

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
February 25, 2019

The February 25, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Melissa Collins with 23 persons present. Dawn Tisdell and Margaret Talcott (Director) from College of the Redwoods' Adult Education Department were introduced as guests.

Correspondence included announcements from FBID - *Home Based Business Expo*, Ferndale Repertory Theatre's 2018-19 schedule, Hydesville Community Church's DivorceCare and GriefCare, Fortuna Concert Series, CR's free Sign Language Class, The MGC's Intro to Conversational Spanish class, *All Chamber Mixer* at Benbow Historic Inn, and the 44th Annual Daffodil Show.

Melissa Collins announced the winners from the Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner & Auction. They included: Business of the Year – Fortuna Grocery Outlet; Citizen of the Year – Lisa Hummel; Volunteer of the Year – Bob Judevine; New Business – Springville Meat Company; Small Business – Humboldt Distillery; Home Based Business – Loleta Eric's Guide Service; Customer Service – Rocha's Automotive; Ambassador – Matt Casagrande; Non-profit – Wild Souls Ranch; Lifetime Achievement – Don Brown. Fortuna Grocery Outlet was the winner of the Table Top Decoration Contest.

Melissa Collins thanked Ridgetop Café & Coffee Barn for catering. She announced next week's program would be Redwood Coast Village.

Jennifer Ourique announced that the *Pennies for Paradise* fundraiser raised \$1,490.86 for the town of Paradise. The funds will be sent to the local schools to aid in their rebuilding.

Becky Giacomini announced that St. Joseph's had recently awarded 25 grants totaling \$300,000 to local non-profits. More information would be announced in the Times-Standard at a future date.

Dianna Rios announced that the Home-Based Business Expo would be held at the Monday Club on March 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jesse Gabriel from California Photo Party would have his booth set up.

Lisa Hummel announced the Fortuna Rotary Club fundraiser would be held on May 2 (Thursday). Tickets were \$150 (for 2 people). They would have BBQ oysters, prawns, and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner of prime rib or chicken beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cash Prizes = 3 x \$1,000, 3 x \$500, 3 x \$250, and 3 x \$125.

Guest Speaker: **Morgan Dodson** / HARDCAR Distribution

Morgan is an 8-year Navy veteran and works at HARDCAR Distribution, a veteran-owned and operated company that specializes in the safe transport of cash and product from Southern California to Arcata. Each of their armored car drivers are veterans and carry weapons. The founder, Todd Kleperis, has created the *22 Trees Project* to bring awareness to the high rate of suicide among veterans. The goal is to plant trees all over the United States. So far, they have 10 states participating in the project. Morgan is responsible for the Eel River Valley program and has secured redwood seeds from

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Humboldt Redwood Company, soil from Root 101 Nursery, and 6 redwood trees from Jonsteen Company. The goal is to plant trees around Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Scotia. She is currently looking for locations to plant the trees and different varieties of trees (e.g., Japanese Maple, dogwood). Some of the trees will be located at the Veterans Memorial Building. Each tree will bear a plaque to remind people to reach out to a vet and let them know that they have support. HARDCAR is also working on creating a CBD oil in partnership with Veterans Cannabis Group (“VCG”), to help vets suffering from combat-related PTSD. **If you are interested in sponsoring a tree at your business or donating a tree, please contact Morgan at mdodson@hardcar.com.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary