



# ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

Club founded in 1967

## BHS Boys' Soccer

Steve McClure presented Armando Martinez and Ryan Wheat a check for \$750 from their team's assistance with our golf tournament in August. Thank you, BHS Boys' Soccer!



## Happy Dollars



Bob Triglia recently went to San Antonio and visited the Alamo! He was \$10 happy and felt his visit was very moving to see such a piece of history!

## Susan Hurl & Trash



Our speaker today was our very own Susan Hurl, who provided us with TRASH TALK. Susan is employed for Republic Services in Pacheco, the company responsible for taking care of all of our trash that we generate.

Susan's focus was on solid wastes and recycling. She felt it was important that we understand these concepts so we can better understand trash! She started by providing us a timeline of various regulations that impact us. In 1989, the California Legislature passed the Integrated Waste Management Act. Bottom line, this act stated that we needed to improve how much we recycle, so recyclable products can be diverted from our garbage and reused. Benicia needed to have 25% diversion by January 1, 1995, and 50% diversion by January 1, 2000. Otherwise, the city could have been levied a steep fine of \$10,000/day. No problem. The City of Benicia did well and Susan showed us our city's compliance history from 1995 — 2006.

In 2007, the state created a new mandate — SB 1016 which changed how cities in California do business with their trash. The new mandate focuses on per capita disposal and no longer calculates a diversion rate. It is all based on how well you are diverting certain types of trash, and what is your population.

In 2011, the state again created another mandate — AB 341 which impacts commercial businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of trash per week. This mandate requires monitoring, compliance and reporting. Did you know that someone from Republic Services actually visits sites in Benicia to make sure all of this is happening?

In 2014, the state created another mandate — AB 1826. This

Steve McClure attended a State Farm Convention in Las Vegas, and actually took money away from the city...or casinos. Steve was happy!

Scott Reep's new firm — Reep and Mitchell LLC, is now official as of October 1. Scott is back at work but still plans on traveling about 10 days per month. He was \$20 happy.

John Blunt was \$50 happy from being one of the top winner in a slot machine tournament, and he was \$50 happy from making the final table in a poker tournament in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Martha Christopher was happy as her husband's sister, Barb (age 70), has rekindled the relationship from her high school boyfriend. They will be married in January 2019!

Our guest, Lou, a visiting Rotarian, was \$10 happy to be at our club!

## Susan Hurl's Picture

Susan's picture is so small as she hates having her picture taken. The small picture is the best I could do! Thank you, Susan. Your presentation was GREAT!



mandate requires businesses that generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste must have an organics program in 2016. In 2017, the number changed and business that generated 4 cubic yards of organic waste must have an organics program. In 2019, businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste must have an organics program. As you see, the stakes get higher and compliance will be more difficult. Susan shared other mandates, each with steeper annual requirements which will be harder to achieve as time passes.

Susan shared China's impact on our trash. For decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's recycled commodity, and the US was 40% of that number. But in 2017, China announced efforts to clean up their country which included dramatic changes for their acceptance criteria of imported recyclables. China used to accept a 3% contamination rate of recyclables, but that number has changed to an acceptance level less than 0.5%. What does this mean? It means when you recycled your ketchup bottle and there was still ketchup in the bottle, when it was crushed, the ketchup squirted out and contaminated everything. I bet you never thought about this!

Susan discussed how our plastic bottles have changed. Remember how you were able to open a bottle of water and the plastic was firm? Nowadays, the plastic is so flimsy because there is so much less plastic in the bottle. Fast forward this concept.... Republic Services must now process over 92,000 bottles for 1 ton of plastic, but they used to only need to process 48,000 bottles for one ton. That means more work, more time, more manpower, more money. Costs go up. Hence, a negative net revenue.

We live close to Newby Island Landfill, one of the largest active dumps on the shores of the San Francisco Bay, located in Santa Clara. Nearby, in Bay Point, is the Keller Canyon Landfill which is not open to the public. It is over 2600 acres of land and supports 7.21 acres of wetlands. It has berms built around it so it is not visible from the road. Keller Canyon is one of the main recipients of refuse from residents and businesses in this area.

Trash is big business! Recycling and the diversion of products and wastes for future reuse is even bigger. Thank you, Susan, for talking TRASH! Your presentation was very interesting and really provided great details for our understanding.