



The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

February 5, 2014

Builders Club Plans Service Projects



*Builders Club President **Jerry Schweitzer** leads a discussion at the club's meeting last Wednesday. Valentine's Day was a popular subject.*

"Love is in the air at RLS Middle School," reports **Donalee**, our Youth Committee chair. "The Builders Club spent most of last week's meeting discussing their upcoming Valentine's Day candy-gram fundraiser. This event will be held for 5 days, with students setting up 2 booths on campus. All proceeds from this project will be donated to the local Red Cross.

"Students also plan to make Valentine's cards as a community service gesture to be distributed at SH Hospital on Valentine's Day. Upcoming projects include painting the dugouts and general maintenance of the fields at Crane Park to get ready for little league season. That workday will take place on March 1st, starting at 9 a.m. Members of our Kiwanis Club are welcome to help out."

The Builders Club at RLS Middle School is certainly getting into gear. Those plans are only some of the ideas that students had proposed earlier and did some research on. Two other projects that the students considered are participating in a cleanup day at Bothe Park and helping with the annual Veterans Home Cemetery cleanup in May. When Donalee says that the club has around 15 active members, "active" may be an understatement. Whew!

Our Kiwanis Club can be proud to sponsor the Builders Club. We certainly look forward to Builders Club members joining us at our Kiwanis breakfast on March 5.

Super Bowl Get-Together

Sunday's Super Bowl game may not have lived up to its billing but the party at **Howard** and **Lyndal**'s house certainly did. As usual, a group of hungry, thirsty and lively Kiwanians, plus a few attachments, gathered in Howard's man-cave for a rainy afternoon. Club members **Drew**, **BobB**, **Jan**, **TomD**, **Steve**, **Jeff**, **Lester**, **BobM**, **John**, **Lowell**, **George** and **Howard** showed up, along with **Lyndal**, **Marielle**, **Kim** and **LindaB**.

What was not to like? Even the lame game had entertaining ads and plenty of high-stakes (\$1) fundraising. Most proceeds went to nonprofits **BobB**, **BobM** and **George**. Then there was Napa Valley wine and a meal featuring pork loin grilled by Hot Meat Howard. Seattle won, which explains the rain.



"How could they flub a coin toss!?"



"Payton should have audibled a deep post, not that silly screen pass."

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

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Committee Chairs

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The Bung Starter

An almost regular publication of
the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena.
“We don’t print retractions.”

Editor Bob Beckstrom
bbeckstrom@pacunion.com
Reporters Bill Savidge
Ryterz Block

This Week at the Club

The Heights... and the Depths

(January 29) **Lester** swung the bung starter, which led to a bong, which led to a song, which led to a pledge, which led to **Lowell**: “Here’s some wisdom from Linus Pauling, two-time Nobel Laureate from Oregon State. ‘Do unto others 20% better than you would expect them to do unto you (to correct for subjective error).’” By the way, the bung starter mentioned above, wielded by the worthy Lord **Lester**, was the Bung Starter, our club’s gavel on steroids that has the power to bring order out of chaos ... not this B.S., which probably has the opposite effect. Next was breakfast, followed by the serious and formal portion of the meeting. “I’ve searched the internet many times for jokes about Kiwanians,” said **Lester**, “but had no success... R-club has a whole page telling jokes about themselves... 3 R-Club members... golf... sure is windy today... [punch line].” You had to be there. Then, “Are there any guests?” **Bill** introduced the distinguished **John Mulhner**, “from the Rotary Club.” **Mel** introduced guest speaker **Gary Lieberstein**, Napa County District Attorney. **TomB** pad a S\$: Pete Seeger passed away. **Jeff** paid “a couple H\$\$... 10 days in Maryland with my daughter... re-learned how to shovel snow... close-to-home-experience... daughter went to movie theater by the one that had a shooting.” **Jay** paid a dual\$. “Happy and Sad because I’ll be gone... going to Florida, then NY.” **TomB** paid a S\$ “because City Council met last night and passed Phase II water rationing... 75 gal/person... SH worse off than neighboring cities.” **Mel** paid “an info\$... Lowell and I were on the Council during the last drought... no rationing ... sailed through it.” **Lowell** confirmed with “a corollary\$... didn’t wash my car for 2 years [‘What’s new?’]” zinged **Howard** and when I finally did someone caught me.” **MikeH** paid a S\$ “for the 49ers.” **BobB** paid a S\$ “because I reported in the B.S. about our new member, **David Bowyer**... spelled his name wrong. I notice he isn’t here this morning.” **Lester** paid 5 S\$\$\$\$ “because there’s no Mister Good Guy this morning.” **TomB** took offense and complained. **Jeff** piled on. “When I was back East I got a text... can u b mr. GG tomorrow?”... Then he added, “Just text everybody and the first one who responds is Mr. Good Guy.” **Lester** changed the subject... quickly. “Any birthdays?” “Yes, said **Bill**. “Our guest is 76 today.” **John** endured our song and quickly discovered the difference between our club and his: they croon in tune. “One of our better renditions” was nevertheless one person’s verdict.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) **Don** proudly hailed, “We did the Red Cross steps project Saturday. I’d like to finish the painting this morning... take about an hour... let’s meet at 9:00.” With rain clouds threatening, **Lester** wisely asked for a show of hands. One. Best to wait. 2) **John Muhlner** brought greetings from the Rotary Club. “Being the president is an interesting ride. I’ve enjoyed it... Congratulations on your work project... I’ve been trying to get our club to do a project...I’m here for the Navy Seals Foundation... returning vets... helping families... This Friday at the Cameo Theater we have a fundraiser... *Lone Survivor*... wine reception, then movie, then dinner here. Tickets are \$75.” 3) **Mel** suggested that someone should pay a fine for the number of times the R-word was mentioned this morning.

DRAWINGS: **Drew** won the drawing for Fine Free. **Jim** tried the marble game – he’ll keep his day job.

Note: The pot is up to \$285 and there are 19 marbles left.



Napa County DA Reviews His Job

Gary Lieberstein, Napa County District Attorney, visited our club on Wednesday to speak about the job of DA and some of his goals for the office. He was invited by Mel, who endorses Gary for re-election.

Gary has been in the DA's office since 1985 and was first elected District Attorney in 1998. He emphasized that his job is "not just locking people up, but using other means to improve the quality of life, especially for victims."

"Yesterday I spoke to students at Silverado Middle School, which I like to do. Early education is important, especially things like drug and alcohol abuse and awareness of the justice system. I said, 'Think of me as in charge of the Super Bowl timeouts of Napa County.'"

One of his priorities is helping victims of crime. "I'm an unabashed victim advocate since I started." He describes his goal as transforming victims into survivors. He's on a statewide board for victim's rights and advocates for truth in sentencing issues and victim services. "My office took over from a nonprofit volunteer center 3 years ago. We run a crisis hotline, NEWS (Napa Emergency Women's Service), and do all their cases."

Gary recited his office's mission statement, which he crafted when he took office, and about the office itself. "We have 58 staff and 21 lawyers, which, I guess, makes us the biggest law firm in the County. We have our own police force with 11 full time officers and over 30 part time. We work carefully with law enforcement; we are not allowed to file a case unless we believe we could win in court. 98% of cases are plea arranged. We prosecute 1,500 felony cases a year."

"We have an active Consumer and Environmental Unit. A recent case that will be in the news involves an Ohio marketing company... engaged in unfair business practices. The owner doesn't think we have jurisdiction over his activities. His reaction is to threaten the DA with a recall. We had the ability to join with other California counties and got a \$2m settlement."

"A new program is our Worker's Compensation Fraud Unit, which covers employees [fraudulent claims] and employers [premium fraud], as well as unlicensed contractor activity."

"We are active in protecting the elderly from abuse and helped create the Napa County Caregiver Ordinance, which requires all in-home caregivers to undergo a background check and annual licensing."

"The biggest change in the criminal justice system in 30 years has been Realignment, a response to the state's overcrowded prisons. A 3-judge panel mandated the prison population be reduced from 170k to 120k, which puts a burden on county and local jails." Besides adding to our local jail population, the mandate makes non-violent, nonserious offenders not eligible for prison and therefore more likely to get reduced sentences. "Our County jail has 262 beds, which are always full. We also have a horrible problem with Napa State patients being put in our jail."

As for crime trends, Gary said, "80% of my business is alcohol and drug abuse related; the other 20% is mental illness." Also, "property crime is going up."

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

by Secretary Mike

February 3, 2014 Present: BMatheny, MHardy, JFarmer, BBeckstrom, L Smith GWatson (Foundation Pres.); Absent: LHardy, TDavis, TBelt, DShakleford

Minutes, January 6. Read & approved.

Oct-Jan Financials. Discussed problem of fluctuating income from membership dues relative to fixed breakfast cost. JFarmer will review contract and procedures.

Resignation of Charles Dunn accepted.

Old Business: Donations. Discussion of available resources for funding previous donation requests. The Foundation has a limited cash fund and a relatively modest equities investment. GWatson and TDavis were delegated to draft a donations budget with income goals, donation limits and investment goals, with a clear policy for dealing with equities income (i.e., spend or reinvest).

Fundraising. Discussion of how much money the club should be raising and donating each year and where it would come from. Further study.

City's Welcome Sign. Board approved a work project to refurbish the welcome sign south of town.

Membership Committee

By Chair Jeff

Dateline January 31, 2014 – St. Helena NEWSFLASH-NOFORM/PRIORITY LEV1 Kiwanians' phones are ringing off the hook. The Committee is contacting every Kiwanian to find out how they see the Club, get suggestions for improvement, and how to attract and retain new members. If you haven't been interrogated by the time you read this please email/call me. The survey will be done by mid-February at which point the Committee will report to the club with action plans.

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.

February 3 – Board meeting, 5:00 p.m.

February 5 – Guest speaker, Tom Kensok, candidate for Napa Co. DA

February 5 – Membership Committee meets, 8:45 a.m.

February 6 – DCM planning lunch with Yountville Kfolks at Armadillos

February 12 – Guest speaker TBA

February 14 – Valentine's Day

March 3 – Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

March 5 – Guest speaker: Builder's Club Presentation

Worthy Causes

March 1 – Builders Club paints little league dugouts, 9 a.m.

March 1 – Boys & Girls Club, *Ragin' Cajun*, Castello di Amorosa

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, Steve, David or TomD.
4. Publicity and Outreach Committee needs your help lining up weekly speakers. Contact Lowell, Lester, Steve, Mel or Jay.

Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

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