



The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

October 1, 2014

Installation Dinner No. 64

Since 1950 our club has installed officers and directors every year at a special event. The legacy continued last Thursday night as 30 members and guests enjoyed a superb dinner at **Bob & Cindy Matheny's** home. An early threat of rain, which never materialized, didn't dampen the festive atmosphere.

Perhaps the most cheerful attendee was **President/Past-President Lester**. When asked what he considered to be the highlight of his 2 years leading the club he quickly replied, "Discovering jokes.com." He added, "[Being Prez] was such a traumatic experience that I forgot how to shave." When asked what advice he had for his successor he didn't miss a beat. "Leave town." On a more serious note, he reminisced about his earliest memory of Kiwanis. "On my first trip to Napa Valley I biked with a friend to St. Helena. I looked up at the welcome sign and wondered, "What does that K stand for? My friend said Kiwanis. I asked, But what does it mean?" **Lester**, perplexed by that question ever since, finally found the answer. While being de-installed by **Jay** he googled the term, studied the responses and announced to everyone: "It depends."

As for other attendees, one member's wife had the best comment of the night. Looking at her husband, she sighed, "I can't believe he got out of the house with those shoes on."

Another member was equally clueless about club protocol. He wore a coat and tie.

First Lady **Cindy** was quite impressed (and relieved) by the cleanup job her guests did. "You guys are great!" she gushed. So was her party.



Members and guests visit while enjoying the beautiful fall evening.



Jay gives Lester a new title – Past Prez – but Lester gets the final word



Lt. Gov Jay officially installs the man of the hour, President Bob.



Don displays his well-deserved Distinguished Service Award.



Piece of cake.

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.

The Powers That Be Club Officers 2014-2015

President Bob Matheny
President Elect Tom Davis
Vice President Tom Belt
Secretary Bob Beckstrom
Treasurer Jeff Farmer
Past President Lester Hardy
Directors
Gary Bogle
John Ponte
Donalee Shackelford
Lowell Smith

Kiwanis Foundation

President George Watson
Officers and Directors Jan Darter
Tom Davis
Jeff Farmer
Bob Matheny
Bill Savidge
Lowell Smith

Committee Chairs

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

The Bung Starter

An almost regular publication of
the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena
with an 81.25% on-time record.
“We don’t print retractions.”

Editor Bob Beckstrom
bbeckstrom@pacunion.com
Reporter Bill Savidge

Last Week at the Club

The Heights... and the Depths

The Installation Dinner was great fun but some business was also conducted. After guests had a chance to enjoy the meal **Jay** took the podium (it’s still missing). “Kiwanis likes to do things official,” he began. For a guy who has to conduct 14 of these things you could tell he was happy to be with his homies. “I’ll start by asking all the old Board members to come forward.” It’s surprising how many people got up when he said “old.” Once assembled, the outgoing Directors and Officers were thanked for their service and sent back to their tables. **Lester** lingered, however, to read his Google highlights about the meaning of Kiwanis. “One source says the name **Kiwanis** is borrowed from a Native American phrase, *Nunc Kee-wanis*, meaning, ‘We trade’ or ‘We trade our talents.’ Another source says it means, ‘We make ourselves known.’ Another says, ‘Stand tall’ derived from the Sioux Indian language.’ Another: ‘We have a good time. We make noise.’” I’d like to think it means, “We build.”

The installation of new officers was highlighted by the passing of the gavel to our new President, **Bob Matheny**. “This gavel is special. It was my father’s. He was President of Kiwanis in Oakland. I don’t remember a whole lot, but I remember the passing of fines. I found this gavel a few months ago in my attic. It says ‘President, 1954.’

“It occurs to me that one of the instruments we have internally is the *Bung Starter*. It’s a great communication tool and we should all be using it. As for my thoughts about taking on the Presidency, we all agree on the need to grow. But it’s more than standing on a street corner and recruiting. It’s more about what we do. The key is to activate ourselves on the levels we really enjoy. We have a committee structure but I want it to be more viable, visible. **Don**’s been doing a great job with the work projects committee. **Donalee** has been great with the Builder’s Club but she needs help. Builders Club had a very active group of 8th graders so we should look at developing a Key Club in the High School.

“We’ve also improved in getting speakers on board but we have to keep it going. Get people who are active in our community. It’s invigorating to see the number of visitors we’ve had to hear our speakers. My goal is for the speaker calendar to be filled a month ahead of time. Everybody can participate in that.

“There are a lot of other things we can do... membership...one thing you can do right now is take one of these free breakfast cards and write on it the name of person you can approach. If everybody does one each, one step at a time, we will grow.

“And now I’d like to finish by recognizing someone special in this group. The Board has voted to recognize one of our members with a Distinguished Service Award for an outstanding job this year. **Don**, will you come forward? As chairman of the work projects committee you have done an outstanding job of organizing work days and motivating members to participate. Thank you.”

Announcements: 1) **Lester** reminds us about his beard contest. He will donate \$25 to the Foundation on behalf of the first person who guesses his costume for Halloween. Clue: 12/31/58. Lester is earnest about this.

Drawings from 9/17: Jester – **TomB** Fine Free – **John** Marble Game – **TomB**

Breakfast by Committee

A flurry of emails occurred this week between board members, wondering what to do about breakfast. The current plan is for a “Food King” to coordinate a light breakfast each week. **Lester** has volunteered for October “My concept is to divide the breakfast into three components,” he writes, “with one person responsible each week for one of the following bits: (1) coffee, (2) bakery products, and (3) everything else, including fruit, yoghurt and condiments. I’m going to be the everything-else guy.”

BobM volunteered to bring bakery products. **Jeff** will pick up coffee at the Coffee Roasting Company and **BobB** will investigate the cost of a Kuerig system for the long term.

Costs and adjusted breakfast charges will be discussed at Monday’s board meeting, as well as a long-term plan.

Picking Grapes

Last Wednesday, since no Kiwanis meeting was scheduled, **BobB** invited club members to help him pick grapes from his vineyard. It became an ad hoc work project since **Don** announced that no October project has been scheduled, and Bob is happy to make a donation to the SH Kiwanis Foundation for the help. The turnout was good. **Don**, **TomB**, **Gary**, **Jan**, **Donalee**, **Jay** and **Karen** helped Bob and his professional picker.



Jay, Jan, TomB and Donalee living the Napa Valley life... but they'll probably keep their day jobs.

More Dinner Scenes



Incoming Board members Jeff, Donalee, BobM, Gary, Lowell, TomB and John (along with Lester, TomD and BobB) are ready for the new Kiwanis year.



Jan, TomB, Elaine, George, Howard, Lyndal and Lester enjoy the delicious dinner.



BobM and Jay start the show.



“Keep an eye on those funds, Jeff.”

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

Guinness World Record Holder

Longest continuous wine toast 10/7/12

CLUB CALENDAR

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

October 1 – Guest speaker, Alan Galbraith, SH Mayoral Candidate

October 6 – Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

October 8 – Guest speaker, Hydrologist Vicki Kretsinger on ground water

October 11 – 2nd Saturday Work Day (nothing scheduled yet)

October 15 – Guest speaker, Pam Dodson, Queen of the Valley Hospital

October 18 – Beer Booth, Hometown Harvest Festival

October 22 – Guest speaker, Pam Simpson, SH Chamber of Commerce

October 29 – Guest speaker John Sullivan, Kiwanis Regional Rep for P.E.

November 3 – Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Worthy Causes

October 8 – Napa Kiwanis Lobster Feed, Krug, kiwanisclubofnapa.org

October 13 – ICAN Golf Tournament, Napa Valley Country Club

Special Notices

1. Membership Committee seeks names for potential club members. Contact Jeff, George, BobB or BobM.
2. Fundraising Committee seeks dollars. Contact Jay, Lester or TomD.
4. Publicity and Outreach Committee needs your help lining up weekly speakers. Contact Lowell.

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

P.O. Box 362

St. Helena, CA 94574