLes** tried something else: "Any visitors?" **TomD** jumped up and introduced "our esteemed Supervisor, **Diane Dillon**, our speaker for today." Then dollars ensued. Note that they didn't include fines for groaning at El Prez' jokes, a potential source of *mega* revenue. **Bill** paid a Sad\$ for being asked by a custodian in the school yard if he's still on the City Council. "Is that what I'll always be known for?" **Lowell** confirmed it with another Sad\$. "When the City raised water rates a couple years ago I got 20 phone calls... gave them Del's number." **TomB** had a Happy\$... "I have 3 children and 2 of them have kids. Now the third, the middle one... my favorite [The other 2 better not see this.]... is going to have a baby." **BobM** followed with a H\$ for 49ers football. **TomD** heard the word football and jumped up with a H\$ because "the Nittany Lions have a new coach." "They'd better not let him in the shower," quipped Lowell. **JimA** paid a H\$ "because spring training is in only 2 months... Giants of course." **El Prez**, noting all the Happy\$\$, said it must be a happy day. **Mike** went bah humbug and paid a Sad\$ for the "not happy thought about the rain storm last week... 1/10 inch." But **Lester** persisted with a H\$ of his own. "I saw *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*... 20 minutes filmed in Iceland... fabulously beautiful... made me want to go back there." [He was probably talking about scenery, but doesn't Iceland have the world's most beautiful women?] And then it happened. Right in the middle of our dignified deliberations some nitwit's cell phone rang. The startled Lester smelled a \$ and immediately fined **Don** for the egregious faux pas... only to find out too late that Don was Fine Free. "It's his girlfriend calling." [unattributed source] Which prompted **Lowell** to tell a great story from the early Kiwanis days. Only in this club. Moving on... "Any birthdays this week?" wondered **El Prez**. **Lowell** has one... and received singing. He took it fairly well and our visitor didn't bolt from the room, so clearly the song wasn't up to standards. Then **El Prez** wondered if anybody has an anniversary. **Don** does, but this reporter didn't note whether Don remembered it or had to be reminded. But he did remember the year: 1978. Those who did the math (36 years) commended Don approvingly... while contemplating how to send Rhonda their condolences.

Announcements: 1) **Howard** announced a Super Bowl party at his house on 2/1. 2) **TomB** said, "**Jay** asked me to tell everyone that his email about the fundraising committee meeting wasn't for today; it's next week." 3) **Lester** needs more riders for the 1/23 DCM in Vallejo. 4) **Don** announced, "As soon as the board approves it, our next work project is at the Red Cross House... rebuild steps.. maybe Rianda House too. I also contacted the RowTerryClub to see if they have any \$\$ to throw at us." Howls. 5) **Mike** added, "Speaking of R Club, I spoke with 2 members and they suggest we share ideas about projects, community needs, etc... send reps to respective board meetings." More howls. So Lester called for a vote: ayes carried.

Drawings: Lester is Fine Free. **Donalee** lost her marbles. Good Guy didn't happen.



## Supervisor Dillon Addresses Club

Wednesday's guest speaker, County Supervisor Diane Dillon, is no stranger to our club. "I think I know everybody in this room."

Her first topic was the current battle over Indian gaming rights. "This is a threat to the Napa Valley, with problems of lifestyle, traffic, employment (low pay) and a sovereign entity with no tax revenue. It's now a state-wide issue. 1/4 of casinos in the U.S. are in California. 1/4 of Indian tribes in the U.S. are in California."

After testifying at a U.S. Senate hearing she noted, "Senator Diane Feinstein believes that California shouldn't have a disproportionate share of these impacts."

"In 1988 two states had casinos. Now 47 states do. California has 10,000 acres of tribal land. In 2003 Napa County was fighting this issue alone. Now it's a statewide issue."

"Initially, the BIA said that the Mishewal Wappos weren't a tribe, but

federal judges don't use the same criteria. The government sees this as a source of revenue. Now they don't need to spend so much money on Indians."

Asked to predict the success of her efforts on a scale of 1 to 10, she figured "a 5 or 6." She also said, "The vintners are engaged in this issue." Noting that 273 applications for tribal status are pending with the BIA (1/4 from California), she said, "developers tend to lose interest if they see that a project will take a long time."

Her second topic was the fiscal situation in Napa County. "The auditor's report was issued yesterday and we're in great shape. We have a high bond rating, which is good because we're going to build a new jail for \$100 million."

She discussed how mental health issues impact the criminal justice system, especially county jails. "Too many folks in the system have mental health issues. The State has said they'll send their overflow to counties. On any given night we have 230 inmates. If 5 are added from the state hospital that'll have a huge effect on the budget. We've got to break the cycle."

On the bright side she reported that Napa County property values remained high through the recession, keeping the revenue side strong. "We've always been mean and lean."

Finally, she discussed Napa Pipe, which she supports because the City of Napa agreed to take 80% of the County's housing requirement. It could also alleviate some commute traffic (30% of workers live outside the county) and long Costco trips.

## El Prez Sez...

As we launch into 2014 I want to lay out my plans for the rest of the Kiwanis year, which ends in October. Our club is still vital and strong, but our numbers have dwindled a bit and we need to improve in some areas. My goals for the coming year are simple:

- 1) Grow from the current membership of 29 members to at least 32.
- 2) Continue fundraising with 4-5 smaller events netting \$4,000 each.
- 3) Continue our sponsorship and support of the Builders Club.
- 4) Continue our community support by completing at least 4 community service projects and donating at least \$20,000 to scholarship and youth funds.

To accomplish these goals I propose that we organize and energize a robust committee system. Instead of 10-12 separate chairmen functioning as individuals, we will focus on five strong committees with 5-6 members each (in addition to customary Officer and Board functions). Each of us should serve on one of these committees for the coming year. These committees will meet regularly and support each other in their efforts. We are all busy and have many commitments, but there is strength in numbers and we can accomplish a great deal by working with others. Please estimate how much time you are willing to spend on one of these committees next year and what ideas and skills you can bring to it.

## Board of Directors Meeting Summary

**January 6, 2014 Present:** L Hardy, M Hardy, D Shackelford, B Beckstrom, T Davis, J Farmer, L Smith, T Belt and J Darter. Oct-Dec financials. J. Farmer reported all but 2 of the over90 day delinquencies have been resolved. Q1 financials showed a much lower net income than the same period last year. Farmer said this was due primarily to a change from accrual accounting to cash basis accounting, causing some expenses to be accelerated.

Criminal background checks. A recent directive from national Kiwanis requires them for youth group leaders, and training sessions for all other members. Methods of getting this accomplished were proposed, such as Boys & Girls Club to help.

Donation requests. Board reviewed donation requests from 12 local organizations and selected 8 to present to the Kiwanis Foundation, pending presentation of a balance sheet from the Foundation. Criteria were: 1.Child serving and 2.Upvalley impact. The final decision will include 3.Resources available and 4.Need.

Kiwanis Foundation.It was moved and carried to appoint George Watson as president of the Foundation Board (he has volunteered)-since it appears Jay has too little time available. Directors need to be appointed as well.

# CLUB CALENDAR

**Every Wednesday** – Club Meeting at American Legion Hall, 7:30 a.m.

**January 22** – Guest speaker is Jay Templeton, Boys & Girls Club

**January 22** – Fundraising Committee meets at 9:15. Contact Jay.

**January 23** – DCM in Vallejo at 6:00. Contact Lester.

**January 29** – Guest speaker is Gary Lieberstein, Napa County DA

**February 2** – Super Bowl party at Howard and Lyndal's

**February 3** – Kiwanis Board Meeting at 5:00

**February 5** – Guest speaker TBA

**February 6** – DCM planning lunch with Yountville Kfolks at Armadillos

## Special Notices

1. Membership Committee seeks ideas for potential club members. Contact Jeff, George, BobB or BobM.

2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Lester, Steve, David or TomD.

### Worthy Causes

**January 25** - St. Helena Chamber of Commerce annual dinner

## Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

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