



Pollock Pines-Camino Rotary Club

P.O. Box 88

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4 June, 2015

Minutes

Meeting conducted at Sportsman's Hall

Members present: Carol Abbanat, Christa Campbell, Ken Harper, Boyd Holler, Rich Mason, Jim Maroun, Dave Rogers, Dennis Staller

Guest Speaker: Jim Abram, El Dorado County Mental Health Commission

The meeting was called to order by President Dave at 8:00 am.

Speaker, Jim Abram

Jim Abram has been an El Dorado County resident since 1979. Mental health advisory committees were established by 5604.2 of the State Welfare and Institutions Code. Currently there are two councils in the county; a five-member council in South Lake Tahoe, and a ten-member council on the Western Slope. County Supervisor Sue Novasel is one of the members. The public is invited to participate in meetings. Meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5 pm, at the Health & Human Services agency on Briw Road in Placerville.

In recent news, a new adult residential facility was opened last year, located in-county. Some clients are located in county-of-county facilities as well.

Abram noted that the council had to lobby hard to get our Board of Supervisors to implement "Laura's Law", a law that deals with so-called "Revolving door" treatment of mentally ill people. The program helps reduce the need for

hospitalization and incarceration. It is more cost effective and saves the courts and Sheriff's Departments money that might otherwise have to be expended on people with recurring mental health issues. Another fairly recent creation is a Crisis Intervention Team, charged with helping prevent "Suicide by Cop" incidents. Carol thinks the Commission acts somewhat like a county Grand Jury for mental health issues.

Jim has been in Pollock Pines since 1979. He is a family member of a mentally ill person, as are many of the people on the commission. Like so many volunteer positions in county government, he was told that he would only need to attend a few meetings, and contribute no more than a few hours a week of his time. His contributions,, like that of many commission members, is 20 hours to 30 hours a week.

The county Public Health Facility (referred to as the PHF, or "Puff") was privatized last year. It is run by a company called Telecare. This was the only way to keep the facility and the clients in the county because of fiscal issues.

The mental health department is not allowed to operate on a deficit by law, so it is forced to have a balanced budget, unlike some government agencies.

Two bits, four bits....dollar Dave contributed \$10 to note that this will be his last meeting as President. He and Jo Ann will be leaving on a cruise on the rivers in Europe. Fuzzy matched with \$10 to celebrate his 27th anniversary. Carol donated \$1 to celebrate her 51st anniversary, and \$1 to celebrate daughter Beth getting married on June 13. Ken donated \$2 to celebrate hopefully, getting over a recent illness, or at least reduced pain from symptoms. Carol donated another \$2 to celebrate her grandkids working at Rainbow Orchards for the summer, picking fruit. Jim donated \$1 to celebrate going to Barcelona, Spain, as part of planning for the Gold Panning Championships that will be held in El Dorado County if a couple of years.

Evening In The Orchard: Carol passed around a draft of the Evening In The Orchard flyer and asked for comments. The date is fixed at September 10th.

Potential New members: Lisa's father-in-law is very ill and Lisa has not been able to make meetings. Matt Smith is still interested, but is also dealing with family illness issues.

Debunking: Confirmed that we will try to get the Crystal Basin Winery.

Awards: Ken presented an award of a Gold membership to the club, acknowledging the significant Rotary contribution to the Wagons In The Pines event, which celebrates the Wagon Train stopping in Pollock Pines on the 6th.

Mail call: Ken noted that thank-you notes had been sent by some recipients of scholarships, one of them also including documentation by Sierra Ridge Middle School of the expenditures, as we had requested.

Scholarship Thank-You: Boyd gave a personal Thank-you from Camino School for our gift of mini-grants.

Individual donations: Carol asked members to save the personal hotel soaps and other packaged grooming items that we might get while staying in hotels. They will be collected and given to support groups for persons that have no funds for lodging, or personal hygiene.

National Night Out: Fuzzy announced that he will be participating in the NNO celebration in Camino.

50/50: \$14, with half going to Polio+. Polio+ donations, \$37.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Harper, Secretary