

# ROTARY CLUB of Rotary

# ALO ALTO, CALIF. Piniön

MEETING OF: APRIL 5, 2004

Reporter: Brian Steen

Graphics: Lyle Connell

## CALL TO ORDER



Vice President Pam Brandin called the group to order in Bill Busse's absence; he's out on vacation celebrating his 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## VISITORS/GUESTS

Ken Weigel welcomed:

1. **Visting Rotarians:** Tom Listin, a Mechanical Engineer from Los Altos, Geroge Paulsen, a CPA from Belmont.
2. **Rotarians with guests:** Fred Herman/ City of Palo Alto, Marc Desmas, Judy Steiner, Hidden Villa ED, Al Kendrick Jr.,



**G u s a v o**  
Holloway Souza and his wife Caroline, Ron Sax-Stanford Community Services,



GSE (Group Strategy Exchange) team chariman Folper Hurlbert introduced the visting team members and thanked PA Rotary for a program that is "more Vocation than Vacation."



Hal Mickelson was presented with his Blue badge reflecting his record tenure as a PA Rotary Red badge holder. Bill Johnson also holds a similar long term distinction. Hal used his podium time to announce that Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed Gloria Hom to the State Teachers Retirement Board. Congratulations, Gloria!!

## WHAT'S COMING UP

April 12th -- New Member Presentations

April 19th -- Carol Guardino, The Valley's Newest Center for Arts and Music Education

April 26th -- Angela Mc Connell, The Valley's Newest Center for Arts and Music Education

## OPENING REMARKS



Diana Diamond provided Opening Remarks by sharing the qualities of educators in her four son's lives. Their range of memories covered educators that were "great" to those that "should be retired" Regardless, her son have all ended up with successful careers in the Bay area.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Gustav Holloway Souza was introduced by Walt Hays and was welcomed to the club by Pam Brandin. Gustav works for SAS software as their South American representative. Gustav is already off to a good start by working with Rotary Interact.

Art Stauffer reminded all that our "Hands On" project at CAR starts April 17 and finishes up on April 24. Sign ups have been good, but more hands are needed.

David Bliss announced Family Service Day also on April 17 at Palo Alto Baylands where a Habitat Restoration project will be initiated.

John Bracken was encouraged to make an announcement, but he was satisfied to assertively not make one.

Cy Greenstone presented the next Feed the Homeless date will be on April 14 at 6PM at First PA Presbyterian Church.

Le Levy welcomed event planners to help plan Bill Busse's June 28 debunking. Strategists will meet on April 7, in Le's office at Wachovia Securities, 505 Hamilton, PA.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION



Julie Jerome introduced guest speaker Michael Kirst. Currently a Professor of Business Admin at Stanford, Mr. Kirst is formerly on the Board of the CA State Board of Education. He presented some startling facts including:

- There are 6.5 million students in CA primary educational facilities
- 45% are Hispanic, 34% Anglo and 21% other ethnicities
- 1.25 million students currently enrolled can't function with English as the primary language.
- The State controls 83% of public educational funding.
- CA is currently 44<sup>th</sup> nationally in spending/student (In 1965, CA was 5<sup>th</sup>), 48<sup>th</sup> in class size, 47<sup>th</sup> in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and tied for last with Hawaii in reading.

Mr. Kirst made these recommendations to help correct the above standings:

- Get Stat's financial system in order. Current system is broken.
- Provide local options for financing.
- Improve accountability assessments
- Learn from successful charter schools
- Redistrict the legislature
- Create open primaries
- Increase term limits, but don't abolish them
- Extend sales tax to include services.

Q/A from the audience:

Rob Lancefield: Q. Are unfunded retirements pushing the system?

A. Not a big issue currently. Health care costs are the big issue.

Marcie Cox: Q. Any there success stories on increasing English use?

A. Yes in primary grades. Not much in middle and high school.

Harry Kallshian: Q. Would Closing the Borders help?

A. Probably not. The net contribution from immigrants is high.

Hal Michelson Q. Does the CA Teachers Association have influence?

A. Not much. Their influence is defensive only.

Paul Losch Q. Do non-school programs affect learning?

A. Yes. After school programs are mostly effective

## PALO ALTO ROTARY

PRESIDENT: Bill Busse. PRESIDENT ELECT: Pam Brandin. PAST PRESIDENT: Le Levy. DIRECTORS: David Negrin, Marcie Cox, Steve Schaper, Mike Couch, Art Stauffer, and Rick Tipton. TREASURER: Dick Mansfield. SECRETARIES: Dick Freeman, Bob McCowan, Julie Jerome. MAIL: P.O. Box 592, Palo Alto, CA 94302. GENERAL E-MAIL: parotary@aol.com. CLUB RECORDS: Joyce Cusick, parotaryrecords@aol.com.WEB SITE: <http://www.rotarypaloalto.org/>

### NEARBY ROTARY MEETING PLACES

#### TUESDAY

LA Sunset: The Echo Restaurant, Los Altos, :15pm.

M V: Adobe House, Moffett & Central, 12:15pm.

#### WEDNESDAY

East Palo Alto Bayshore: Boys & Girls Club, 2031

Pulgas (at O'Connor), 12:15pm

MP: Menlo Park Recreation Center, Noon

Woodside/Portola: Wdsde Vlge Church, 7:30am.

#### THURSDAY

LA: Garden House, Shoup Park, Los Altos, 2:15pm.

#### FRIDAY

PA University: Sheraton, El Camino, PA, 7:30am.

San Carlos: Salvatore's Restaurant, San Carlos, 12:15pm.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

Paul Losch celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a generous contribution. And John Kidd did the same in honor of Stanford Basketball coaches Mike Montgomery and Tara Vandervere. John added a \$2.50 tip to encourage Mike Traugott's future basketball involvement.



Rotary Club of Palo Alto

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