



Meeting Date: December 21, 2023

Day Publisher: Steve Clark



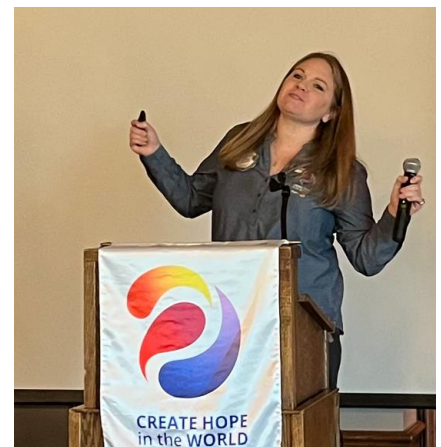
OF COPS AND BELLS

OPENING

Our meeting on Thursday was a busy affair and opened with our intrepid **President Finnegan** belting out an unplugged a cappella rendition of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, with an altered close to the chorus that bemoaned her missing rotary bell.



The meeting was brought to us by Team 2 co-captains **PP Greg Balkovek** and **Steve Clark**. Greeters were **Mike Warren, Alex Hauf-Beldin** and **Ken Wood**, with Keyway contributing **Larry Olmstead** and **Jarrod VanLandingham**. **Melinda Brown** sold fundraiser tickets. **Mike Warren** served as Sergeant-at-Arms while **Joe Wyse** delivered the invocation. **Steve Clark** took photos and led the pledge. **PP Tom Semingson** introduced visitors and guests.



President Finnegan on the eve of getting her bell back



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Blood Drive – *January 11th*
- Rotary International Conference Registration
- District Conference – *Early Bird Registration ends 12/31/23*



HISTORY MINUTE

On May 4, 1996, Rotarians Jerry Theisen & Brian Sindt were among a handful of Redding area residents who were nominated by friends or family to participate in a symbolic running of the Olympic torch on its way to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Over 84 days, the Olympic flame traveled more than 15,000 miles and visited 42 states and Washington DC before arriving at the 1996 Summer Games opening ceremony.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



For the second week in a row it is with great sadness we announce the passing of a Rotary spouse. **Trudy Tavares'** husband, **Ernie**, passed ten days prior. **Trudy** asks that any donations be made to the Rotary Foundation in **Ernie's** name.

There will be a blood drive before the meeting on January 11th. Eat lots of iron-rich foods in the days before.

The Rotary International Conference will be held in Singapore this year in late May and Early June. If you are interested in attending please see **Jason Salter**.

The district 5160 Conference is April 26-28 in Sacramento, however early-bird registration ends December 31, so sign up now to get the discounted price.

There will be a Fireside Chat on January 11th. If you are still wearing a red badge please see **PP Greg Balkovek**.

BOARD MEETING UPATE

The AV committee is working with Riverview on an upgrade to our shaky microphone and control systems. Listen for updates.

In the hope of encouraging more board nominations next year we will adopt an on-line nomination process. Details on how that will work are not yet disclosed.

The Adopt-a-Family-Committee successfully supported 8 families with 25 children this year. This announcement was greeted with significant applause from the club.

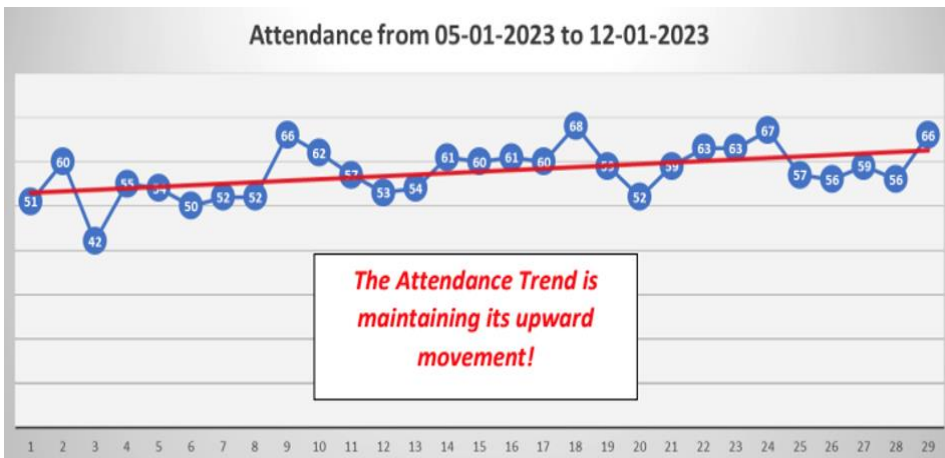
Grant recipients for 2024 have been approved by the Grant Committee. List of awardees is below.

2024 Rotary Club of Redding Grant Recipients

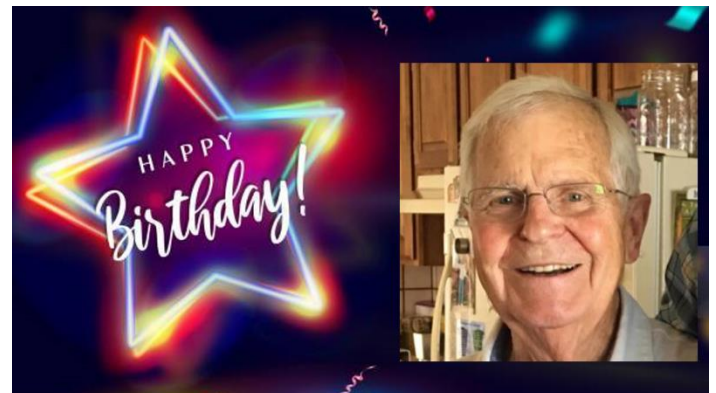


Organization	Project	Award
Rotary West	Jenny Creek Trail	\$12,000
Roughout Ranch	Equicizer	\$500
Pathways to Hope	Catalyst Merger	\$3,000
Exodus Farms	Highway to Hope	\$3,648
LaundPad 4 Kids	Community Day School	\$3,200
Lassen Park Foundation	Volcano Adventure Camp	\$2,500
U-Prep Art Department	Annual Mural	\$2,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Services	Threads of Hope	\$3,000

Attendance is up over the last six months. This has been a focus for **President Finnegan** and she is most grateful for the clubs participation. She is hopeful the increase has not been due solely to the free candy she has put out before the meetings, but whatever it takes!



President Finnegan offered a special recognition to our most senior Rotarian, **PP Lou Gerard**. Next May will mark **Lou's** 60th year as a Rotarian and he has done it all. His birthday is a closely held secret 😊 but is known to be circa Christmas, so **President Jen** presented him a rather ostentatious birthday cake which he was most happy to share. Happy Birthday **Lou!**



RECOGNITIONS

On November 17th while biking the Old Shasta Trail with his lovely wife **Karen, Rick Fauss** received a call from his granddaughter informing him of the birth of his great granddaughter just 25 minutes earlier. "**Papa**" was the first to get the call, and that's worth \$100 to the club and another \$100 to his Paul Harris. Thanks, **Rick**, and congratulations on your blessings.



Steve Clark has been a naughty boy. Normally **Steve** is somewhat diligent about keeping up with the fallen leaf brigade, but this year winds and rain stalled the effort, causing the neighbors significant anxiety when the North Wind came calling. No fear, this pile and five others like it were quickly dispensed. \$100 to the club for causing such a close call.



Lindsay Myers, Ken Freigher, Andy McCurdy and **President-Elect Wendy Dickens** all had a great time at the Santa Pub Crawl. Apparently, the angel wings are fake :o. **Wendy** fessed up \$100 to the club and the other three \$100 to their Paul Harris.



PROGRAM – UPDATE ON POLICING STRATEGY BY CHIEF BRIAN BARNER

PP Ed Rullman introduced new Redding Police Chief **Brian Barner**. The story goes that fellow Rotarian and Redding Fire Chief **Jarrold VanLandingham** was originally asked to do the introduction, but **Jarrold** felt that Chief 1 introducing Chief 2 might serve to dull the presentation, so he deferred to Ed!

Before anything else **Chief Barner** had an important announcement. They had solved a high-profile case recently, a crime reported by our own **President Finnegan**. Most of us have been aware of the recent theft of our precious Rotary Bell, and according to **Chief Barner**, if certain members of the Redding Fire Department could have found the time to leave their desk jobs, the case would have been solved earlier. Either way, thanks to the expertise of the Detectives Division the bell was found and restored to **President Finnegan** today. Ding!!



Brian Barner grew up in a Law Enforcement family. Both his father and uncle were police and his mother took a photo of him at three years old dressed in a police uniform. **Brian** joined RPD Explorers at the age of 15, and at the age of 20 he became the youngest person ever hired by RPD. He graduated first in his class from the Butte Academy and over the last twenty-seven years has worked patrol, canine, traffic, detective, sex crimes, SWAT, back to traffic, back to detective, lieutenant, patrol captain and now, starting two months ago, police chief.

Brian grew up in Redding. He attended St. Joseph's and Shasta High School and currently works with and around many of the same people he grew up with. He shared that many in local agencies are home grown and enjoy a special, comraderic, competitive relationship with each other.

Brian then took a few moments to discuss RPD in general and how it fits in with other departments in California. RPD is one of the only fully staffed law enforcement agencies in the state. Officers from all over California want to come work at RPD, and when asked why, all say the same: because RPD is the best police department to work for. The reason, says **Chief Barner**, is the community. It is well known throughout the California law enforcement community that the Redding community supports their law enforcement like no other. He shared anecdotes of taking new officers on training rides and their shock at being publicly thanked, or having their breakfast picked up by an anonymous stranger. He says Redding has itself to thank for a fully staffed department.

The Redding Police Department was fully staffed, well organized and properly prioritized when **Brian** took over. He has no plans to make any significant change currently, with the lone exception of focusing more on "quality of life" crimes. Specifically this means illegal camping and shoplifting.

Brian is young, bright and energetic. I think Redding is lucky to have him as Chief.



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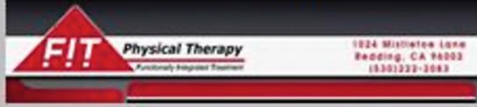
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