



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.....at Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom by ; Greeter ; and at the front desk

Program

Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction at Cameron Park Country Club. Begin with no-host cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Last Week



Last week the Rotary Club of Cameron Park hosted California State Assembly member (ASM) **Alyson Huber**, who represents the 10th Assembly District and was elected in November 2008. The 10th District is expansive and is comprised of Amador County, and portions of Sacramento, El Dorado and San Joaquin Counties. It includes the cities of Lodi, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Stockton, and Jackson. The District also includes the western most portion of Cameron Park. ASM Huber lives in El Dorado Hills with her husband, Tim, and two of their four children. Their other two children are currently away in college. She describes herself as "just a mom".

Raised in Lodi, ASM Huber graduated from Lodi High School before attending San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton. Because of her national success on the debate team she received a scholarship to California State University, Chico. After state budget cuts threatened to dismantle Chico's speech and debate team, Alyson transferred to Cornell University where she received her Bachelor of Science with honors, becoming the first member of her family to graduate from college. She came back to California and received her law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law, after which she pursued a career as a business lawyer. She became interested in the state legislature through her interest and passion for public policy and problem-solving.

ASM Huber observed that while the State of California has a budget of \$88 billion for this year, the budget for the next fiscal year will be operating with a \$20 billion shortfall. When asked about why the budget projections were so poor, ASM Huber commented that once the decline of state revenues started, the decline spread quickly and the ensuing shortfall fell far below the amount of funding needed to maintain a budget anywhere close to what had been expected.

One of the challenges facing state legislators, according to ASM Huber, is accepting federal funding wherein the amount of the funding being accepted is far less than the cost required to implement the changes which would be required by the funding. She gave the example of \$500 million to assist in funding specific educational programs, but if the state was to accept the funding, it would cost two billion to facilitate the necessary curriculum changes. As a result, the state would spend \$1.5 billion in an effort to obtain \$500 million in funding, which may not be cost-effective.

ASM Huber stated her two top priorities are (1) working against the Peripheral Canal and (2) trying to "Get a handle on the California bureaucracy".

Regarding the canal, ASM Huber observed that the project will be overseen by a panel of seven bureaucrats who are not elected, four of whom will be appointed by the governor. These seven officials will control the entire budget for the project, which will be a huge expenditure. ASM Huber believes that a project of this magnitude and cost requires much greater accountability to the taxpayers, especially with the state budget situation as it currently stands.

Addressing the issue of bureaucracy in the state government, ASM Huber commented she is advocating creation of a "Sunset Review" process concerning state government entities, as California currently has no such review and without this process once an entity is established, it can easily remain on the state budget rolls forever. Since California has term limits for elected officials, it is easy for such entities to continue to exist long after the reason for their establishment has passed. A "Sunset Review" process would provide a continuing evaluation and justification of the existence, necessity and effectiveness of these organizations.

In responding to club members' questions, ASM Huber addressed concerns regarding legislators' pay raises, prison issues and El Dorado County Transportation Commission matters. Regarding pay raises, she advised the legislators do not vote on their own pay raises, but an independent commission handles such matters and this year the commission implemented an 18% pay cut for state legislators. Discussing prison concerns, ASM Huber observed that each state prisoner costs \$45,000 per year, prison costs account for 27% of the state budget and the federal courts have ordered California to release 40,000 prisoners due to overcrowding – a situation our club was able to see first-hand during the Folsom Prison tour two weeks ago. Regarding the Transportation Commission, she noted that four of the six sitting members in El Dorado County are from Placerville and there are areas in El Dorado County which have no representation on the commission at all, thus creating a significant imbalance in the decision-making process regarding public transportation planning in the county.

Presidents Corner



BERNIE DOWSE RECOGNIZED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS:

El Dorado County Salvation Army District Director **Bernie Dowse** was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow Award by club Foundation Chair **Dave Bunje**. Bernie was recognized by the club for his many years of tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL SINGS:

Chris Moore announced the Ponderosa High School Choir will be serenading the club at the December 17, 2009, meeting and the Board approved giving the Choir \$400 to support their program at PHS.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AUCTION

Dave Sargent announced the club Christmas Party & Auction now has 108 confirmed attendees and anyone wishing to provide last-minute donations for the auction may drop their donations off at the country club during the set-up time on Thursday, December 10, 2009, between 2:30pm and 5:00pm.

Vickie Christensen-McLain advised that our Rotary Exchange Student, Francisca Alicia Rojas Moreno, will be attending the Christmas Party & Auction with her host family, **the Dyers** and their daughter **Maris**. Please be sure that to say hello and let them know that they are welcome.

VISIONING SET FOR JANUARY 14, 2010:

According to **Mike Dugan**, the club's visioning session has been set for January 14, 2010, and will take place immediately following the regular club meeting. The session is expected to last until about 5:00pm and Mike is hoping 15-25 members will be able to attend. Mike and **Ane Deister** are coordinating the session, which will help establish some goals and expectations for the club for the next three to five years.

FOOD BANK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

Irina Green and **Chuck LePere** advised the El Dorado County Food Bank will be holding its annual Christmas food hand-out during the period December 17, 18 & 19 at the main building at the County Fairgrounds. December 17 & 18 will be the days food is being turned in for donation and Saturday December 19 will be the day the food is handed out to those in need. Club members were asked to

volunteer for two hours shifts on each of the three days.

C of C RAFFLE:

Shiva Frentzen announced the Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce is still selling three raffle chances for \$25 for a 4-day, 3-night getaway and interested members can obtain tickets from Shiva. Don't forget, the Rotary Club of Cameron Park is a member of the Chamber and, as a good member, we should give the C of C our support.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY & NOT-SO HAPPY BUCKS:

Tom Keating provided \$20 in Happy Bucks for celebrating a wedding anniversary with his lovely wife, **Starleen**, as well as celebrating the arrival of their 6th grandchild.

Bob Clarke and **Bob Dorr** put up \$5 each in Happy Bucks for having their picture with DG **Janice Gage** in the District 5190 newsletter. In case anyone missed the Tremendous Trio's photo, PDGs Clarke and Dorr were shown with DG Gage "behind bars" in one of **Ulla Petersen's** stalls during the recent TGIF party at Ulla's barn. Club President **Bill Gallant** threw in another \$5 on DG Janice's behalf.

Ron Losel threw in \$5.50 worth of Happy Bucks to celebrate the arrival of the Losel's 6th great grandchild.

Max Callaghan was \$10 happy for the safe arrival of his in-laws from Italy.

Bob Dorr gave another \$5 for recognition of our club's Philippine boat project in the recent **ROTARIAN** magazine.

Shiva Frentzen's 17th wedding anniversary with hubby Jeff was worth \$17 in Happy Bucks. Club Pres **Bill Gallant** started a landslide of December birthday Happy Bucks, by giving \$24 for his upcoming birthday. That was followed by **Jim Buckley** providing \$24, **Gary Reynolds** giving \$24 on behalf of wife **Robin**, \$23 from **Rick Spicer**, \$18 from **Ulla Petersen**, \$8 from **Cindy Sutorka** and \$27 from **Dave Johnson**.

Additional December Happy Bucks included \$12 from Dave Bunje to commemorate his anniversary with wife **Janet**

Ben Young observed that he had escaped paying his birthday Happy Bucks for his November birthday, so Ben was more than happy to part with \$12 to make up for "lost time".

Birthdays in December

Jim Buckley
Tom Check
Dave Crofut
Ane Deister
Bill Fister
Ben Foulk
Bill Gallant
Dave Johnson
Ulla Petersen
Rick Spicer
Cindy Sutorka
-----Spouses-----
Sheilah Gall
Robin Reynolds

Anniversaries in December

David & Janet Bunje

Tom & Beverly Check
Michael & Cathy Dugan
Shiva & Jeff Frentzen

Upcoming Calendar

December 10, 2009 – Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction

December 17, 2009 - A program you do not want to miss. **The Ponderosa High School Choir**

December 24, 2009 – No meeting this week. Merry Christmas

December 31, 2009 – No meeting this week. Happy New Year

Upcoming Words of Wisdom/Greeter Assignments

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, December 10, 2009 –
Annual Christmas Dinner and Auction
at Cameron Park Country Club

Tuesday, January 5, 2010 - Monthly
Board meeting at noon at Bass Lake
Golf Course. All members are welcome
and encouraged to attend.

Mike Neal has put together a photo
series of highlights of the 20th Annual

Show & Shine Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The link is at the bottom of this web page.

Gear Up is written by **Art Cort**, **Jim Buckley** and **Rick Spicer**. Web site, photography, and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.