

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: March 28, 2011

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

OPENERS:

PREZ MIKE called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM, after lunch (so we wouldn't lose our appetites) and then led the Pledge for all the enthusiastic attendees.

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS:

There was one Visiting Rotarian, Sabine Decker, an attorney from Augsburg, Germany.

Guests (HOSTS) were Jason Blum (KAREN SINGER); Joe Tuohy (KAREN KIENZLE); Hilary Jones (GLORIA HOM); Scott Wells (STEVE EMSLIE); Jolaine Woodson (JACK WOODSON) and Ken DeLeon, today's speaker.

OPENING REMARKS:

Opening Remarks were delivered by SHERRI SAGER, who related the use of action and force with our goal of filling the hall with more than two-hundred participants, at our upcoming fundraiser. Her theme also related "courage" to the challenges of the difficult, both immediate and lifelong.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our club is in the running for a Presidential Citation Award for outstanding leadership. Thanks PREZ MIKE!

District 5170 awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to JACK DORGAN in recognition of his service and generosity. GINNY LEAR was similarly cited with two pins for her service and generosity.

STEVE EMSLIE set the tone, while making a pitch for our annual fundraiser to be held on **Saturday, April 9**. He described /showed samples of the various extras, which should complement the casual tone and food to be the theme there. There were straw hats, bandanas, casual shirts, etc. Y'all come and contribute to the cause, which is to promote and fund student activities, with participation by both Palo Alto and East Palo Alto schools. One of the recipients will be the **Cultural Kaleidoscope**, which will award \$4,000 towards that purpose in Rotary's name. STEVE also announced that art works will be auctioned off. It's going to be a great event. **BE THERE!**

LYLE CONNELL received recognition certifying his leadership of the Club's PINION writers. All five were similarly cited by PREZ MIKE.

ELLIOTT WRIGHT reminded us to attend the tree-planting event to be held on May 7. Call ELLIOTT for more details like where to meet, what time, duration of the event, etc.

THE PROGRAM:

Today's speaker, Ken DeLeon, who spoke on the challenge of Overcoming Adversity, was introduced by ROSEANNE FAIRTY. Ken was an attorney for the first several years after



law school graduation, and then was drawn to his passion of serving the public with attractive & functional real estate. He is now regarded as one of a very small number of outstanding members of his profession in the country, having previously been cited as one of the top fifty, then twenty-five in that very category.

Ken gave a very inspiring talk in which he described his near fatal accident and what

inner strength he called to play to overcome it. The accident involved a broken leg, a broken arm and a near beating to death by the driver who, it turned out, was DUI of multiple drugs. He initially hated his attacker, but then realized that it was a waste of time.

Ken was inspired to rebuild his life by trying to answer self imposed questions like, "What's the **purpose of life**?" He answered his own question - HAPPINESS and by loving yourself first and foremost. He was succeeding until a life threatening **Lymphoma** arrived and forced him to rethink his primary goals. He used this adversity to grow in the future, reminding himself that we all die, but we must do some good for others in our limited time. His cancer was successfully treated; and it gave him the opportunity to apply his personal strength to his purpose.

Ken now runs three miles a day. How's that for a happy ending?

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

If you want some exercise, "Running Around in Circles" is worth 350 calories. That's 110 more than "Flying Off the Handle."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

April 4 - New Member and Long-time Member Talks:
Derrick Britt, Ben Threlkeld, & Bill Love

April 11 - Geri Spieler: "The Squeaky Fromme Story"

April 18 - Bill Draper: "Generational Venture Capital"

April 25 - Sid Espinoza: "State of the City"

Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information
www.rotarypaloalto.org