Christmas Tree Lot Sells Out and Closes Early

The above photo shows the successful conclusion of Christmas tree sales at the Kiwanis Club tree lot for 2012. All of the 1260 trees, except for six small trees in poor condition were sold by Monday December 17. The lot was closed the following day, seven days earlier than planned. The early sell out is probably due in part to the one week longer than usual selling period between Thanksgiving and Christmas and also to the improving economy.

Gross sales for the season were $84,176 and the estimated net proceeds, pending receipt of final invoices for expenses, are about $36,900.

The success of the tree lot is because of the many hours of hard work by members of the tree lot committee including Ken Scharer, Chair, Roger Dormier, Joe Engler, Guy French, Jerry Strong, Rick Norman, Dee Whitehall, Rich Thomas, Leroy Steck, Jim Schmidt, Dennis Stead, Mark Zimmerman, Richard Yates, Keith Scharer, Ron Puccioni, and Brian Wells as well as all able bodied club members who staffed the lot every day. Thanks to Treasurer Pete Peterson for keeping the accounting in good order and taking the daily proceeds to the bank. Special thanks to members of the Cloverdale Club who staffed the lot on one of the busiest days of the season and the Salvation Army men who worked the lot every weekend.

Calendar

Jan 8: Regular Meeting 12 noon at Villa Annex. Suzanne Esquivel and Joann Bursick, Graduation Ceremony

Jan 15: Regular Meeting 12 noon at Villa Annex. Corey Beck – Coppola Winery

Jan 17: Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m. Conference Room at Healdsburg Fire Station.

Jan 22: Evening Meeting 6:30 p.m. social time, 7 p.m. meeting at Villa Annex. Pete Peterson. Annual Fiscal Reports


The Healdsburg Kiwanis Club meets Tuesday noon at the Villa Chanticleer Annex except the fourth Tuesday of the month is an evening meeting, 6:30PM Social, 7:00PM Meeting.

For information about the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Contact Loretta Strong, President at 433-8033 or Phil Luks, secretary at 433-8055

Kiwanis -----Serving the Children of the world
The President’s Message:

Dear Fellow Kiwanians:

2012 is drawing to an end and we in Healdsburg have much to be thankful for. Our homes are not flooded, we have food on the table and our children and grandchildren are safe. We work very hard and serve a wonderful community.

As I look back over the past three months I reflect on many fond memories of our Club:

• Arnold Santucci retiring from the Newsletter after 14 years of outstanding service;

• Harry Jackson stepping up to take the reins in his stead;

• Welcoming in Rick Wood, Steve Jones, the Tices, Sharon Gallagher and Laura Mack as new members;

• Patti Robarts sponsoring 5 of the 6 new members and regaling us with the best ever holiday meals and treats;

• Gorgeous new Jim Schmidt decorations at our wonderful Xmas Tree lot;

• Receiving a record 81 hungry guests at our final meeting of 2012; and

• Denny Stead and Pete Peterson taking our Xmas lunch hilarity to record new heights. Look out Conan O’Brian!!

In addition to all of the above, we collected funds for Hurricane Sandy, gave food and cash to the Shared Ministries Food Pantry and Toys for Tots and sent off our first $1000 installment to Project Eliminate.

You are awesome. God Bless You. Happy Holidays!

Gratefully,

Loretta
Five Grants Approved by the Board and One Tabled (Provided by Pete Peterson)
The Board assembled at the Fire Station's front door, suitable dressed for the rain for the December meeting, only to find the Fire Station closed because the entire Fire Station's Night Crew were out on an emergency call. President Loretta made an executive decision to move the meeting location to the foyer of the Tom Rackerby, CPA Building where President Loretta and Board Member Dan Gianni have their separate Raymond James Financial Services offices. A tad crowded; but serviceable. Thank you President Loretta and Tom Rackerby.

The Board approved the following Project Fund grants:

- Healdsburg Jazz Festival - Healdsburg Youth Program $1,000
- Healdsburg Education Foundation - CASA Program's Tiny House Project $5,000
- Healdsburg Food Pantry $1,006
- Santa Rosa Symphony - Healdsburg Youth Program $1,000
- Meals On Wheels $1,006

A grant of $1,500 for the Healdsburg Children's Library was tabled pending until the January 2013 Board meeting:

The following membership issues were addressed:

- Dr. Jesse Whiteley submitted his resignation letter expressing regret that his new Healdsburg dental practice and young family requires so much of his time that nothing is left over for Kiwanis. He expressed his on-going interest in our Club and hopes to be able to rejoin us at a later date. His resignation was not accepted at this time. He will be offered the option of a leave of absence.

- Susan Sheehy resigned as a Club Board of Director member citing family commitments. She suggested that George Clough may be interested in replacing her. Her resignation was accepted and George Clough will be contacted to see if he will step forward and rejoin the Board.

- Richard Iverson submitted his letter requesting to change from Regular Member status to Senior Member Status due to family commitments. His status change request was approved.

In other action, the Board approved a $2,250 rent payment to the City Of Healdsburg for the period July 5, 2012 through December 18, 2012.

A lively discussion ensued regarding Lt. Gov. - District 32 Doug Braik's travel expense request of $1,386 which is based on $18 per Club member on KI's Membership Roster. The essence was whether we should pay an amount less than the $1,386 based on what service Lt. Gov. Braik will do for our Club or should we pay the full $1,386 as a member of the International Kiwanis Family. Twenty percent of the Clubs in Lt. Gov. Braik's District 32 do not pay anything. This issue was tabled until after Lt. Gov. Braik is our Guest Speaker late in February, 2013.

An interim payment of $1,000 from Member Project Eliminate donations to KI-UNICEF Project Eliminate Program was approved on the basis that the Project Eliminate Program needs current funding.

Oliver Evans received $500 from the Club a short time ago for his Healdsburg Senior Citizens Emergency Kit Project. This project is part of his requirements to attain Eagle Scout rank. He acquired the components of these kits, assembled and delivered them to forty local senior citizens. He has about $130 left over and asked whether we wanted this money returned or could we recommend a local charity for him to send it to. It was approved that he send the money to Healdsburg Boy Scout Troop 21.

$1,340 was approved to assist President Strong to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, Canada. This amount covers Registration and Hotel for two and one Air Fare. Loretta will assume the cost of Jerry's airfare.

Treasurer Peterson once again set forth his agitation regarding a few Club Members who do not pay for guests when attending Administrative Fund events. For example, at least two and possibly three Members did not pay for their Guests at last Tuesday's Christmas Lunch. Additionally, possibly eight Members did not pay for their Guests last August at the Brandt's Beach Barbecue. In his opinion, the Cashier's at these events should not be expected to chase Members at the event for payment. Nor should the Treasurer be expected to send one, and sometimes several, invoices to these Members with the frequent response of "I paid in Cash" or no response at all. Treasurer Peterson's recommendation for future Administrative Fund events is that the Club advise Members of their obligation to pay for guests and, most importantly, that Pre-Paid Tickets are the only method of gaining entrance to these events.

December Speakers
Pamela Swan – Healdsburg Education Foundation

Pamela Swan of the Healdsburg Education Foundation (HEF) was the guest speaker at the December 4 meeting. Ms. Swan expressed appreciation
for past Kiwanis support and noted that our club has contributed about $64,000 since 2007 in support of various HEF projects such as the lap top computer program, CASA and several others. Last year HEF raised a total of $527,000 for Healdsburg schools. HEF’s fund raising goal for 2012-2013 is $600,000 including $70,000 for the K-12 library tech program, $40,000 for K-12 arts and music, and 20,000 for CASA.

HEF also supports the "Elementary Enrichment Program" which offers weekly art, computer science, drama, music and physical education classes to 375 students. The Garden/Nutrition Class at Healdsburg Elementary School is part of the Enrichment Program. Students decorated covers for cookbooks highlighting some of the recipes children prepared and ate in the class. The HEF enrichment program fund raising goal for the year is $70,000.

Pete Peterson – Fiscal Reports

Club treasurer, Pete Peterson presented a fiscal report during the December 11 meeting covering both the Administrative and Project funds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

The Administrative fund had a balance of $15,914 at the end of the period. The fund has a substantial surplus as a result of the reasonable cost of lunches provided by Patti and Friends, successful fund raisers and other cost savings.

The Project Fund started the fiscal year with a balance of $40,550 and ended with $47,787. Net proceeds from the various fund raising activities totaled $52,714 and $45,778 was distributed in grants.

Santa Claus

The December 18 meeting was the annual Christmas luncheon. Eighty one members and guests were in attendance including contingents from both the Cloverdale and Windsor Clubs. Patti and Friends provide a delicious prime rib lunch which was enjoyed by all.

This year at the suggestion of Richard Thomas (actually Mrs. Thomas) that instead of the traditional gift exchange it would be more in keeping with Kiwanis principles for attendees to bring nonperishable food items for the food pantry or unwrapped toys for “Toys for Tots”.

The featured speaker for the day was Santa Claus himself, alias Dennis Stead. Santa read letters from several members who claimed to have been especially good and deserving of the gifts they were requesting from Santa.

Santa had a full bag and distributed gifts to a number of the deserving members. The photos below show some of the victims with their gifts.
Busy Lady Judy Everett Receives Equipment to Perform Her Many Jobs

Top Lady Loretta Strong with Her New Top Hat

Harry Jackson with Press Hat and Reporter’s Gear
Unfortunately Santa could not purchase 35mm film for the cameras at the Salvation Army

Phil Luks with His New Psychedelic Mohawk

Santa Brings Patti Robarts a WWII Gas Mask (for protection against Rick’s severe gas problem)

Santa Presented a Poster Showing Hunt C., Roger D and Dan G.
Santa Brought June Smith a Beautiful Set of PJ’s  
She declined to model them

Happy/Sad

Pete Peterson happy to have won the bid for 90 bottles of premium wine at the Cloverdale Kiwanis crab feed. Pete and President Loretta made an executive decision to commit Club Administrative Funds for the bid on the wine to replenish the club’s supply. The $1500 bid will come out of the Administrative Fund. Kurt Hahn questioned how the decision will be explained to the Board of Directors.

Judy Everett happy to win $500 in the 50/50 lotto at the crab feed.

Pete Peterson – 50 happy dollars for his grandson surviving serious injury resulting from weight lifting.

Jerry Strong call for help getting an 8 foot tree that Loretta picked out into the house.

Treasurer Pete Peterson with His New Almost Bullet Proof Vest and Other Protective Equipment  
(Needed for protection while taking tree lot money to the bank)