

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: October 1, 2012

Reporter: SCOTT GLISSMEYER

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

VISITING ROTARIANS:

Martin Grijalva, M.D. – Hermosillo, Mexico

GUESTS:

Don Dawson
David Wolfe
Wendy Plew
Brian Herwick
Kristin Ostby

Guest of:

Speaker
Speaker
Don Dawson
KATIE SEEDMAN
WALT HAYS

OPENING REMARKS:

CASH ALAEE

CASH shared some interesting information about the relationship between Rotary International and the United Nations. We know that RI is involved in countries all over the world; but we found out that Rotary has also been instrumental in helping the UN to begin and grow its positive influence. Over 40 members of Rotary helped found the Charter of the UN, and UNESCO. Rotary International also holds the highest office of any NGO represented at the UN.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Social

PRESIDENT HAL MICKELSON let us know about the social at the home of IRIS KOROL this coming Wednesday from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. We have lots of people signed up already; and it should be a very fun evening.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

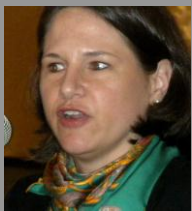
On Saturday October 6th, we are helping Canopy with a project at an East Palo Alto School. Interested volunteers can help morning or afternoon.

SURVEY

Please fill out and turn in your survey of the last quarter's programs, so we can best evaluate them. Remember 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest.

ROTARY FOUNDATION PROJECT

Kristin Ostby shared some details on impactful Rotary programs in Guatemala. She is a graduate of PALY and Stanford, and takes great pride in the Foundation of the Palo Alto Rotary, taking a lead role in helping fund this program. 132 kids are currently in the program that helps young people get a high school and college education. The children come from extreme poverty and many are abused or grew up in violent communities. The program sparks imagination and ambition, to motivate these young people to be something better than what is around them. Over \$100,000 is raised annually by the community in Guatemala to provide textbooks, computers, and general educational expenses.



FOUNDATION REPORT

PAST PRESIDENT SHERRI SAGER reminded us that October is Rotary Foundation Month. The more donations we receive, the greater our international contributions can be. We have a goal \$18,000 to raise this year; and we expect to exceed this.



PROGRAM: – introduced by DIANA DIAMOND

Our program featured a discussion around the pros and cons of Proposition 30 and some of Proposition 38 on our November ballot. Prop 30 provides school districts with \$6 Billion in annual revenue, funding K-12 schools, as well as Community Colleges and the UC system. It also funds non-educational expenses, such as prison guards. Prop 38 gives \$10 Billion annually directly to schools, and will be used to fund K-12 schools, as well as preschools.



Pro: Don Dawson. Don is a high school teacher in San Jose.

Arguments:

- There has been a drop in the quality of California schools over the last years as a result in a \$20 Billion drop in revenue for schools.
- California spends more than other states, but needs it because we have more people.
- We have unfed children statewide and the number is increasing.
- Governor Brown has put this together based on the best information available.
- The tax increase will be small for most income levels.
- There is no “secret fund” in Sacramento from which to draw.
- California dropped from #1 in funding to #47 due to Prop 13 – we can't afford any further cuts.
- Community Colleges have already cut their budgets dramatically – there is nowhere else to cut.

Con: David Wolfe. David is a member of the Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

- This is a long term (7 year) tax increase.
- People with lower incomes are affected disproportionately.
- It adds 2 new tax brackets.
- He would support tax reform to support homeowners, but not this.
- California still has the largest budget of any state.
- High Speed Rail was pushed through as a bond – why don't we fund schools the same way?
- There is a “secret fund” in Sacramento – the Parks Department hid \$54 Million.
- 40% of the General Fund goes to education already.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- October 8 WALT HAYS, Rotary World Community Service
- October 15 Jeff Rosen, District Attorney, Justice in Motion. My first two years as DA
- October 22 Robert Walker, From 6 Billion to 7 Billion. How Population Growth is Changing and Challenging our World
- October 29 Sam Stewart, Stanford Knight Fellow, Image Forensics and the Media

Rotary Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org