

Resource Guide Board of Directors

President, Ray Soper
Vice President, Roland Mellor
Secretary, Joe Turner
Treasurer, Joe Pedrani
Director, John Rossi
Director, Don Barella
Director, Stan Pronzini
Director, Nick Bursio
Director, Scott Thurston

Finance and Budget Committee:

Joe Pedrani, Treasurer
Patty Soper, Volunteer Bookkeeper
Jill Martin, CPA

Clubhouse Committee

Patty Soper
Joe Turner

Penngrove Clubhouse Rental

Tobie Goldbeck: 707-795-7668

Park Committee

Kim Hanson
Sue Barrass
Don Barella - Maintenance Supervisor
Henry Trindade - Park Caretaker

Fundraising Committees

Italian Night

Dean DeGraffenreid

Crab Feed

Roland Mellor

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Stan Pronzini

Truckers Ball

Roland Mellor & Julie Hansen,

Rotary Bike Ride

Patty Soper

July Celebration

Board of Directors

Hot Rods and Bar BQ

John Rossi

Hawaiian Luau

Kim Hanson

Social Affairs Committee

Dean De Graffenreid, Monthly Dinners

Stephanie Exline & Rick Mellor, Bar

Pam Rossi, Monthly Raffle

Gazette Committee

Ray Soper, Editor and Publishing

Julie Hansen, Typing

Kristi Rossi, Distribution

By-Laws and Legal Committee

Bill Fishman

Penngrove Club House Rental

Tobie Goldbeck 707-795-7668

Penngrove Park Rental

Tobie Goldbeck 707-795-7668

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2015

DINNER

Directors Meeting

October 12, 2015 6:00 p.m.

7850 Davis Lane, Penngrove



Penngrove Social Firemen

GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2015

P.O. Box 264, Penngrove, CA 94951

Elections in December

Elections for Directors will be in December, Nominations will be open at the October regular meeting of the Social Firemen. Openings for the 2016 to 2018 term will be as follows:
Term expirations:

John Rossi, Director
Scott Thurston, Director
Nick Bursio, Director
Roland Mellor, Vice President
Joe Turner, Secretary

The term for a Director is two years, the rotation is four Board Members one year and five the next year for a total of nine directors.

Being a Director is a big commitment. It requires a minimum of 11 board meetings through out the year as well as special meetings two to three times a year.

The Board has the responsibility to see that the Club House and Park are in good shape and the organization stays financially solid. They need to deal with complaints, fee schedules, on going improvement projects, fundraisers and overall operations of a 501 c3 non-profit corporation.

Presidents Address on

September 2, 2015

We, I emphasize WE raised \$ 53,000 and built a new playground in the Park for the community to enjoy.
We had all the out buildings at the park repaired, added a concrete ramp to storage building and professionally painted our outbuildings in the Park.
We built a new pump and irrigation shed in the Park with volunteer labor.
We built a new ticket booth that doubles as additional storage in the Park with volunteer labor.
We upgraded the wash area to include a fifty gallon hot water heater and a rinse system for cleaning after events again volunteer labor.
We, with donations, built a new ball field in the park. With over 150 hours of volunteer labor along with \$ 9935.00 in public donations.
We had refinished the hardwood floors in the clubhouse.
We repaired the clubhouse after the earth quake last year that caused the already weakening ceiling to fall. A job that could have cost Between \$ 7000.00 and \$ 8000.00 but a dedicated member got it professionally repaired for less than \$ 3500.00
We set up irrigation in the park to run off our existing well that we found to be in good shape. Saving not only on our water bill but conserving water in general.
We developed new rental contracts for the Park and the Clubhouse.
We converted our bookkeeping system to Quick Books Pro saving us money on accounting fees. We have a volunteer bookkeeper saving us money.
We have increased our fundraising capacity by adding new events.
We updated the caretaker's home with new windows, roof, carpeting, heater, misc repairs and painting inside and outside.
We added a new hot water heater in the kitchen at the Park as well as a new stove.
We continued to support Penngrove 4-H by providing the Clubhouse for their meetings rent free & participating in the purchasing of 4-H livestock projects at

Sonoma County Fair.

We are providing the Clubhouse as a polling place for general elections and community meetings.

We provide discounted rates for members renting the Clubhouse.

We have developed an award in memory of long time Ag teacher and Social Firemen Bill King. This year we gave an outstanding Ag mechanics student a new Mig Welder in Bill's memory.

We continue to publish a newsletter every month with support from ads. In our newsletter we often have articles about local business and members that have contributed to the formation of the Penngrove Social Firemen most, have passed on. We take pride in maintaining their original goals of providing a Park and Clubhouse for the community.

We had direct public donations excluding donations to the base ball field, of \$15,283.00. We made cash donations to Moms of Military Service personal, Petaluma Elks, Tomales High school FFA, Impact softball team, Penngrove Elementary School, Rancho Adobe Fire Fighters, Petaluma Juniors Riding Club, Petaluma FFA National Dairy Judging team, ALS, Association, Petaluma Little League, just to mention a few for a total of \$ 26,259.00

We had a fund raiser and paid \$7,000.00 for an operation to restore eye sight for a community member.

We were recipients of a proclamation by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for our accomplishments in serving our community.

Our monthly meeting dinners that net the Penngrove Social Firemen approximately \$ 4800.00 per year, thanks to volunteers who cook tend bar and Pam Rossi who is relentless with our monthly raffles.

We have money in savings \$ 40,000; we have money in our checking account despite our \$60,000 a year overhead.

This is a list of the few accomplishments that you as members have made, making our community a better place to live.

Note:

Our fundraisers over the past six years we have netted \$ 216,503.00, excluding money that was raised for playground equipment (\$ 53,000.00) and the Kris Rossi vision restoration (\$ 7000.00).

This does not include the hundreds hours of volunteer time spent in fundraisers, monthly dinners, construction time, Board of Directors meeting (60 hours per year by each member).

We are fortunate to have a volunteer bookkeeper that spends approximately 25 to 30 hours a month keeping our records in order.

We have a volunteer that sees to it that our bar inventory is kept up for meetings as well as events, this is no small task.

We have a web site expert that maintains our online website up to date.

We have a full time property manager at minimal cost.

We have a new volunteer to maintain our marquee across from the Fire Station.

We have volunteers on monthly basis that cook dinners and tend bar for our meeting every month. (cont. page 2

I have been a member since 1969 and have seen all sorts of peaks and valleys in the maintenance of the Penngrove Social Firemen and its assets. Some negative but most of it positive. There was a day, not so many years ago, that the Social Firemen would have to borrow money, at no interest, from Leo Garzelli in order to pay our bills until the Penngrove Celebration brought in enough money to pay Leo back and carry us for the next several months. My point is, when negative actions and comments are made please do your best to ignore them. We have come a long way to be brought down by a very few. When listening and the word "I" is used instead of "WE", it usually brings some negativity with it and I am guilty myself at times. No new idea is a bad one and it is up to your Board of Directors, when it evolves money, to assess its merit and bring their findings back to the membership. It is remarkable that each and every month we have 60 to 72 members and guest attending our meetings that is 50 % of our membership. New faces show up interested in our organization. It is a shame that these new faces are subject to negativity as displayed at last month's meeting. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, however think before you talk, is what I am about to say any way detrimental or is it positive to the organization. Opinions and ideas matter. Sometimes they are accepted and sometimes they are not, so let it go. Respect others in the delivery of a message, there may be something very important in that message. If you are bent on chastising a fellow member at an open meeting because you think he or she is wrong, rethink the issue, talk to that member one on one in manner that will achieve a solution. If that is not comfortable for you then come to our monthly Directors meeting or write to the Board. You will find that your current Board of Directors are very opened minded and have the Penngrove Social Firemen interest at heart. Two members attended last month's Board meeting, they expressed their opinions. We take them seriously with respect which will lead us to a positive solution. The issue could have been carried on for months on the general meeting floor but was professionally addressed by a dedicated group of volunteer Directors.

As mentioned early we have accomplished so many positive results let's not destroy it with negativity. In my tenor as member I have seen the Social Firemen membership drop to as low as 26 members because of the negative impact of statements, chastising others and losing site of our original goal in 1951 which is making Penngrove a better place for all.

Members may have what they consider to be a great idea but is not shared with the majority of the members. If this happens, move on don't beat it into ground it will inevitably cause deception and negative feelings among the mass resulting in a down turn in participation. My belief is that everyone here and those who pay membership dues have the Penngrove Social Firemen's intent in their heart. We do great things; we are a well oiled machine that is the envy of many other organizations thorough out the county. Let's not destroy what took so many years of hard work by our founding members to our current membership by trying to change something that has been successful for 65 years.

Isn't it great that we live in a community and country that we can have an open forum without fear of reprisal? Many areas of the world don't have such a luxury. As your President I am asking you as members to keep up the absolute phenomenal work and to be respectful when addressing members in an open forum.

Penngrove Social Firemen Membership Meeting September 2, 2015

President Ray Soper called the meeting to order at 6:44 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Courtland Pelton, one of our many respected veterans.

Good of the Order: A "Thank You" card was read from the Friends of Penngrove PTA thanking the Penngrove Social Firemen (PSF) for the use of the Penngrove Park and for the financial support we have shown that assists the children of Penngrove. There was also a Thank You card from one of the Penngrove 4-H members Cooper, thanking us for purchasing his pig during the Sonoma County fair. He said he will use the money to buy a scale to weigh his pigs. And we received a letter from Exchange Bank with a check in the amount of \$160 to support the Luau BBQ that will be held on September 19th. These are just a few of the thankful, appreciative and generous people that appreciate Penngrove Social Firemen for the support they give to the community. The minutes in the newsletter and the treasurer's report from August were approved as correct.

Guests: Ray Soper had 2 guests in attendance: his Aunt Rose Frates and friend Ellie and Don Barella brought his son Dennis and Keenan. Dennis & Keenan have contributed work done on the base ball diamond. We were happy to welcome back Mona Pelton and Tony Albini. Both have been having some health issues, but they look wonderful.

Treasurer Joe Pedrani presented the Treasurer's Report:

General Checking	\$42,106.50
Petty Cash	450.00
First Community Savings	<u>39,428.05</u>
Total	\$81,984.55

Exchange Bank Ball Park Fund 2,100.03

Old Business: Roland & Rick Mellor spoke about the comments in the last newsletter from a letter submitted that stated the donations from the DeCarli and Mellor families to the Ball Park fund were done with the condition that parking would be allowed on the ball field grass at the annual car show. They stated that this was not true. The information was erroneous... No conditions were asked when the Mellor Family made this donation. They did it in Memory of their brother Ron Mellor who has passed away and was a long time member of Penngrove Social Firemen. Julie Hanson asked for retraction to be in newsletter regarding the Mellor and DeCarli donations. Ray said for the Mellor family to write a retraction and it would be printed.

President Ray Soper stated that in 6 years the Penngrove Social Firemen have raised \$53,000, which resulted in building a new playground, out buildings, repaired and painted the caretakers house, new pump & irrigation shed, new ticket booth, wash area now includes a 50 gallon water heater, put in new ball field. The list is phenomenal to what has been accomplished. This includes more than 150 hours of volunteer labor and \$10,000 in donations. At the Clubhouse the floor was redone and earthquake repairs taken care of. Work was estimated at \$7,800 but was done for less than \$3500. There are new rental contracts for the Park, new events for fundraising, caretakers residence was redone. This could not be possible without the donations and volunteer labor that is given. We are very proud of the way we take care of our properties and donate to the community as well. We have 60-72 members usually attending the membership meetings each month. We as members need to respect others with their comments. Not everyone see things the same way. There have been a lot of positive results. Don't spoil it with negativity. In the 1970, membership dropped to 20 people due to negativity. We do great things and we are a well oiled machine. Let's not screw it up by changing something that worked for 65 years. Keep up the phenomenal work. Anyone is welcome to attend the Directors meetings that are held.

Directors, at their August meeting, discussed having murals at Penngrove Park. Kim Hansen asked for donations for the murals. This was put to a vote and the motion was denied. President Ray Soper has been a member of Penngrove Social Firemen since 1969. He has seen numerous peaks and valleys in those years, but PSF has survived and flourished. The Luau is coming up on Saturday September 19th, 2015. Kim Hansen is still asking for volunteers. Servers would be appreciated. Some 4-H members will be there, but could still use others. Also asking for people to help set up on Friday Night, Sept 18th from 3:30 to 7PM. John & Pam Rossi stood up and apologized for damages that were done to the grass at the Ball field on day of the Car Show. He never meant for there to be any damage done and is sorry for what happened. Dennis Barella said the soft ball team has no animosity about the damage to the ball park grass. Dennis said \$3400 is needed for fencing and gate. Kids have a great time with their Dads at the field. There was also a discussion about fence and gates for the base lines (approx 20 ft long and 8 ft tall) along the 1st base and 3rd ball lines at a cost of \$3400. There was a motion being made for PSF to pay for this. Byron Nelson spoke up and said he will donate \$3400 for this project. Thank You Byron!

The November meeting will honor our Veterans, as it always does. The November newsletter will have a list of kids wishes for the Christmas donations to needy families. Election nominations will start at the October meeting. Darrell Turner and John Connelly cooked Tri-tip, Caesar salad and beans tonight & it was delicious.

October Cooks: Roland Mellor, will be cooking Polenta and stew with the help of Joe Pedrani, Nick Bursio & Scott Finley. President Ray Soper adjourned the meeting at 7:39PM. Raffle was held after dinner, and thanks were given to Pam Rossi for the great job she does on this every single month.

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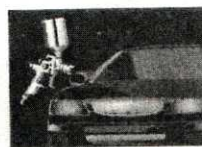
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Penngrove Social Firemen Directors' Meeting September 7, 2015

Meeting opened by President Soper at 6:00 PM in the Soper residence. Those present: Don Barella, Roland Mellor, Scott Thurston, Joe Turner & Ray Soper. President Soper stated that the Boy Scouts' Scout leader asked for the use of the whole park for a week, meaning that the park would be closed for a week to the public. The Social Firemen loan a 'portion' of the Park free for the scouts to use for a week at the present time. The Directors stated that loaning the entire park for a full week will not happen. President Soper will relate this to the Scout Leader. No full park for a week, but the Scouts can use a portion, as they do now. The bar area in the Clubhouse was proposed to be cleaned, painted and possibly wainscoting installed. Mirrors will be put up behind the bar. We may wait until winter to do most of the inside work of the clubhouse, such as new windows and other work.

We will install air conditioning if the price is not too steep. The new heating system installed a few years ago was prepped to accommodate air conditioning, if installed. John Antonio stated he will do the repairs to the new ball field for \$1500. The directors agreed to this unanimously. President Soper stated he is putting together the costs versus the present rental fees for the Directors to see if raises of rental fees for use of the Penngrove Park and the Clubhouse are needed.

The Directors discussed changing the Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner from a Sunday to a Saturday. Pres Soper brought up the coming events for 2016, like the "Italian Night" and other events that must be discussed for finalization of dates and other info. Pres Soper discussed other important work like redoing the Penngrove Park grounds to make walking easier and adding more permanent tables in certain areas. Much more discussion is needed for these projects. It was moved seconded and passed to buy 20 additional new picnic umbrellas as they are on sale at Friedman's.

Many thanks are given to Byron Nelson for his donation of \$3400 for fencing. Pres Soper will be discussing this with ball field workers on the chain link fencing to be installed on 3rd base line and 1st base side. Discussion on shorter outfield fence will be coming on how to build this portion, which has to be removed from time to time. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM



STOVE FOR SALE

This is our old stove from the park kitchen. It's a little rough but someone with a little talent

could fix it up and use for a man cave, hunting club or whatever. \$ 100.00 includes a tax deduction or best offer. You can call Ray Soper @ 707-795-3298



Going To Hawaii

Joe and Louise Reiter won the trip to Hawaii at our 2015 Luau fundraiser on September 19, 2015 at Penngrove Park.. The Luau was a little short on attendance but was still fun, thanks to Kim Han-son for all of her work.



Penngrove Social Firemen
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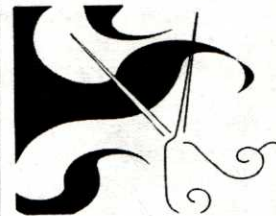


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