

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: May 23, 2011

Reporter: DAVID NEGRIN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## OPENING:

PREZ - ELECT SHERRI SAGER called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM, followed by the Pledge led by SAM GORDON. This was SHERRI's last practice session, before PREZ MIKE gets back on June 6.

## VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS:

There were three visiting Rotarians, Pat Devaney from the PA University Club, Art Adams from the Los Gatos Morning Club and Klaus Heinemann from the Gualala, CA club. All were warmly welcomed.

Visitors (Hosts) were Beth Jens (Pat Devaney), Chuck Roberts (JOYCE CUSICK), Peter Moeller (AXEL MERK) and Jan Heineman, guest of Visiting Rotarian Klaus Heinemann.

## OPENING REMARKS:

Opening remarks were delivered by LIZ KNISS, who spoke on the subject of our three traditional, national holidays: Memorial Day - we're dark next week to celebrate this original Civil War holiday, formerly known until recently as Decoration Day; Independence Day, our most familiar July 4 holiday celebrating our "departure" from British rule, and Armistice Day, commemorating the huge losses (20 million) suffered during WWI and reminding us of the famous poem, In Flanders Field....which was recited by LIZ.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DICK FREEMAN, of the We Care Committee, spoke of HIG HIGGINS memorial service held earlier in the morning, before our club meeting, and of HIG's contributions both financial and participatory in the Club's Endowment Fund. A card was passed around during the meeting for messages to his family. DICK also offered this warm tribute to our friend and participant in worthy efforts: GOOD FRIEND HIG HAS GONE TO HEAVEN. THERE HE WILL ADD HIS BIT OF LEAVEN.

I CAN SEE HIM NOW, IN COAT AND TIE,  
SERGEANT AT ARMS, GREETING ALL, SAYING HI.

WHENEVER THE PRESIDENT ASSESSED A FINE,  
HIG WAS AT YOUR SIDE BY THE COUNT OF NINE.

HE HAD MANY YEARS OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE  
AT ROTARY.  
FRIEND HIG WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY THIS  
COTERIE.

SAM WEBSTER also took part in lauding HIG's participation in the Endowment Fund.  
AXEL MERK reminded the Club that complimentary copies of his recently published book would be gifted to new members of the President's Club.  
Membership Chair GINNY LEAR presented a Blue Badge to KAY WILSON, who was sponsored by WALT HAYS, who in turn introduced Ambassadorial Scholar Beth Jens.

Beth chose this area for her continuing studies, since she hopes to become an astronaut(ess). She spoke extensively about her background, her birthplace, a small coastal town of 7,000 people in Australia, where surfing was very popular. She spoke of her appreciation for the generous support she's received from her district, District 9780, and presented a flag as a symbol of that appreciation.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM:

Today's New Member Talks were introduced by ROB LYMAN. The first speaker was JIM BAER, who joined the Club in December, 2009, and was sponsored by WALT HAYS. JIM was born in San Antonio, Texas, and went to a ranch, in place of kindergarten. He's since become a hidden cowboy, riding horses in high school and college, and wearing cowboy clothes in college and grad school. He still has chaps, boots and spurs, also an empty, fake holster. Keep going, JIM!

Next was SUSAN LUTTER, who joined January, 2011, and was sponsored by CASH ALAEE. SUSAN feels that she's had a pretty lucky life, having grown up when kids were encouraged to climb trees and play hockey out on the pond (don't give up, it's still winter in PA). Today, she supports an organization that hopes to save gorillas and chimpanzees from extinction, Ape Action Africa. Good luck, SUSAN!

Last of the three was ELLIOTT WRIGHT, who joined in November, 2010, and was sponsored by BRIAN STEEN. ELLIOTT has specialized in non-profit organizational development. He also teaches and does research as an instructor with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

## JOKE-of-the-WEEK:

Did you know that ivory is very cheap in Alabama because it's where tusks are looser. (Get it? Tuscaloosa). (Ed.: I showed this to my able mates, and only one guy smiled. He didn't get it.)

## CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM, following thanks to those members who volunteered their services: ELLIOTT WRIGHT, cashier; DAVID NEGRIN, Pinion writer; and RALPH ADAMS, Official Greeter.  
SHERRI wished all a happy holiday weekend.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

May 30 - DARK, Memorial Day observed  
June 6 - Judith Kleinberg, on "The Soul of the Community"  
June 13 - Elias Aboujaoude: on "Virtual Powers of the E- Personality"  
June 20 - Jeff Byron: on "California's Energy Plans"

Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)