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Rotary Club of Lafayette Turns 70 in Style

Submitted by Robert Shusta



Michael Heller with the Club's birthday cake
Photo Dave Baker

The Rotary Club of Lafayette celebrated its 70th anniversary on April 21 at a luncheon at the Oakwood Athletic Club, where they meet each week on Thursdays.

There were 71 attendees who heard that Lafayette Rotary was chartered in 1946 by the Rotary Clubs of Berkeley (chartered in 1916) and Walnut Creek (chartered in 1937). That Lafayette Rotary was involved in the chartering of four other Rotary Clubs, Orinda (1949), Lamorinda Sunrise (1987), Diablo View in Walnut Creek (2009) and the Ekaterinburg, Russia Club in 1998. Ekaterinburg, also known as Yekaterinburg, is the fourth largest city in Russia located in the Ural Mountains situated between Europe and Asia. The city has a population of 1.5 million and was the second Rotary Club established in Western Russia.

The master of ceremonies, George Chaffey, acknowledged the members in the club who had over 25 years membership, including special tribute for length of membership to Bill Eames, 52 years, Tom Courtright, 44 years, and Ed Stokes, 40 years. Chaffey mentioned the Club's impact on the community, in that over the years, its membership has included two city managers, two city council members, four chiefs of police, one sheriff, one county supervisor, three Acalanes Union High School District superintendents, two principals, and one elementary school district superintendent.

Those interested in membership with the Rotary Club of Lafayette are encouraged to attend a complimentary lunch meeting at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Meetings are held every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m.

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