

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

MINUTES
FORTUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
October 21, 2019

The October 21, 2019, meeting of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce was called to order by Chair Seth McGrath with 19 persons present. Renee Lindsay introduced Berny McKenna from FBID.

Correspondence included the following announcements: North Coast Growers' Association Farmers' Markets; Fortuna Senior Scene; Leadership Fortuna application; FBID; Gene Lucas Community Center; North Coast Otter Art Project; Fortuna Kiwanis Quarter Mania; Redwood Memorial Hospital; City of Fortuna Press Release; River Life Foundation; North Coast Small Business Development Center; Fortuna High Career Day; Rotary International; Trunk or Treat; Grave Matters; Fortuna Parks & Rec Dept.; Coast Central Credit Union Chamber Mixer; Redwood Village Merchants Association; HSU Music Department; and various articles by the Times Standard.

Seth McGrath thanked Ridgetop Cafe for lunch.

Becky Giacomini announced that the October Mixer will be held at Coast Central Credit Union on Wednesday, October 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She thanked Ridgetop Café for their participation in the Breast GYN & Health Project fundraiser over the weekend and reminded everyone that October is breast health month.

Renee Lindsay announced Trunk or Treat would be held on Halloween from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Businesses could contact Brian Gonzalez (US Bank) or Chris Broadstock (Tri Counties Bank) for the window display.

Sean Swanson announced the River Life Foundation Fall Ball & Dinner on Saturday, October 26. Tickets are \$25.00.

Dr. Alan French thanked Redwood Capital Bank for their wine donation to the Highway 36 Association Dinner. He thanked everyone who attended.

Guest Speakers: Charlie Giannini, Fortuna Cemetery District and Dr. Alex Service, Fortuna Depot Museum.

Charlie gave a brief history of the Fortuna Cemetery District. The District was formed in the 1950s. They cover several cemeteries – Sunrise, Pioneer, Rohnerville Catholic, Masonic Odd Fellow, and 2 in Hydesville. They have an operating budget of about \$140,000 and have three employees. A significant portion of their operating budget comes from cemetery services (e.g. burials), but they've seen a steep decline with the popularity of cremations. This has made it necessary to seek revenue from other sources, such as Grave Matters & Untimely Departures. This is the 10th Anniversary of the event. Dr. Service presented a few of the stories that will be re-enacted at this year's event. One returning favorite will be America Jane Moore Elliott Burge Cameron who came to California by wagon train in 1846 when she was seven years old. Her first husband's father and older brother were among the ringleaders of the Bear Flag Revolt (June-July 1846). A pioneer of Sonoma, Lake, and Tehama counties, America Jane was three times married and divorced each of her husbands. During the third divorce, she chased her husband out of the house at gunpoint. America Jane will be portrayed by actor Carol Lang. Another story will be of Ray Q. Mills, a 32-year-old husband, father, Korean War veteran, and officer of the Fortuna Police Department who died in March 1967. Mills was killed by a hit-and-run driver in

the early-morning hours one Sunday, while assisting another officer with a highway traffic stop just north of Fortuna. Ray Mills will be portrayed by actor David Hamilton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Lindsay
Recording Secretary