

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: February 20, 2012

Reporter: SCOTT GLISSMEYER

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PLEDGE: DARYL SAVAGE

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS: ROB LYMAN

Visiting Rotarians: Linda Lenoir Candace Roney

Guests: Helen Gracon and Ben Hu (TOM GRACON); Al Kendrick, (ROGER SMITH); Sophia Omar (ROB LANCEFIELD); Chrissy Coolidge (OLIVER COOLIDGE); Catherine Lyman (ROB LYMAN); Chris Cobey (DAVID SMULLIN); Catherine Martineau (ELLIOTT WRIGHT); Zack Hou (WALT HAYS); Nicole Demont, Intern for Rep. Anna Eshoo; Anne Ream, Guest of Rep. Anna Eshoo

OPENING REMARKS: DIANA DIAMOND

DIANA used Presidents' Day as a theme to talk about the importance of compromise and professionalism in not only the Presidency, but also Congress. Presidents range from poor to great, and many somewhere in between. Washington and Lincoln's birthday used to be celebrated separately, but are now combined, due to the "wisdom" of our government. Every President has to work with Congress, and that is where DIANA feels we could use more. When Lincoln talked



about a "house divided," he could have been talking about our current Congress. Washington reminded us to "guard against pretended patriotism"; and Colin Powell stated that we needed to compromise to accomplish anything.

FUNDRAISER: ROGER SMITH

The PA Rotary Fundraiser is April 14th and tickets are only \$75. This is a bargain, considering the great silent auction prizes available, and how much fun attendees always have.

RECOGNITION: ANDY COE

ANDY recognized JOHN BARTON for being awarded the Tall Tree Award for Outstanding Professional and AUDREY RUST for being given a Lifetime Achievement Hero award.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

DAVID NEGRIN– he fell down and hit his head, but is thankful that it was not worse, and that he is able to come to this meeting and support the club.

BILL FOGARTY– His first grandson was born 7 weeks premature, but is in great hands at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. PREZ SHERRI said they would take great care of him.

FLAG EXCHANGE: ELLIOTT WRIGHT

ELLIOTT told how he and his wife helped the local Rotary club evacuate 600 people from a building after fire broke out. He brought a Chilean Rotary flag.

SPEAKER – Representative Anna Eshoo

Congresswoman Eshoo summarized the latest updates and recommendations to help move our country in the right direction. She thanked SHERRI SAGER for her work on behalf of not just LPCH, but many other hospitals.



Good economic news: Unemployment is at 8.3% - still too high, but dropping for 3 months in a row, and 5 months of job creation.

Manufacturing increase—overall up 66.4% in 2011. The automobile industry is continuing to rebound, and has repaid the money loaned by taxpayers with interest. Congress passed an extension of the payroll tax break, a "doc fix" for doctors taking care of Medicare patients, and a continuation of unemployment benefits. The Recovery Act has had big positive impacts that don't get talked about enough.

What threats are looming on the horizon?

President Obama's budget is DOA due to inaction. We can't cut our way to economic health – we need to invest in our future. Tax reform is critical – she used the example of Warren Buffett paying less than his secretary in taxes. The real estate market is one of the greatest negative drivers today – it has had huge impacts on schools, community colleges, and other facets of infrastructure. President Obama needs to do more, including possibly firing the Director of Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac, to stem the foreclosure crisis. She feels we need consistent widespread principal reduction by banks to really have an impact. The debt ceiling discussion last summer was misguided and unnecessarily risked the collapse of our economic engine. She feels the decision by the Supreme Court to open the door for political action committees with lack of transparency on funding was very unfortunate. Gas prices need to get stabilized.

Anna thanked all of us in Rotary for living up to the motto Service above Self. She thought that phrase should be applied to the operation of Congress, as well.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 27 - Isa Stenzel-Byrnes, The Power of Two

March 5 - Victor Gauthier, The New Bay Bridge

March 12 - Axel Merk, European Contagion – Global Dynamics Unplugged

Rotary Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org