

The Napa Rotagram

May 13, 2009



Thought for the Day

Alecia Hancock offered a lengthy tome that began with a guy getting little attention on his birthday



... and ended with him naked on the couch. Use your imagination to fill in the center.

Visiting Rotarians



Diane Carey Woodruff, Sacramento; **John Dumars**, Napa Sunrise; **Brad Wagenknecht**, Napa Sunrise; **Mark Kemmerer**, Petaluma Sunrise; **Mark Nickel**, Santa Rosa East; **Debra Matteri**, Petaluma Valley.



Bill Blanckenburg reminded us of the event later that day when a redwood grove at Alta Heights School would be dedicated to his late daughter, Kathy Bollinger.



Diane Carey Woodruff was on hand for that event and other activities. She recently retired as chancellor for the entire state's community college system. You'll remember her as the former president of Napa Valley College and a member of Napa Rotary.

Diane offered praise of current college president, our own **Chris McCarthy**. She said he is highly regarded throughout the state of California.

The 50-50 raffle kitty is growing large again. **Brian Kearney** failed to draw the Joker, so your odds are improved for next week.

One more reminder ... The reception for visiting GSE visitors from Brazil is at Compadres on May 31. The tariff is \$20. Sign up at next week's meeting.



It's that time of year again! **Mike Bethard** announced the Kick Out for **Pres Gary** is set for Saturday, June 20 at Napa Valley Country Club. Mark your calendars, and stand by for more details.

Michelle Monhart was on hand to tell the club of a Walk in the Vineyards to help in the fight against pancreatic cancer. It's an easy jaunt through the grapes at St. Supery on June 13. Check out the website: <http://vineyardwalk.com/>.

Bruce Ketron

received the sapphire pin indicating his acquisition of a Paul Harris Fellowship. Bruce introduced a lovely young lady at today's luncheon as, "my niece."



It was announced that the club will match funds toward a member's Paul Harris. That led to a rush that netted literally thousands of dollars. See **Jeanne Christofferson** to find out how much you need to get to that next Paul Harris plateau.

The Chamber of Commerce community awards were given out during the past week. **Pres Gary** was honored, but Napa Rotary didn't quite make it as non-profit of the year. Gary proudly announced that of those recognized for various achievements, Rotarians outnumbered Kiwanians two-to-one.



A goody basket containing, among other things, a couple of bottles of wine -- and a pink candle -- led to some spirited bidding. Bob Barwick finally took the prize for his daughter, Jill.

History was the topic for a bottle of wine -- or a \$20 fine, depending on your memory of things past. Your humble scribe failed to note the battle that occurred after a war was over was --- The Battle of New Orleans. Tom LeMasters was the only one to collect the vino.

Our Speaker ...



Brad Wagenknecht, wearing his Napa County supervisorial hat, brought us an update on the state of the county.

Brad ran out of time enumerating all the services the county provides with its 1,200 employees, 400 miles of roadway and numerous departments.

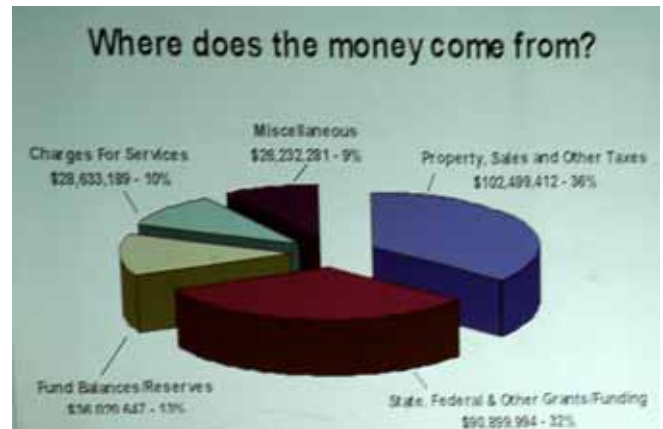
Health and Human Services is by far the largest department and group of services provided by Napa County.

Other important functions include public safety (police and fire) and public works (roads, buildings) and an area of which Brad is especially proud, the newly formed parks and open space district.



Brad has devoted more than two decades to public service. Now in his eleventh year as a county supervisor, he also served ten years on the Napa City Council.

Some interesting statistics: local unemployment is close to 9.5 percent; fourteen-percent of Napans are below the poverty line; we're second-highest in the state in residents over the age of 85.



Last year's Napa County budget was \$284 million and will likely go down somewhat given the current economy. Thirty-six percent of revenues come from property taxes.

