



Meeting Date: October 19, 2017

Healthcare and the ACA in Shasta County

Before the meeting, **Jennifer Finnegan** entertained us with her beautiful piano playing. Thanks, **Jennifer**. **President Elect Greg Dunbar** ran the meeting today. He introduced **Jess Whitlow**, co-captain of Team 2.



Jennifer Finnegan at the piano

Kathy Anderson led us in the pledge and **Rick Fauss** gave the invocation. **PP Chuck Ryan** introduced guests. There were no visiting Rotarians.

Announcements: Blood Drive: **Dar Barzin** reminded us of the blood drive next week. Let's make a good showing.

Christmas Party: Our annual Christmas Party will be held December 14th at Turtle Bay. Mark your calendars.



President Elect Greg Dunbar

Honor to Youth: **Peggy O'Lea** introduced **John Selke**, the assistant principal at Sequoia Middle School who then introduced **Hayley S**, our recipient of Honor to Youth this month. **Hayley** is an exceptional young lady who is involved in about every music program there is at Sequoia Middle School. She even plays in the Shasta College Orchestra. **Hayley** is well spoken and articulate. She is

active as a mentor to her peers. She aspires to be the director of a University Band and is interested in teaching seventh grade math. Good goals. (Editor's note: Always like students majoring in math.) Congratulations **Hayley**.



L-R Peggy O'Lea, John Selke, Hayley S., PE Greg Dunbar

Recognitions: President **Richard** must have said we were behind schedule because **PE Greg** went to work with a vengeance on recognitions. There were some pretty easy targets.



Janice Cunningham, Julie Gussenhoven, and Vickie Marler passed up chances to go deer hunting and instead went to Cabo. Looks like they had a nice time. “What happens in Cabo stays in Cabo was heard from the group. They each put in \$100. Thanks **Janice, Julie, and Vickie**

Joe Ayer and his wife went to Hawaii to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. Thanks for the \$100 to the club, **Joe**.

Joe Wyse was featured on the front page of the Record Searchlight in an article about free tuition at Shasta College. Thanks for the \$100 to the club, **Joe**.

Judy Price took a trip to Switzerland and then to Santorini in the Greek Islands. Nice trip and worth \$200 to the club. Thanks, **Judy**.

Matt Morgan went on a motorcycle race down the Donner Pass ski slopes. Looked pretty steep and rocky, but he had a good time. He and his wife and family came out for the Community Creek Cleanup. As hard as they worked, we should have paid them, but he donated \$100. Thanks, **Matt**.

Program: **Jason Salter** introduced **Dean Germano**, the Executive Director of the Shasta Community Health Center. He gave a very informative presentation on the Affordable Care Act and the impact it has had on Shasta County.

Shasta Community Health Center has offered services in Redding since 1992. Currently they have a clinical staff of 96 healthcare professionals providing care to 60 thousand patients with over 130 thousand patient visits per year. They operate clinics in Anderson, Shasta Lake City, Happy Valley and Redding. They also have a clinic in the Dental Arts section of the downtown Shasta College campus.



Dean made the point that they are not a government agency, but in fact are a State licensed Non-Profit 501C(3) organization. They are governed by a local Board of Directors.

He made some general comments about health care in America before becoming more specific to Shasta County. Nationwide we pay more for healthcare than anywhere else in the world with poorer outcomes. You would think that with the money we are spending, we would have the world’s best healthcare, but not so.

Shasta County and eight other northern counties are not a very healthy place to live compared to other parts of the state. A few of the areas where we are higher than the state average area premature death, child mortality, cancer rates, higher suicide rates, more children living in poverty, higher unemployment rates, higher drug induced rates, and too many others. Many of these factors could be changed by better health care availability.

Prior to the ACA, Shasta County had an estimated 27,500 residents without some form of medical insurance. Between the expansion of Medi-Cal and other mostly subsidized programs, this figure has dropped dramatically.

The two edged sword, however, is as more people became insured and eligible for care to improve their health, healthcare providers and facilities have become overcrowded and overwhelmed.

Shasta Community Health Center has recently undergone a 10-million-dollar expansion in Redding and is in the process of doing another 10-million-dollar upgrade in Anderson in order to try to meet the increased demand.


He spoke about the recent attempts to repeal the ACA and what the economic impact would be on Shasta County. It was pretty sobering. In addition to vastly increasing the number of people who would become uninsured again, Shasta County would have a loss of income in an amount exceeding 100 million dollars and a corresponding loss of jobs exceeding 900. It is not clear what may come out of Washington. What is clear is that it will have a profound effect on the health of the citizens of Shasta County and the rest of the country. It was a very informative talk on a subject that seems to have no easy answers. Thanks **Dean**.



**Executive Director Dean Germano is thanked by
PE Greg Dunbar**

Calendar

October 26	Gary Hayward -- Win-River plans for I-5 frontage
November 2	Reach Higher Program -- Leslie Williem
November 9	Veteran's Program
November 16	Lone California Wolverine -- Amanda Shufelberger
November 23	Dark -- Thanksgiving



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