

Community Comment – January 30th, 2017

By Jon Sapper

A Community That Works Together

An evening WITHOUT talking about Donald Trump's wall, uppity Hillary getting her comeuppance or socialist Bernie's inside set-up by the Democrat Party is delightful indeed. And as rare as an occasion like that might be currently, it did occur a week ago at the River Lodge in Fortuna. Several hundred folks came together for Fortuna Sunrise Rotary's first Seafood Boil where laughter, frivolity and a few hours of tossing the daily cares away were in full display. It was a fun evening that raised thousands of dollars to support many important causes and current needs in our community.

An event like that just doesn't happen. From club members who skillfully managed the thirty-three large stock pots and thirty-three burners filled to the brim with seafood from literally across the country and internationally, to the twenty plus high school students who wore crab, clam and shrimp hats while dumping the buckets of seafood, sausages, potatoes and corn in the center of each table, it was an evening to remember.

With the help of Coast Seafood, Pacific Choice Seafood, Crab-E-Toms, Cash and Carry and Costco;..... clams, mussels and prawns arrived from Washington, local Dungeness crab and oysters graced the tables, crawfish from Louisiana were trucked in, fresh corn from the Southern California desert was available and red king crab legs from Russia via Alaska showed up on time just a day to two before the event. A special thanks also goes to Bay Tank in Eureka who helped stabilize the thirty-three burners so they could handle the weight of all that seafood. Renner Petroleum donated the seafood buckets and the auctioning skills of Rex Bohn pushed prices to a level where applause followed the exclamation of "Sold!" Rex is pretty good at being able to squeeze a dollar out of a wallet or purse, especially after folks have had a glass or two of wine.

SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists, Edward Jones, Tri-County Bank, Arcata Sunrise Rotary, Coho Cottages, Humboldt Redwood Company, Redwood Capital Bank and the McLean Foundation were sponsors. I list these businesses and organizations as it shows it takes a community working together in new and

creative ways for a successful event like this to work. And work it did. Tables are already being reserved for next year.

This same approach with service clubs, businesses, community groups and individuals coming together with this kind of a focus can also solve some of our most pressing challenges as a community.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.