

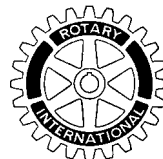


LASSEN LAVA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF RED BLUFF

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"He Profits Most
Who Serves Best"



ROTARY CLUB
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"Service
Above Self"

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Larry Champion, President

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Editorial Team: Christine Applegate, Dick Beddoe (alternate), Valerie Lucero, Barbara Miller, Tiffany Tracey, Will Murphy and Scott Sherman (alternate)

Greeter: Steve Judson
Invocation: Dick Beddoe
Pledge: Tonda Townsend
Introductions: Ken Robison

Cashier was Joanne Perkins.

Denise Snider conducted the raffle.

Jody Brownfield introduced Lindsey Jones as Rotary's student of the month. Lindsey was present with her Dad, John Jones and her teacher Jill Dias. Lindsey is 17, a straight A student and CSF treasurer. Her favorite activity is working with handicapped children. She also holds down a part-time job - 20 hours per week. Lindsey wants to attend University of California at Santa Barbara after she graduates. The President presented Lindsey with a plaque and letter acknowledging her significant achievements; and most importantly, a check from Rotary for \$50.00. Congratulations, Lindsey. Good work.

Visiting Rotarians:

There were no visiting Rotarians today.

Guests of Rotarians:

Shawn Nichols and Todd Browse

Member Birthdays:

None

Partner Birthdays:

Barbara Bullen, December 19
Judy Jones, December 16

Wedding Anniversaries:

John & Cathy Gumm, December 18, 18 Years

Club Anniversaries:

Dan King, December 19, 16 Years
Val Lucero, December 16, 2 Years

Announcements:

- Thanks to all who attended this year's great Christmas party at Wilcox and **Don Jones** for setting it up as he does so well every year. Thanks to **Dan King** for the wonderful pictures.
- This is the last week for giving to International Vision Volunteers. Thanks to all who have given so far.
- Elections to the Board were announced: Welcome to new members **Cindy Brown** and **Carl Havener**. Congratulations to **Gregg Avila**, our new second vice president elect, and to **Mike Metherd**, our new president elect.
- **Chris Applegate** announced that it is time to deliver the Christmas gifts to the foster children and dependent adults. Those who have not done so yet may deliver their gifts to the south service entrance at the Social Welfare along Antelope Boulevard. Entrance is from Highway 36, just beyond the Antelope/Hwy. 36 intersection.

• **Jim Hixson** announced new Harris Fellows **Blunkall** and **Gene Rideout**. Gene also received a sapphire pin in recognition for his contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

• **Jody Brownfield** announced the Annual Holiday (Basketball) Classic. This is the largest tournament in Northern California. There are 16 teams. The original classic was a wrestling tournament. Teachers and students house all players, so it is a cultural exchange, as well as an athletic event.

Recognitions:

There were no recognitions today.

Program Notes:

The program theme was "Focus on Education". **Tom Moisey** introduced the program speaker: Dr. Jim Gregg, a retired professor of Political Science and Journalism at Chico State University. Dr. Gregg has chaired both departments. He discussed a recent 2 year statewide study conducted by the California League of Women Voters, entitled "The State of California Community Colleges - A Report on [the League's] policy position on our community colleges"

According to Dr. Gregg, the study describes an entire higher education system under stress, but that the financial plight of the community colleges in California is particularly bleak. There are 17 community college districts in the state with 109 campuses. While California's state college and university system enforce limited enrollment, the community colleges offer open enrollment. State college and UC system tuition charges are increasing at an alarming rate, while community college student costs remain substantially lower. Moreover, state college and UC tuitions remain with the campus, while community college tuitions and fees are transmitted to the state. These fee and enrollment policy differentials also generate significant disparity in enrollment at the community college level, without a commensurate funding commitment from the state. A local example for 2004 was that while enrollment at Butte Community College was 16,000, enrollment at Chico State University was 9,000. Funding for community colleges in California is 26% of the national average, while serving 1.6 million students last year.

The study looked at the possibility of structural changes to address these deficiencies, but concluded that California currently lacked the political will to take action. There is strong local support for community colleges, but not for financial support. The enormous lobbying power of the UC system - even during times of deficits - only serves to exacerbate the problem. Dr. Gregg concluded that, without change, the dream of Governor Pat Brown for free and exemplary higher education is a lost dream. The laudable missions of our community colleges: Vocational training; Educational opportunities to transfer to four year institutions; and Life long learning, will not survive.

Drawing:

Tex Ash won the drawing (\$40.00)

ABSENTEES

Brainerd, Dolling, Douglas, Garton, Glenn, Illian, Jones, Kelley, Klemm, Lucero, Sr. Manoli, B. Miller, Patidar, Rubright, and Tracy

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DECEMBER (and a little January...) RED BLUFF ROTARY PROGRAMS

Tuesday, Dec 20: FOCUS ON THE JOY OF THE SEASON: Our club will enjoy an annual program of holiday music, produced by and featuring Diane O'Sullivan and her students at Red Bluff High School. Chris Applegate will report on this year's Rotary gift project for foster children and elderly clients of Tehama County Social Services and introduce the program.

Tuesday, Dec 27: FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP: We'll end 2005 with a little smorgasbord for members. New members will present a classification talk, sharing a little about their lives and work. Francois L Haridon, our Youth Exchange student for the year, will tell us about his experiences to date. And let's all show up to host our scouts and leaders for lunch as we hear a bit about the status of Boy Scouts in Tehama County from Bob Douglas.

Tuesday, Jan. 3: FOCUS ON CITIZENSHIP: Scott Sherman will introduce a program of vital interest to our members. Ann McWherter, Health Benefits Director for the California Retired Public Employees Association and former Cal PERS health benefits analyst, will travel from Sacramento with a clear and definitive presentation on Medicare Part D. Ms. McWherter's program will answer many questions and simplify the Medicare issue many of us face. Family and guests are most welcome for the presentation.