



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date NOVEMBER 2, 2009

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

CALL TO ORDER

RALPH ADAMS started the meeting at 12:15PM.

PLEDGE

KEVIN CURRY led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS

Guests were introduced by CALEB BOWMAN:

Visiting Rotarians: Tanya Ahern from Santa Clara, Larry Donatoni from San Jose.

Rotarians with Guests: Dick Bush/ MIKE COUCH
Ann Ziman/ (GEOFF ZIMAN), Michael Repka (GINNY LEAR), Jocelyn Villacruz/(ANDY COE),
Jim Baer (WALT HAYS), Michael Love (BRIAN STEEN),
Eliane Neukermans and Alain Endoven (JERRY ELKIND),
Margaret O'Reilly and Jack O'Reilly (JUDITH STEINER),
Cindy Jackson (TRISH BUBENIK), Barbara Swenson and
Don Morgan (BRUCE SWENSON), Cynthia Mahood Levin
(GEORGE FITZGERALD), Christina/Cienfuegos (BOB SMITHWICK), Chaiti Chatterjee (PAM BRANDIN)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President RALPH made a pledge to the Rotary Foundation as he introduced MIKE COUCH who announced Foundation's \$20,000 goal had been met, but he would still pursue those who had yet to contribute.

Past President MIKE COUCH expressed appreciation for his very musical and classy Debunking Dinner. Special Thanks to IRIS KOROL, HAL MICHELSON and THE LE LEVY SINGERS.

JOHN KIDD announced our annual Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at BRIAN STEEN's house. More details to come.

DICK FREEMAN announced Entertainment Books are now available. DICK calculates your \$30 purchase will give you up to \$16,000 in savings. Talk about leverage!

STEVE PLAYER showed us the Stanford Ax...the one we want to win back in the upcoming Big Game. Nov. 18 will be our traditional visit to the Berkeley Rotary to return the Rotary ax. See Steve for details.

RALPH congratulated the recent meeting of our Past Presidents. He also announced our average attendance is 52.7%.

OPENING REMARKS

GEORGE NEWTON provided some good axioms for living:
If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory.
If you plant consideration, you will reap harmony.
If you plant hard work, you will reap success.
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.
If you plant openness, you will reap intimacy.
If you plant patience, you will reap improvements.
If you plant faith, you will reap miracles.

PROGRAM

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced Alain Enthoven, Professor of Public and Private Management (Emeritus) in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University who spoke on Health Care Reform in the US.

So far, Congress' response to the health care crisis has been alarmingly disappointing in three ways:

First, by willingly accepting enormous sums from health care special interests, our representatives have obligated themselves to their benefactors' interests rather than to those of the American people.

Second, by carefully avoiding reforms of the practices that drive health care's enormous cost growth, Congress pretends to make meaningful change where little is contemplated.

Most distressing, the processes affecting health care reflect all policy-making. By allowing special interests to shape critically important policies, Congress no longer is able to address any of our most important national problems in the common interest - e.g., energy, the environment, education, poverty, productivity.

Q: Anything promising to look forward to?

A: Not much for health care reform. Favors efforts of Blue Dog Democrats

Q: What % of health care goes to increasing longevity?

A: Not sure, but good health always equates to longevity.

Q: Single Payer system—can we start afresh? No because it's based on Medicare which is in big trouble.

RALPH thanked Professor Enthoven, promising an English dictionary would be given to a 2nd grade family from Green Oaks Academy in E.Palo Alto.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

November 9 - Craig Harding, Tesla Motors and the future of the Electric Car

November 16 - Sara Abbasi, Education in Pakistan

November 18 - Big Game Exchange with Berkeley Rotary Club in Berkeley at His Lordship's Restaurant