



# The Golden Grapevine

Established 2007

2016

November

A Publication of Rotary Club of Plymouth-Foothills

## Presidents Message

It's hard to believe that my tenure as Club President is 1/3 completed. Two things stand out at this point.

First, we have a cohesiveness that wasn't visible to me a year ago, and it looks indestructible. Whenever I show signs of newbie confusion, one of our Rotary Blue bloods appears out of nowhere to 'share' what might be the best way to handle the situation. Whether related to a youth, giving, financial management, event selection and planning, etc, etc, someone presents an optimal solution – and this is where it gets really good – offers to help work on it.

Our District Governor visited this week. My experience prepping for important business meetings helped, but when every (Volunteer!!) Officer and Board Member arrived with handouts and presented their summaries with effective brevity, the self-imposed stress turned into a warm blanket. A little selfish pride snuck in of course, but I honestly believe that this team could accomplish all that we can imagine.

Second, remarkably, we have a handle on our year. With the exception of one new project in the definition phase, events: Fund raising, community, youth, etc., are clearly identified, scheduled and, for the most part, have an experienced lead person in charge. We're close to a solid budget and know where the risks are. Our goals: Financial, membership, etc are accepted by the team and we will achieve them. My wish for this month is that everyone will sign up to meet an annual giving goal. The automatic credit card debit works for me: The relatively small monthly charge is almost painless, I don't watch the money go away, and Susie hasn't harassed me in a year. I can do this. Please think about it.

Best Rotary wishes,  
Austin

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**THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

**NOVEMBER 22ND**

**FAIRGROUNDS**

**7:15A.M**

**DON'T FORGET**

**TO SIGN UP**

**SEE SUSIE FOR THE LIST**



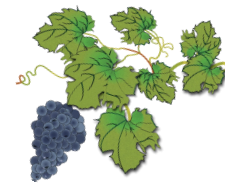
## Calendar

### November 2016

1	7:15a.m.	<b>49er RV Park</b> Speaker: John Sullivan About Rotary
8	7:15a.m.	<b>49er RV Park</b> Speaker: Dominic Sirianni Meadowlands—Farm to Fork
	8:45a.m.	Board Meeting
15	7:15a.m.	<b>49er RV Park</b> Speaker: David Logan About Me
22	7:15a.m.	<b>Fairgrounds</b> Thanksgiving Baskets
29	6:00p.m.	<b>Evening Mixer</b> Dave & Diane Logan <a href="#">Directions</a>

### December 2016

6	7:15a.m.	<b>49er RV Park</b> Speaker: David A. Scharlach Lost Spirits of the Shenandoah Valley
13	6:00p.m.	<b>Plymouth Hotel</b> Christmas Party & Evening Mixer <a href="#">Directions</a>
20		<b>No Meeting</b> Merry Christmas
27		<b>No Meeting</b> Happy New Year



## North Pole

North Pole, Alaska is a small town outside Fairbanks. As of the 2010 census North Pole had a population of 2,117 people. The name "North Pole" is often applied to the entire area covered by its zip code, 99705. This area stretches between Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. It is situated between the Chena and Tanana Rivers. Despite the name, the town is about 1,700 miles south of Earth's geographic North Pole.

Aside from tourism, which is the major industry in North Pole, it is home to two oil refineries. These refineries are a major source of jet fuel for the Anchorage International Airport.

Up until 2009 the residents of North Pole received and answered hundreds of thousands of letters addressed to Santa Claus or addressed to 1 Santa Claus Lane. Since the residents of the town were much too busy answering letters and stamping post marks on envelopes they couldn't have a Christmas Parade in December or much of anything else for that matter. To keep the theme of North Pole and Christmas the firetrucks are painted red while the police cars and painted green and white. The town so wanted an annual Christmas Parade they did the only thing reasonable thing, their Christmas Parade is held annually on July 4th.

North Pole also boasts a Rotary Club, chartered in 1978. As of 2016 the North Pole Rotary Club has 12 members, including 2 charter members. They've been fairly busy over the years, their most recent project was to install a bus shelter near a school and senior housing complex. They've also developed an outdoor sports park for skateboarders and BMX riders. In 2002 they installed a gazebo in the local park and have maintained it and oversee it's upkeep. In 2011 they adopted a mile in the state's Adopt-A-Mile program, and at least twice a year they do their best to keep that mile clean. They host the annual North Pole Health Fair and provide Thanksgiving boxes for the needy of the community. They sponsor a youth for RYLA and provide a four-year scholarship to a local high school student each year. In addition they adopt a family in need at Christmas.

To help pay for some of their projects their primary fundraisers is selling roses, hosting a basketball tournament and hosting a halibut fry with a silent auction. There may only be a few people in the North Pole Rotary Club but it's a very active club.

If you've never been to North Pole maybe a side trip from life's daily tasks is in order. When there stop at the most popular store in town, the Santa Claus House.

## The End Of 2016—What's Happening

As this year comes to an end we would like to remind you of a few upcoming dates to remember

### Thanksgiving

It originated as a harvest festival and has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789 after a proclamation by George Washington. It has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since 1863, when, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

Mark your calendar for **November 22nd**, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We will meet at 7:15a.m. at the Fairgrounds where we will fill 24 Thanksgiving baskets. It doesn't take long to fill those baskets with everything needed for a Thanksgiving meal, from butter to the turkey and everything in between. But there's something else that happens during that short period of time. Something very special and very meaningful, something called fellowship and camaraderie happens. It's a time to get to know your fellow Rotarians on a more personal basis. A time to give thanks for the friendships between each and every person in that room. So come on out and help fill those baskets, but most of all, come on out and fill your heart with blessings from those around you.

### Christmas

Then we're into the Christmas season, with the hustle and bustle of shopping for all those wonderful gifts that we exchange with our family and friends. Here in Amador and Calaveras Counties there are some who aren't afforded the luxury of those wonderful gifts. There are children that may not receive anything under the tree from Santa. Which is where **A Christmas To Remember** comes into play. December 3 and 4 our Club sets up a table outside Pokerville Market, during these two days we gather cash donations. A few days later kids from Amador and Calaveras are taken on a shopping trip. If they are old enough they get to go shopping without their parents in tow, with that said, they do have an adult to supervise during this shopping trip just not mommy or daddy. The child gets to choose a complete ensemble of new clothing, from socks to jackets. For those who are too young mommy or daddy do get to go along with them during the shopping trip. For some of these kids it's the first new clothing they may have ever received. Its heart rendering to know that these two days can make for a wonderful Christmas for these kids. But if you ask Jamie Lubenko about it she can give another side of the story. She's been one of those supervisors who went shopping with these children. This is one shopping trip that can bring tears to one's eyes and it will always be remembered by both the adult supervisor and the child.

#### Birthdays— November

Ken Custodio	2
Ken Curry	8
Austin Ford	23

#### Anniversaries— November

Gordon & Virgie Binz	11
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## Rotary Club of Plymouth Foothills

P. O. Box 56  
Plymouth, CA 95669

Breakfast Meetings  
Tuesday ~ 7:15a.m.  
Far Horizons 49er RV Resort  
18265 Highway 49  
Plymouth, CA



*Austin Ford Jr.*  
President

ACTION WITHOUT VISION IS WASTED,  
AND VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS JUST A DREAM.  
ACTION WITH VISION BRINGS HOPE TO THE WORLD

1996 ROTARY CONVENTION ADDRESS  
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA



We're on the web

[www.pfrotory.org](http://www.pfrotory.org)

## District Governor John Sullivan

Our November 1st meeting was quite an honor with a visit from DG John Sullivan and his wife Sandy.

John's talk was quite uplifting and encouraging.

John presented two awards:

STARS awarded to Tom Patten

Quiet Rotarian awarded to Joe Mock

Both well deserved awards, thanks for all your work guys

A special award and new to our club was the Past President's Award. For tirelessly giving of one's self and helping behind scenes. This award and certificate was given to Susie Clark. Susie may be late to the meetings but she's always there for you.

Congratulations to all

## Zihuatanejo Eye Clinic

Several months ago the process began with arrangements being made with the Lions In-Sight and our Rotary Club to once again partner in an eye clinic in the Zihuatanejo area. Since two clinics had been done in Zihuatanejo proper the Lions Club asked if we could extend and go to an outlying town. With the help of the Major's office and the Department of Family Services (DIF) it was suggested that the next eye clinic be held in a very small village about 40 miles north of Zihua. Since the Ixtapa and Zihua Rotary Clubs are not familiar with this area they opted to not assist in gathering people for the eye clinic. DIF picked up the ball and started getting the word out, letting the villagers know that in mid February an eye clinic would be held in their village of Pantla. The Major's office contacted Hotel Irma trying to get rooms for the group at no charge. The owner of Hotel Irma, being far removed in Mexico City, said the best they could do was decrease the price per room by about 60% since this timeframe was the high season for Zihua. The wheels were turning, the staff at DIF were excited because this area is much more poor than Zihua. The hotel was arranged, eye glasses were being packaged up for shipment to Mexico, and the people of Pantla were getting excited. Several emails were sent out to our Rotary Club members requesting volunteers to once again sign up and partner with the Lions Club In-Sight program. Only one Rotarian came forward and signed up.

With time running out it is with great sadness that I must inform our Rotary Club the eye clinic has been cancelled. Without technicians it is very difficult for an eye clinic to work effectively.

On another note, special prescription eye glasses that were needed by several children in El Coacoyul children's clinic, which was held last year, were recently shipped to Mexico. There were a total of ten pair of eye glasses there were recently shipped by the Lions Club.

We want thank the Lions Club for their assistance in partnering with our Rotary Club to help make these eye clinics possible.