



The **BUNG STARTER**

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

November 5, 2014

Slow News Week

With apologies to our readers, we couldn't come up with any news for this week except to say that the Board Meeting on Monday didn't have a quorum. The agenda included several interesting and timely topics, including breakfasts, beer sales report, a work project at the post office, Christmas party and fund raising ideas. It is not known at this time if the meeting will be re-convened this month, or postponed to the regular monthly time on December 1.

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 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."

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 Reporter Bill Savidge

Last Week at the Club

The Heights... and the Depths

Prez **BobM** got the ball rolling with the bell tolling, which led to a song followed by Words of Wisdom from **Lowell**. "When you are dead, you don't know that you're dead. It's difficult only for the others. It is the same when you are stupid." As several members stood in stunned silence, shaking their heads, then grinning and chuckling, the rest headed for the food table. **BobM** then got the meeting under way with, "Any guests?" **Lowell** introduced guest speaker **Dr. Ronald Kraft**, President of Napa Valley College. **BobB** introduced **Geoff Ellsworth**, "here for the umpteenth time." Then Prez **Bob** asked who is Jester for the day. **Gary** stood up and cleared his throat. "I think I have one that's not too off-color. Do you know the difference between a Catholic priest, Protestant minister and Jewish rabbi in respect to how they believe life begins? The priest believes it begins at conception. The minister believes it begins at birth. The rabbi believes it begins [punch line]." The next order of business was H/\$\$\$\$. **Geoff**, by now familiar with the process, paid a H\$ "for the Oregon Ducks." **Jay** paid a H\$ "because the Royals won last night." **BobB** paid a H\$ "for the Giants, who've got the Royals right where they want 'em." **BobM**, looking over the birthday list, declared, "It looks like **BobB** is our birthday boy this morning." He barely said the name before singing oozed onto the floor. Enjoying his moment, **BobB** stood up during the song and snapped a selfie. Then **BobM** asked if there is a Good Guy? **BobB** stood again – are you seeing the pattern here? – and fingered a few hand shirkers.

Announcements: **1)** A distinguished visitor from the Greater Napa Club, whose name escaped this reporter, announced her club's Shop-With-a-Cop program for helping disadvantaged kids in Napa. The fundraiser is a Casino Royale Night at Lincoln Theater on November 15. Tickets are \$45. **2)** **Bill** announced another Casino Royale Night for Rianda House, taking place at Charles Krug Winery on November 8. Tickets are \$150 at the door. **3)** **Lester** announced that his beard mystery has been solved and he is donating \$25 to the SH Kiwanis Foundation. The clues were 12/31/58, and Cuba. **TomB** guessed correctly that the beard is for Ernest Hemmingway. **4)** **BobM** announced that our club will serve dinner for the American Legion on Tuesday, November 11, starting at 5:00 or so. **TomB, Lester, Howard, Drew, Lowell and BobB** volunteered to help.

Drawings: Jester – **TomB** Fine Free – **Drew** Marbles – **Lester**



Hemmingway meets Fidel – 1960



Hemmingway meets Fidel -- 2014

College Try



[October 29] Guest speaker **Dr. Ronald Kraft**, President of Napa Valley College, describes community college as “the absolute most wonderful stratum of education in the world.”

“I’m a first generation college student... attended community college... not really a great student. I’ve taught high school and community college. I loved teaching, especially entrepreneurship. I wrote a book... a CEO bought it and I was soon hired by business... I speak educationaleze and businesseze. You have to be both.

“I ran the Washington State system... was vice chancellor... 34 colleges... now I have the dream job: Napa Community College. I love the size and scope. It took me about an hour to “get” the college with its ag/rural flavor... similar to East San Diego County before the city overran it.”

In summarizing the importance of community colleges Dr. Kraft said, “We’re a bargain. Ten years ago junior college was a second choice. Now it’s shifted. We’re the primary choice.”

Dr. Kraft talked about mission. “First, we are a transfer system, making it possible for students to attend a 4-year college. Second, we are a career and tech school for welding, respiratory therapy, etc. Third, we enable lifelong learning. We have programs in hospitality, viticulture. We are a community cultural center... and we push entrepreneurship.”

Dr. Kraft concluded by pitching for a yes vote on Measure E. “We need to build. We were conservative in the 1960s, 1980s. Now we need 4 more buildings.”

Member Profile:

George Watson



By Bill Savidge

George was born in San Francisco and grew up roaming parks in the US Army’s Presidio, shooting ducks, quail and squirrels and fishing. “Military was always after me. I’d hide in the bushes. Like in a movie, on the ground, looking through branches, I’d see the MP’s boots passing close by. They only caught me once.”

City life as a kid was different in those days. “I’d go to a late movie, stay all night and get home at six in the morning. But my mother let me do it.” His father was an investment banker; his mother raised George with his sister, two years older, in their Richmond District home. He delivered the daily SF Call-Bulletin, ushered and sold candy to patrons at the Coronet, Curran and Geary Theaters. “I also was a commercial fisherman.” At night George would fish the Presidio’s Mountain Lake or, with his sister’s adult male friends, in Carquinez Strait. “We’d sell striped bass to restaurants. And I’d get a nickel a pound for carp; they’d pickle them for gefilte fish.”

After graduating St. Ignatius High, George studied electrical engineering at UC Berkeley. In sports, “I was a skinny kid, but I won an intramural weightlifting championship at Cal as a freshman.” He earned his BS in 1957, his MS a year later. During his career, he held various pioneering design positions in aerospace engineering, five years in Los Angeles, then in Silicon Valley working on USAF navigation systems, interplanetary probe circuitry, NASA and military satellite tracking and testing, and as a consultant to the USAF on a variety of satellite programs. He retired in 2000.

George has deep roots in Napa Valley, which he first visited when he was only three years old. His grandfather, who moved to Napa from Texas, is buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Spring St; his mother went to high school in Napa. His interest in viticulture goes back to growing grapes at his Silicon Valley home in Los Gatos. He bought the Ehlers Lane property in 1982, made wine at “One Vineyard and Winery” from 1987-1999, and continues to be a farmer on the lane.

George is a two-time widower. “My wife, Elaine, intends to keep it that way.” Married in 1994, they have four adult children and four grandkids between them. Besides managing his five acre Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard, George enjoys baking bread and muffins, which “requires precision in each step, not the anything goes kind in cooking.” He still enjoys fishing, although without the commercial aspect of his youth.

A former two year Kiwanis Club president, George chairs the St. Helena Kiwanis Foundation and is a leader in many club activities, including scholarship, membership and work projects.

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.

November 5 – Guest speaker, John Sullivan - Kiwanis regional guy

November 8 – 2nd Saturday Work Day

November 11 – Kiwanis serves American Legion dinner, 5:00 p.m.

November 12 – Guest speaker, Jenny Ocone, Family Resource Ctr.

November 19 – Guest speaker, Marielle Coeytaux, on Bullying

November 26 – Guest speaker, Mary Ellen Makowski, We Care

November 27 – Help put up Holiday decorations on Main Street

December 1 – Kiwanis Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Worthy Causes

November 5 – 3rd Annual RLS Color Race fundraiser, 9:30 a.m.

November 8 – Rianda House fundraiser, Charles Krug Winery

November 15 – Greater Napa Kiwanis fundraiser, Lincoln Theater

November 18 – Napa Kiwanis Lobster Fest, Charles Krug Winery

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

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