



Meeting Date: Sept 11, 2025

Day Publisher: Steve Clark

REALITY CHECK THURSDAY

TEAM 5: Brad Rullman and Carlene Fish

AV
President's Fundraiser
Pledge
Invocation
Welcome Guests
Greeters

Bob Allen & Laurie Baker
NA
Brian Scarr (prematurely)
"For Evah" Jimenez
PP Greg Balkovek
Ken Freigher, Randy Tate,
Matt Moseley

Photographer
Sergeant-at-Arms

Steve Williams
Susie Michiels

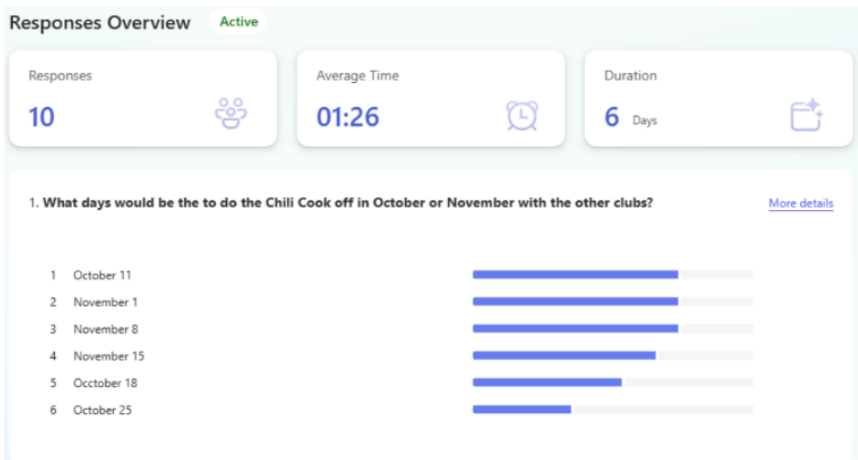
Prize Donation

NA

OPENING

Thursday's meeting was a busy affair. In addition to a Vitalant blood drive **President Wendy** had a full docket. The first seven minutes saw the Pledge, Team 1 intro's, a heavy-hearted invocation (see Charlie Kirk), guests & visitors recognized and a 911 remembrance completed. Boom!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



Question of the Week:

Question of the Week - Christmas Party



Christmas Party -

1. Where?
2. Sit down dinner or cocktails and hors devours
3. Other ideas?

From the "Speak Up or Sit Down Department": last week's Question of the Week saw a light response, which may or may not have been the reason

the Chili Cook-Off Committee rejected all our suggestions and instead set a date of Sunday, November 9th.

This week's QOW centers around our Christmas Party. Your opinion is appreciated. If you would specify in the "Other" section whether you would prefer Dec 11 or Dec 18 that would be helpful.

Announcements



Great 8 Chili Cook Off November 9th

\$200 entry fee

Winning clubs proceeds go to the charity of choice

Paul Harris awards next week - Sept 18 - Jeanne Jelke

Thanksgiving Senior Dinner - Service project - Amelia Ward

NEED Baskets!!!!

If you have a project and you need help, see Brad. Also loop in Brian for Rotaract help! We want to involve our youth!

Announcements from the Club?

Rick Fauss - Elections September 18

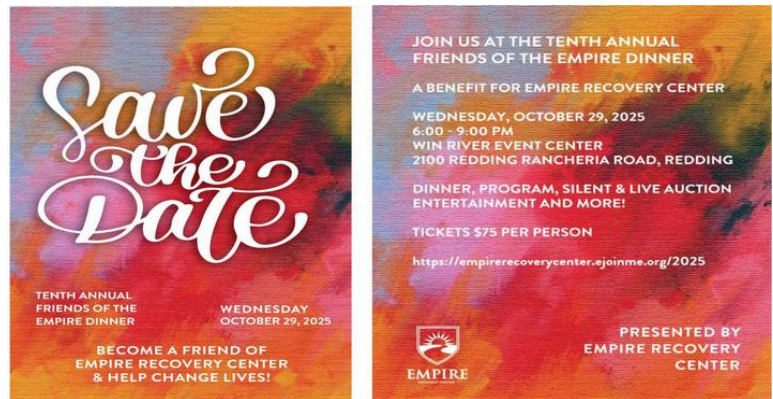
In addition to the info above:

- The Chili Cook Off will also have a Salsa category. Details to follow.
- In addition to needing gift baskets for raffle prizes, **PP Amelia Ward** needs about 50 volunteers: 10 to work in the kitchen and the rest to serve, clean and perform other duties.
- November 13th will be our Veterans Program. This year **PP Greg Balkovek** would like to include your family members who have served. Please send **PP Greg** a photo, term of service and rank upon separation. g.balkovek@gmail.com and/or balkyone@charter.net.

RECOGNITIONS

Jeanne Jelke plugged the upcoming Friends of the Empire Dinner. For years **Jeanne** has been instrumental in organizing this annual fundraiser. Great fellowship, delicious food, and a Live and Silent Action make this event one to remember and not to miss. Click the link below to purchase tickets. \$100 to the club.

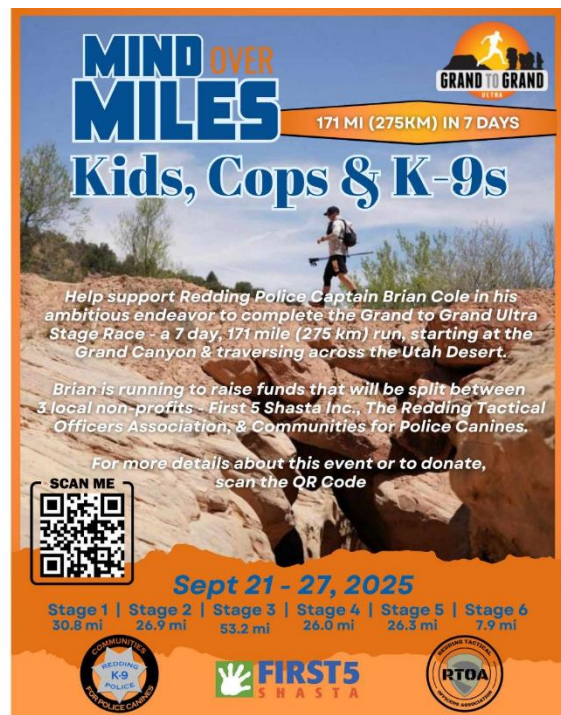
<https://empirerecoverycenter.ejoinme.org/2025>



Is nobody safe? Despite lacking any photos or other evidence, **President Wendy** nailed **Ryan Burks**. **Ryan** made it easy on the Prez by confessing he will be leaving Friday for a 3-day trip back East to attend his niece's birthday party. They just discovered **Ryan's** sister is now pregnant with a boy.... soon to be a **GB** mini! In addition, Burks Construction Management continues to thrive. We love a joyful giver, and **Ryan** joyfully gave \$100 to the endowment and \$100 to his Paul Harris



Redding PD **Captain Brian Cole** was given a few minutes to request support for his Kids, Cops and K-9s Fundraiser.



Rotary Club Board Update

General Reports

Literacy for All: Expanding Reading Pals, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and other community reading programs. Also, building more Little Free Libraries (LFLs).

Hungry Families Grant: Continuing the program, with U-Prep and First 5 Shasta assisting with packing efforts. **Food for Thought** could still use some volunteers. **See Kathy Malain**

I-House: On hold for this year, but we plan to reinstate it in the future. Special thanks to Amelia and all contributors.

Fiscal Report

- Finalizing the accounts for the last fiscal year.
- Ongoing transition to QuickBooks Online (QBO) requires time.
- Membership numbers have shifted from the previous 150-200 range.
- The current budget is based on an estimated income of \$100,000.

Program Adjustments: Reduced scholarships, two students for Camp Royal, and Honor to Youth/Teacher of the Year programs are temporarily on hold.

- Reviewing policies for using endowment funds to cover shortfalls. Jenn F will provide further details.

REALITY-CHECK THURSDAY

Thursday was a day for the Club to seriously grapple with some hard truth: our financial game plan is not working. Something, or somethings, need to change.

Endowment & Financial Revue



PP Jenn Finnegan took a few moments to bring the club up to speed on our current situation. First, she explained the endowment and the endowment policies. The endowment is an investment fund that was created years ago to give the club long-term financial stability. It currently sits in the \$600k range. You may often here Rotarians reference “the endowment” or “the foundation” when directing where their fines should be allocated. The Board of Directors has the authority to authorize transfers to the General Fund from the Endowment within two policies set by the Board: 1) a maximum of 7% the endowment may be transferred within any fiscal year, and 2) the Endowment balance may not fall below \$500k as a result of said transfer.

It is likely most Rotarians are not aware of the immense effort by **PP Jen Finnegan** to wrangle control of budgetary issues that suddenly plague the club.

Last year \$102k was transferred out of the Endowment and into the General Fund. Although the board has the authority to change the policies, this amount was in excess of the policy, a point to be questioned and debated in a different forum.

Given our current and expected expenditures and revenues, the General Fund stands to be short \$50k - \$80k for this fiscal year. Reality Check. We all have budgets in our homes and businesses, and we have all had to make tough choices to balance things out. Call it belt-tightening, call it bootstrap lifting.... it's a challenge, but I've not met a Rotarian that did not hunger for challenge.

Conclusion: develop fundraisers or stop spending so much money.

To Fundraise or not to Fundraise

Below is a copy of a flyer put out by the Fundraising Committee that listed several potential fundraisers. The club broke into groups and spent about 10 minutes discussing amongst themselves our options. What resulted was encouraging and, at least to your author, a little surprising.

Ryan Burks asked generally about previous clubs having a beer stand at the Shasta Co. Fair. **PP Ed Rullman** answered that we used to do very well.... In the \$20K range per fair, but that subsequent law changes reduced that to about half. Perhaps we could investigate a similar arrangement?

Ryan Burks additionally mentioned a focus on increased membership, to which a comment was added we must add, not just members, but members who participate either physically or financially.

President Elect Brian Scarr couldn't help himself mentioning "a really cool place down by the river called the Monolith that would make an excellent Haunted House". Stop it, Brian!! It did get a few laughs and maybe caused some to think about why we weren't able to make that work. **Brian** then took a moment to elaborate on his BBQ Competition idea. Sounds solid.

Trisha Funk 's table liked a few ideas: Wild Game Feed, Pickleball Tournament, Trap-Shooting Tournament and Golf ball Drop. She also mentioned there is advantage in having several smaller fundraisers instead of one big one, including allowing more members to find a way to contribute.

Ken Friegher's table thought we could do much better with the Bowl-a-thon; that tighter focus and emphasis could turn a \$5k event into a \$15k event. Then a new idea.... Perhaps 5 Rotary clubs in the area aren't the best way? Perhaps it might be a good idea to consider consolidating clubs?

Judy Maxwell had 3 new ideas her table came up with: 1) instead of a traditional concert, we could get music groups from local schools to provide entertainment. 2) Rotarians could bring auction items to meetings. Small, but effective. 3) Sell raffle tickets for a Celebrity Chef experience. She mentioned there a few local chefs who might be interested. Nice job!!

PP Jake Mangas remembered a previous system under **Mark Lasalle** where Rotarians, in addition to their normal fines, could donate to specific club charities, like Honor to Youth, or Scholarships. Another idea, similar to **Judy's**, of having school music groups put on benefit concerts.

Bob Allen mentioned running and bicycle races. **Jack Kimple** favored the Raft Race idea, as everybody enjoys rafting down the Sacramento. **Matt Moseley** expressed concerns over concerts as they carried perhaps too much risk of losing money. Finally, the option to simply assess each member a fixed amount rather than fundraising.

PP Rick Fauss said favored ideas were allowing members to dedicate contributions to particular charities; Raft Race; Golf Ball drop, Celebrity Chef and a 1920's themed Speak-easy evening.

Mary Chiesa suggested hot dog sales at some events and that several members have ranches that could be used for fundraisers. In addition, photo booths, Witches Walk (what's that?) and a Santa-con (and what's that!?) were good options as well as a casino night.

Amelia Ward talked about making large dinners that used to raise thousands of dollars a night. She also liked the Golf Drop. She got the idea from the Weaverville Rotary.

As the meeting ran well past 1pm **PP Ed Rullman** positively added, as Wendy did earlier, that the complexion of the club has changed, “we no longer have the heavy hitters who are able to drop \$1800 or \$2000 in one pop.”, but that a lot of good ideas came out of today’s meeting, and **Wendy** added that perhaps we should consider not being so much a “program club” but a club that dedicates more meeting time to club business.

And with that, another 90 seconds to draw raffle tickets and the final bell clanged. All in all, a very productive meeting, but the fruit of the production has yet to bloom. The future of Redding Rotary is hanging in the proverbial balance, and we need YOU,ALL of us, to seize the day. Carpe Diem!



Fundraising Committee
Director: Steve Clark
September 11 Meeting
POTENTIAL FUNDRAISERS

As you read through the ideas below, they may likely give you other ideas. If so, please jot those ideas down below....

Concert: Pretty straightforward. There seems to be a lot of these, so competition is a consideration. Level of interest _____

Raft Race: Teams sign up to start at Sundial and float/paddle to? Level of interest _____

Scavenger Hunt: Perhaps a dozen objects are hidden around the county. Participants are given a list of clues to find them. Level of interest _____

Poker Run: Similar to a Poker Run, but participants pick up random playing cards at each location/clue. Best poker hand at the end wins. Level of interest _____

Service Auction: Needs to focus on community participation. Auctions that solicit only club members are not what we’re looking for. Level of interest _____

Halloween Ball: Could also be a Christmas Ball, New Years Ball, or other theme. Level of interest _____

SpeakEasy Night: Weaverville Rotary had one last year and it was successful. A 1920’s themed Ball type event. Not sure they appreciate us stealing their idea but we can talk to them about it.
 Level of interest _____

BBO Competition: This idea comes from PE Brian Scarr. See the attached. We can at least rely on some published experience. Nothing quite like it in the area that I’m aware of. Level of interest _____

Golf Ball Drop: Another Weaverville Rotary idea presented to me by PP Amelia Ward. You sell golf balls that are numbered. Golf balls are dropped via helicopter on the green. Closest ball to the green wins.
 Level of interest _____

Obviously, these ideas are very general and all of them would require much deeper planning but are hopefully a good start and conversation starter.

It would be great if you would rate each idea with the total of your ratings equaling “10”.

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING IDEAS (write on the back if necessary)

Name (optional) _____

DATE	UPCOMING PROGRAMS
Sept 18	Beer Force One - Fall River Brewing Co.
Sept 25	B29 Crash Investigations
Oct 2	Sheriff Mike Johnson, Detective Holroyd & K9 Toni
Oct 9	Reading Pals

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