



Date of Meeting: Feb 2, 2023

Day Editor and Publisher: Steve Clark

Redding Rotary's February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at Riverview was hosted by Team 2 Co-Captain's **Laurie Baker** and **PP Greg Balkovic**. Greeters were **Jerrod Vanlandingham** and another poorly forgotten individual whose name was neither on the Greeters roster nor in the memory banks of our illustrative Team 2 Co-Captains. **Laurie** handled ticket sales, **PP Greg** led the Club in the pledge, and **Eva** (pronounced Eh-va, not E-va, folks) gave the invocation. **Phil McCarthy** subbed fabulously for our absent Sergeant at Arms, **Bret Christensen** handled photography and **Joe Ayer** was PP introducing guests and visiting Rotarians.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**President Mark** reminded the club that District Governor **Suzanne Bragdon** will be visiting next week so please try to attend.

**PP Amelia Ward** pleaded for more volunteers for this year's I-House. Sponsors are needed to house visiting exchange students for a week. All you need to do is drop them off downtown in the morning, pick them up in the afternoon, feed them dinner, provide them lodging, and be rewarded in a manner befitting a generous Rotarian. After 66 years of I-House this year's program is in jeopardy of being cancelled if we cannot generate participation for the 35 students scheduled to arrive on March 25<sup>th</sup>, so please contact **Amelia** if you can help.

**Jerrod Vanlandingham** and **Ken Freigher** have been tabbed to lead this year's Keyway Bowl-a-thon on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. They need lane sponsors, auction and raffle items and, of course, bowlers! This is one of our club's major fundraisers so please find a way to contribute.

## RECOGNITIONS

Although 3 members were pegged for recognitions on Thursday, not a single one was present, thus \$0 were donated to the club, a record low. Your author suspects collusion.

## PROGRAM: EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE



Today's program was brought to us by **Renée Menefee**, Executive Director, and **Kurt Swanson**, Operations Director, of Early Childhood Services (ECS). ECS is the largest department in the Shasta School District and oversees over 40 grants and contracts to serve and support young children, families, educators and other family serving organizations in our community. With eight divisions ranging from Health and Nutrition to Planning and Accountability, their mission is to support the development and education of young children in Shasta County. Early childhood support systems can be fragmented and a challenge to access or even know they exist. This is what drives **Renée** and why she is so passionate about it.



Next, Operations Director **Kurt Swanson** took us on somewhat of a virtual tour of their new Early Childhood Education & Observation Center at 43 Hilltop Dr. ECS is the central access point to resources and support for young children and their families.

Funded by the "Alphabet Soup" state grant to the tune of \$8 million dollars and another \$3 million from Shasta County Office of Education, they expanded the original building from 7,000 to 21,000 square feet that includes a large meeting room, commercial kitchen, and an observation room that allows for more accurate child assessment by therapists and other professionals.

It was exciting to learn about this new chapter in the development of local systems to combat childhood poverty, missed education, malnutrition and other adverse childhood experiences. Thank to **Renée** and **Kurt** for taking the time to share with us today.



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