

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 15 - New Member Talks (Terry Fatehi, Barb Mitchell, and Dave Thornton)

June 22 - Andy Coe, Chief Govt. and Community Relations Officer, Stanford Hospital and Clinics; Sherri Sager, Chief Govt. Relations Officer, Lucille Packard Children's Hospital; Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager, City of Palo Alto - "Understanding the Stanford University Medical Center Renewal Project"

June 29 - DARK lunch, Debunking Celebration 6 p.m.

OPENERS:

PREZ ELECT RALPH ADAMS called on BRUCE SWENSON to lead us all in the (modified) Pledge which was, as usual, enthusiastically rendered by all.

OPENING REMARKS:

AXEL MERK reflected that despite a recent travel "nightmare" experienced by his wife and kids, life wasn't too bad after all. We have our health and we live in a country that values ideals (somewhat like the 4-Way Test) and we all look forward to a brighter future. Thanks AXEL for reminding us of what's important.

VISITORS and GUESTS:

Rotary visitors and guests were introduced by DAVE THORNTON. There were two visiting Rotarians-Walter Moore of the PA University Club, and Mark Stevenson of the San Francisco Club.

Guests (Hosts) were Karen Kienzle (IRIS KOROL) and Gregory Horstmeyer (NANCY PETERS). Gregory presently is a candidate for a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. He's a Civil Engineering student at Princeton University and is teaching high school students locally, this summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GARY FAZZINO was sighted at today's Club meeting.

STEVE PLAYER announced the forthcoming senior games at Stanford. About 1,000 senior athletes from all over the Country will compete for two weeks starting August 1 in many sports including tennis. Volunteers are needed, so contact STEVE ASAP. There's a variety of jobs that need to be filled!

ROB LANCEFIELD announced PREZ MIKE's debunking at the Community School of Music and Art (CSMA) on June 29 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Sign up for this great event; only \$50 per person.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

DAVID NEGRIN, a permanent member of the President's Club nevertheless offered to re-contribute in recognition of his son's (Robert) and granddaughter's (Emily) 100-mile (each) bike ride at Lake Tahoe in support of leukemia research at Stanford. (PREZ RALPH suggested a \$100/each contribution.)

AXEL MERK joined the President's Club in celebration of his Big Hike at Big Sur. He offered his contribution as a replacement of DAVID's 2nd go-broke contribution.

TOM GRACON celebrated the arrival of his 6th grandkid by joining the President's Club. Congrats, TOM!

SKIP HOYT's house is now under contract. SKIP made a contribution to the Endowment Fund in recognition of this FINALLY-event.

DIANA DIAMOND received an award in recognition of a 2nd place finish in the local (Bay area's) Press Club evaluation. DIANA joined the President's Club to celebrate. Thanks DIANA. Your column is widely read by all.

THE PROGRAM:

PREZ-ELECT RALPH called on GARY FAZZINO to introduce Steve Levy, today's speaker. Steve is Director and Senior Economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE) who addressed the question, "What actions will cause the recession in California and in the country to end?"

Steve cited some interesting statistics - California's legislature through its proposition system, has been ineffective because it does what its voters tell it to do, very often nothing. It ranks low in employees for the state, 103/10,000 versus a national average of 143/10,000; so reducing the number of state employees might be counter-productive. As far as taxes are concerned, we are slightly above the national average for property and sales taxes, so not much help there. In response to a question regarding Prop. 13, Steve proposed modifying/updating it rather than its repeal. In looking ahead, Steve stated that by 2015, the baby-boomers will be retiring. That will offer opportunities for replacements in some key government and industry jobs. On the negative side, he indicated that many folks don't consider California a first choice because of our decline in quality of public education and in the cost of living. But help is on the way - the next generation, Latinos and immigrants who he feels should be encouraged to join our community when legally entering our country.

All-in-all, an interesting talk. Thanks Steve for spending the time with us. For more information concerning his views, check his column on the Op-Ed page of the San Jose Mercury.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)