

the **SPILLWAY** express

January 23, 2025

Rotary Club
of Redding



Rick Fauss
Club President

Dan Gerald
District Governor

The Difficulty in Recruiting Doctors to Redding

Serving At Today's Meeting

AV	Colin Duffy
President's Fundraiser	Melinda Brown
Pledge	Norm Hall
Invocation	PP Joe Ayer
Welcome Guests	PP Pat Corey
Greeters	Brian Scarr, Lindsay Myers, Ken Freigher
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jason Richart
Prize Donation	Norm Hall

On the Mic Today



Pres. Rick
running the show



PP Joe Ayer
with the invocation



PP Pat Corey
introducing his team and
welcoming our guests

Calendar

January 30	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
February 6	Community Foundation of the North State
February 13	TBD
February 20	TBD

Announcements

I-House:

PP Amelia Ward made an announcement about our I-House event happening March 23 - 27. 35 students will be coming and they will need housing, transportation, and meals provided. Here some details:

Host families will be responsible to provide:

- A place to sleep for four nights
- Provide four breakfasts
- Provide two dinners (we take care of the rest)
- Transport students to City Hall at 8:00 in the mornings; pick them up at 5:00 in the evenings.

Also needed: Houseboat drivers, cooks for the houseboats, with basic skiing at Mt. Shasta Ski Resort, etc.

To sign up now, call, text, or email **PP Amelia Ward** at 530-949-3481

PolioPlus:

Jack Kemple gave us an update noting the current number of polio cases. In 2023 there were only 12 cases in the world, however last year the count (midway through 2024) was 98. These cases are all in the same area. It's a wild area, very rugged - a very difficult place to immunize children, but volunteers are still committed. Also, he noted that Rotary International remains committed despite changes in WHO partnerships.

Cancer Care Center Donation

A \$10,000 donation from our club was announced today for Dignity Health's Sierra Pacific Regional Cancer Center here in Redding. **President Rick** made the presentation to **Mercy Foundation's President and CPO**, our own **PP Jake Mangas**. Also present was the Foundation's **Manager of Philanthropy, Haley Kennedy**. **PP Jake** expressed his appreciation and was quick to note that he did not solicit this donation from the club :).



Recognitions

PP Pat Corey had a close encounter of the wildlife kind at his home recently. This cute little bobcat has been spotted at his place over the last three or four months. **PP Pat** explained that there's a lot of quail where he lives, so that's probably one of the reasons he's hanging around.

\$100 to his Paul Harris.



Brian Scarr and Rory Greek were recognized for their participation in an upcoming fundraiser for **Raising Shasta**. This organization was formally known as **Catalyst Mentoring and Pathways to Hope for Children**.

A professional boxing trainer is working with them and three other pairs of "fighters" to prepare them for the event. Each pair will participate in a sparring match with three one-minute rounds.

\$100 each to the Club.

Tenessa Audette was recognized for being in Washington DC for the Presidential Inauguration. She attended the Liberty Ball and watched the inauguration itself from inside the Museum of the Bible.

\$100 to the club.



Today's Program: The Difficulty in Recruiting Doctors to Redding

Jason Salter introduced our speaker for today's program, **Dr. Paul Dhanuka**. A newly elected City Council member and physician, he discussed pressing healthcare issues and proposed transformative solutions for the Northern California region. His speech highlighted the urgent need for a mental health and drug detox rehabilitation facility and establishing a medical school to address the healthcare workforce shortage.

He proposes the creation of a chemical dependency recovery hospital to provide comprehensive mental health and addiction treatment services. He noted that the closure of Shasta General Hospital had left a significant gap in the community's healthcare infrastructure, and establishing a new facility could serve as a model for other rural areas.



Dr. Dhanuka's main presentation emphasized the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in California's Northern and Sierra regions, where the physician-to-population ratio is significantly lower than in other areas. He attributes this shortage to factors such as inadequate reimbursement rates for doctors, high medical liability costs, and the burden of student loans. These challenges have made recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in rural areas difficult, as larger urban centers offer more competitive salaries and opportunities.

In addition to immediate healthcare needs, **Dr. Dhanuka** outlined a visionary plan to establish a medical school in the region. He argues that such an institution would address the shortage of healthcare professionals and stimulate the local economy. Citing examples from other states, he demonstrated that smaller communities have successfully established medical schools, leading to significant economic and educational benefits.

Dr. Dhanuka suggested exploring alternative local self-insurance models to retain healthcare funds within the community. A self-insurance plan could support local healthcare providers and reduce denial rates and care delays by pooling resources from larger employers and counties.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration among educational institutions, healthcare providers, and government entities to realize this vision. He highlighted the potential for a consortium involving Redding, Chico, and surrounding counties to pool resources and expertise.

Dr. Dhanuka concluded by urging the community to unite, set aside personal differences, and work collaboratively towards these ambitious goals. He emphasized that the initiatives would improve healthcare access, inspire future generations, and provide opportunities for local students to pursue medical careers without leaving the area.

The presentation ended with a call to action for interested parties to form a working group to explore the feasibility of these proposals and develop a strategic implementation plan.

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Rotary



The Four-Way Test

of what we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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We connect passionate people with diverse perspectives to exchange ideas, forge lifelong friendships, and, above all, take action to change the world.



WE ARE OPPORTUNITY-CREATORS

Rotary members look for opportunities to improve our communities today and invest in the next generation for tomorrow.



WE ARE PROBLEM-SOLVERS

Together, we apply our professional experience and personal commitment to tackle our communities' most persistent problems, finding new, effective ways to enhance health, stability, and prosperity across the globe.