



# The BUNG STARTER

Volume 2014

The Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

June 4, 2014

## Board Looks Ahead

Board members **Lester**, **BobM**, **Jan**, **TomD**, **Lowell** and **BobB** attended the monthly Officers and Directors meeting Monday, also attended by Foundation Director **George**. They approved the financial report and discussed this year's golf tournament. **Lowell** said that if Meadowood is not available, fees for using other courses would eat into the proceeds and probably not make the event worthwhile. That led to a short discussion of other fundraising ideas, including corkage programs, an antique fair, group rummage sale and Christmas tree sales.

Then the board heard a report from Foundation Director **George**, who concluded with a critical question. He noted that the club will probably donate about \$5,000 of the Foundation's assets per year and that it would take about 30 years to deplete the fund. "Who will spend it?" he wondered, given the club's present rate of attrition. In other words, will there be a club? What's our future?

Board members took the question seriously and began a strategic discussion about membership, club activities, participation, fundraising and morale. "I'm almost ashamed to invite speakers to our meetings," said **George**, "because attendance is so low." [It wasn't mentioned in the meeting but it should be noted here that in the last ten years attendance at club meetings has varied from 15 to 30, usually averaging in the low 20s.] It was also noted that other organizations are confronting similar issues. **Jan** said, "At least we don't have to worry about fundraising right now because of the Foundation. We can focus on membership and projects." **Lowell** suggested a budget line item for PR and promotion to increase community awareness. That led to a discussion of who the target audience should be. Suggestions included high school students wanting community service experience; Cameo movie patrons; the Latino community; possibly merging with another club; and Rianda House.

"We have to bring awareness to club members that we're in trouble," said **BobM**. "We need ideas from all members." **BobB** added that the club has strengths to build on, especially a strong core of dynamic and engaged members. **Lester** noted another strength: work projects. Turnouts have been good – 10 members helped with flags last weekend – and the projects create good will in the community. Noting that people respond to contests, **Lester** said, "Perhaps we could sponsor a contest to solicit ideas for service projects... The 3 Best Community Service Projects... it might generate enthusiasm and awareness." The group's focus shifted to leveraging the work projects by advertising them more and encouraging community members and organizations to join in. **BobB** volunteered to write copy and **Lester** will get it into the *SH Star*. "Start there and then move on," said **Jan**.

The Board agreed that increasing membership goes hand-in-hand with work projects, PR, fundraising and service. They are all related. The club should focus on doing a few things well, rather than a silver bullet to solve all problems. Our five committees are a good start. The Youth Committee has been successful with the Builders Club and scholarship program. Membership laid some groundwork but needs to build on it. Work Projects is on a roll but needs publicity. Community Outreach needs some help. Fundraising will have to wait.

## 2014 Kiwanis Scholarship Winner

On Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, St. Helena High School hosted its annual Awards Day presentation of scholarships for the graduating senior class. **George** presented our \$2500 Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship to **Carlotta Santado**, a truly fine young lady who earned the award based on her excellence in academics and her significant contributions to school and the community. She will pursue her higher education in the biosciences. Maybe a cancer cure?



*Jeff, Drew, George and BobM review this year's scholarship applications.*



*Club history is captured in these old Bung Starters. What's ahead?*

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  
Secretary  
Treasurer Jeff Farmer  
Past President Lester Hardy  
Directors Bob Beckstrom  
Tom Belt  
Jan Darter  
Donalee Shackelford  
Lowell Smith

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### Kiwanis Foundation

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

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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.  
“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

(May 28) Reflective bell, reflective song, reflective meeting [See page 3]. After members shared their tributes to Mike Hardy with a mix of happy and sad thoughts, **Lester** asked if there were any Happy or Sad \$\$\$. Answering his own question, he smiled and paid a H\$. “Sunday I spent sailing on SF Bay... 30-knot winds... fun controlling the boat.” And another H\$ “for my daughter’s pending HS graduation.” And another H\$ “just cuz.” **Steve** paid a H\$ and S\$ for thoughts about Mike. **Jim** coughed up a H\$, “50 cents is for the Giants, 50 cents for the A’s.” Ooops! This brought a swift reaction from umpires in the room who called foul. The rule book is clear: *Happiness costs a buck. 50 cents won’t buy happiness.* **BobB** paid a H\$ “for my wife, Linda, who had a neat adventure yesterday... got to tour the GG Bridge and rode an elevator to the top of the South Tower.” **Lowell** paid a H\$. “Did it years ago with a lady friend... she dropped her camera inside the tower... the camera’s flash went off every so often as it hit things going down the shaft.” **Howard** paid a H\$ “for guys who helped with the flags the other day.” **George** paid a H\$ “for the Kiwanis Foundation awarding a scholarship for \$2500 to a beautiful, talented young lady.” He will present it at the SHHS awards assembly this week. **Drew** paid a H\$ “because I was on the scholarship committee... want to commend **BobM** for his leadership role... great job.” **Ryan** paid a S\$ “because I wasn’t here yesterday to help with flags.” **Jeff** paid a S\$ “because I had to climb the ladder in his place.”

**Lester** squinted at his calendar. “No birthdays, no anniversaries. Who is Mr. Good Guy?” **TomB** stood up and busted **BobB** and **Drew** for not doin’ a whole lotta shakin’. And now... drum roll please. **Lester** called up **Ryan**, who had won the drawing for Designated Jokester. “So, it was 12:45 this morning... tried to come up with material... realized how difficult it must be for **Lester**.” Voice from the back of the room: “Was that your joke?” “No... there was this old Italian... about 75... passion for golf... old age, eyes going bad... can’t see ball... went home, told wife... she said brother Jerry has perfect eyesight... next day... drove the ball... Jerry, did you see that? Where did it go?... [punch line].” Wait, there’s more. “Woman in church teaching children. Why is it so important to be quiet in church? [punch line].” And more. “An older gentleman... late 40s early 50s... midlife crisis... new Harley... good time driving down the coast... clouds part... Lord appears... one wish... want a bridge to Hawaii... that’s a little materialistic; think a little deeper... ok, want to better understand women... [punch line].” More. “Guy getting up there in age... health concerns... nervous tick... Dr. says how can I help today?... run tests, look me over... you’re overweight... I want a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion... [punch line].” Guffaws.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **Lester** asked for volunteers to step in for Mike as Secretary and for the golf tournament. Lowell volunteered to look into options for Meadowood.
- 2) **Don** announced a work day on June 17, and reported a nice thank you note from the Red Cross.
- 3) **George** offer VIP seats for graduation at Napa Valley College.
- 4) **Lowell** made a pitch for the Chamber of Commerce drive to fund fireworks.
- 5) **Jim** encouraged the same.
- 6) **BobB** asked members to email him tributes to Mike if they wish.

### DRAWINGS:

**John** won Jester of the Week! **Lester** won Fine Free.  
**George** won a chance at the marble game. Nope.

# Mike, Remembered

Much of last week's meeting was devoted to an informal sharing of thoughts about **Mike Hardy's** passing. **Lowell** started out by reading his statement for the *SH Star*, summarizing Mike's broad impact. "Mike Hardy strengthened our community of St. Helena. His leadership has played a major role in the guidance of the St. Helena Kiwanis Club. He served as a member of the Board of Directors and as Chair of our annual City Championship Golf Tournament. Year-end and year-out, Mike provided the leadership necessary to ensure the annual success of one of our major fund-raising projects. Perhaps Mike's greatest leadership qualities were his patient, persistent and pleasant approach to community service. He never lost his unique capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with his warmth and kindness. Folks like Mike come along very rarely. It has been a privilege to observe his commitment to our home town. He helped St. Helena become the special place it is today. We are better because of him... he strengthened us."

**Lester** continued the thought. "It's a sad morning for me... 3<sup>rd</sup> time since I've been President... don't know what to say... not a surprise, but a shock. This is an appropriate time to remember Mike, so I invite you to say what's on your mind."

**George** stood up. "Mike was a good guy. He sort of knew his time was limited. I like that he always wanted to go fishing."

**TomB:** "He was a guy living on the edge but you'd never know it."

**BobM:** "I knew him a long time, from Gallo, Christian Brothers and other professional contacts. I was surprised when he had his first procedure, not to mention 25 stints! He was a boon to science. Mike made his greatest contributions after he became frail."

**John:** "Something always impressed me. Mike had a sword hanging over his head but he never looked up, he always looked forward."

**Jeff:** "Mike was like an iceberg. We saw only 10% of him, but the depth of his character, soul, life was impressive. It's ironic that he was in a lifestyle change program. At the end he simply said he was not changing."

**Don:** "I fished and hunted with him a number of times. He really got into it and made it fun."

**Lowell:** "We emailed often, including several times last week. He was scheduled as guest speaker today."

**Ryan:** "I didn't have much interaction with Mike but I was impressed by his baseball card, that he could get involved in something like that. He seemed like an exuberant person."

**Gary:** "Sitting here one morning he told me about the Lifestyle thing at the hospital. He said 'It's probably going to kill me' and called it a Gulag."

**Lester:** "Everything I've learned about Mike reminds me of a conversation with Tom Blackballer, who said don't wish for a long life, wish for a wide life. Mike's contributions to the community were immense. He never stopped living. He lived life to the fullest."

**Jim:** "Mike bridged the generations remarkably well. He supported Kiwanis and our youth emphasis. He served seniors at the Rianda House, where he set in motion a strategy to retire the debt."

**BobB:** [email]: "Choosing a photo of Mike for last week's *B.S.* was easy. It had to be the baseball card. A team sport. Mike was the kind of player you want on your team. Not because he could do everything and win the game for you, but because he fielded his position so well that everyone else on the team would see him taking care of his job and that made us try to do ours better."

**Bill** [email]: Mike leaves St. Helena with a living memorial, the Meilly Park vineyard, a testament to his ability and persistence. Glad I asked him to Kiwanis.

**Donalee:** [emailed]: "It was January in the peak of the drought and my lake had gone from beautiful to a stinky mud puddle. Mike asked if he could come out because he was worried about the health of the fish in the pond due to lack of oxygen. The shore was like adobe clay. His rubber worm got caught in the weeds. I went to retrieve it and lost my shoe in the mud. He helped me out. Bottom line, we both ended up covered in mud. All was not lost. He ended up catching several fish and was relieved to see that the bass were thriving under the drought conditions. I saw Donna in the store shortly after Mike entered the wellness program at the hospital. We were laughing about how much Mike loved to eat and how he disliked vegetables. She mentioned the reason he entered the program was just to improve his quantity and quality of life. Sad... For you bass enthusiasts thought I would share an e mail mike sent to me on Mike's hot tips on how to catch them."

*Color isn't important- green, motor oil, green w/ red flakes- I've even caught them on white. Best results are yamasenko worms rigged 'wacky' style with no weight- hook the worm right thru the center (crossways- make a "t" with the hook) with a #1 or #2 hook and fish it very slowly- with no weight- it will take 10-15 seconds to get to the bottom- let it sit 5 sec's or so and then move it 2 ft or so, let it sink again. If the line twitches or if you feel resistance to it when you try to move it, set the hook. You can also catch them on spinner baits this time of year- let it sink about 3 counts and reel in medium speed. Mike Hardy*



# 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.

**June 4** – Guest speaker, TBA

**June 4** – Builders Club, RLS Rm C2, 12:45. Check in at the office.

**June 5** – Put up flags on Main Street for Wine Auction

**June 9** – Take down flags

**June 11** – Guest speaker, TBA

**June 14** – Work Project: Build sawhorse/benches at Bothe Park

**June 18** – Guest speaker, Christy Pestoni, Upper Valley Recycling

**June 21** – Memorial Service for Mike Hardy

**June 25** – Guest speaker, Greg Clarke, Napa County Ag Commissioner

**July 17** – DCM at Crane Park, sponsored by St. Helena and Yountville

## 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, Lester, Steve or Jay.

### Worthy Causes

**June 11** – “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament for SH Boys & Girls Club

## Kiwanis Club of St. Helena

P.O. Box 362

St. Helena, CA 94574