



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 Reporter: DONALD MORGAN Editor: NICK NICHOLS

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT MIKE began the meeting at 12:20 pm by leading the Pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESIDENT MIKE resumed the meeting at 12:35 by requesting visiting Rotarians to introduce themselves, and members to introduce their guests.

Visiting Rotarians were Carl Kernon, of the Lawrence KS club; Terry Kane, of the San Jose club; and Dr. Klaus Heinemann of the Gualala, CA club, previously a Palo Alto Rotarian for eleven years.

Guests were Ron Threlkeld, guest of DAVE SMULLIN; Sara Lewis, guest of GINNY LEAR; John Barton, guest of WALT HAYS; Rich Gordon, guest of BETSY BECHTEL; Ali Banki, guest of visitor Terry Kane; Linda Thor, our speaker and guest of BRUCE SWENSON; and Philippe de Fries, a Rotary exchange student from Germany, introduced by PRESIDENT MIKE, as guest of the Club.

OPENING REMARKS

BILL BUSSE took advantage of PRESIDENT MIKE's invitation to present opening remarks by calling on an initially reluctant SAM WEBSTER to read part of a prepared script on how the world has changed. SAM playfully read his lines as a modern day Rip Van Winkle, whom BILL had happened to encounter the day before on University Avenue. Asleep for the past 25 years, the only things SAM recognized were a hotel, and his own real estate firm. Incredulous questions followed about sites BILL pointed out for Apple ("What kind of Apples?"), Facebook ("What kind of book is that?"), and Google. Sam had almost the last word, saying he was going to write a book entitled "How To Sleep Through the Madness of it All". Someone else mentioned women in Rotary as another notable change.

AWARDS

PRESIDENT MIKE congratulated KATIE SEEDMAN and ROSEANNE FAIRTY for meeting the requirements for Blue Badges, which they happily received at the podium.

Rewarding JOYCE CUSICK for her many services to the Club, PRESIDENT MIKE presented a pin inscribed

with the motto of the International President, "Building Communities, Bridging Continents".

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S CLUB

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF joined the President's Club in honor of STEVE EMSLIE and CASH ALAEE for their assistance with the ice cream social.

KELLY MORARIU joined the President's Club by announcing her departure from Palo Alto, accepting the role of Assistant City Manager of Hayward.

DAVE SMULLIN thanked DIANA DIAMOND, ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, STEVE EMSLIE, BERN BEECHAM and RUTH SCHNEIDER for the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and other dishes they had served at a dinner in his home for eight. He won their treat at the Rotary Auction and joined the President's Club in their honor.

THANKS AND OTHER THINGS

Presidential thanks were given to SAM GORDON (cashier duties), STEVE MADSEN (room setup), KATIE SEEDMAN (welcome desk), and DON MORGAN (Pinion reporter).

PRESIDENT MIKE also noted initial use of a laptop sign-in procedure for attendance at today's meeting. Like all innovations, some time may be required for everyone to get comfortable, even here in Silicon Valley.

THE PROGRAM

BRUCE SWENSON introduced Linda Thor, Chancellor the Foothill-DeAnza College District, by reviewing her prominent educational positions in California and Arizona prior to taking on her current responsibilities earlier in the year, and saying on behalf of the District's Board of Trustees, how delighted they were with her appointment.

She spoke on "A Newcomer's Perspective on California Higher Education: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." Her newcomer status reflected her service as president of a junior college in Tempe, Arizona for the preceding 20 years.

Returning BRUCE's compliment, Chancellor Thor mentioned among the good the District's very dedicated and terrific Board of Trustees, of which BETSY BECHTEL, as well as BRUCE, are members. The

colleges' students do well in transfers to four-year colleges, and are achieving 100% pass rates for California licensing and certification purposes in several vocational training programs. The District has always emphasized excellence in its hiring, particularly for teachers. Its Celebratory Forum is about to start for the 43rd year, with participants including Tony Blair and Yo Yo Ma at the Flint Center. The local communities have been very supportive, among other things passing by the necessary two-thirds vote a number of bond issues for acquisition of real estate and construction of facilities. Arne Duncan gave the commencement addresses this year, and Bill Gates became a supporter.

The bad is largely a combination of greatly increased student demand and substantial cutbacks in state financing and reduction of courses, teachers and staff, all related to the recession. The ugly is that financing will get much worse. She is appalled at California's dismemberment of its once superb higher education programs, and the projected shortage by 2025 of one million college graduates the state needs for its workforce.

Higher education must again be seen as a public good, not a private benefit. The District is pursuing a variety of initiatives to reduce spending and increase funding, including sponsorship of a parcel tax proposal for the November ballot that should pass based on some polling, and that would assure the District of some significant, but still limited, annual financial support that the state cannot take away by off-sets.

A very informative Q and A session followed, as did a robust round of applause at the end of Chancellor Thor's presentation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

October 4 – **WALT HAYS, ART STAUFFER, and Cindy Wilbur**, “World Community Service”

October 11 – **GLORIA HOM and GINNY LEAR**, “State and County Initiatives”

October 18 – **Speaker to be determined**, “Rotary Foundation – Partners in Service”

October 25 – **Sahar Ghazi**, Knight Fellow, “Pakistan”

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)