

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: October 15, 2012

Reporter: SCOTT GLISSMEYER

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PLEDGE: ROB LYMAN

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS: HAL MICKELSON

Visiting Rotarians:

Martin Grijalva M.D. – Hermosillo, Mexico

Guests:	Guest of:
Mark Garcia	DARYL SAVAGE
Jay Boyarsky	DARYL SAVAGE
Sasha Kramer	WALT HAYS
Leah Page	WALT HAYS
Mary Coady	DIANA DIAMOND & DICK FREEMAN

Cecily Harris	ANNETTE GLANCKOPF
Sam Stewart	TOM GRACON
Phil McCowan	BOB McCOWEN
Wayne Richardson	RALPH ADAMS

OPENING REMARKS: LE LEVY

LE shared some interesting facts about the shifting party allegiances of different parts of the country. For a long time The South was solidly Democratic, which changed in the 1960's when the Republican Party took on the conservative views of The South. Until recently, both parties had a large variation of political opinion within them, but in the last few elections; it seems both parties are becoming more polarized and narrowly identified. It will be interesting to see how states like Virginia vote this election, since Virginia has shifted back and forth between both parties.



ELECTION SECTION: MEASURE C AND PROP 37

DIANA DIAMOND shared some information about these two initiatives on the ballot in Palo Alto.

Measure C would legalize medical marijuana dispensaries in Palo Alto. In 1996 voters statewide allowed medical marijuana, but Palo Alto banned it. Currently the federal government prohibits these dispensaries. but the state allows them. Some people feel we need this as there is a defined medical need. such as with chemotherapy patients.

Others say this is not good for our town and is not controlled enough.

PROPOSITION 37 requires the labeling of genetically modified foods.

Pro:

This bill is essentially a label change. We need this for our health, if we want our children to live a normal healthy life.

Con:

There is no proven health risk from these foods. It will have a \$1.2 Billion cost to the state. The vote needs to be based on scientific data, and not on fears.

PROGRAM: – introduced by LIZ KNISS

Our speaker today is District Attorney Jeff Rosen. LIZ introduced him by telling us what his mother said about him, which is that he has great integrity and is “nothing like his brother.”



The District Attorney's office has 540 staff and 180 prosecutors. They have three offices – Palo Alto, San Jose, and Morgan Hill. Jeff shared the values of the office.

Service is a key value. To monitor, Jeff does unannounced checking on the customer service phone number. Their goal is not to have happy staff, but to serve other people.

Hard Work is an expectation, rather than something to be recognized.

Transparency is required. They always strive to communicate their basis of decision, and the information relied on for the decision. No defensiveness.

Integrity is very important. A high moral standard is the floor of conduct, not the ceiling.

Santa Clara County is not a “bare minimum” kind of place.

Accomplishments

1. Immigration consequences – those that are convicted of violent crimes are deported if undocumented; and those convicted of misdemeanors are not deported.
2. Conviction Integrity Unit investigates claims of innocence proactively, as well as reactively.
3. Audio/video of every interrogation in felony cases.
4. Double blind viewing of suspects – one at a time, not in a group.
5. \$36 million in computer chips was recovered from a theft in Fremont; a street gang was prosecuted.

Questions:

How do feel about cameras in the courtroom? I have no problem with them. However, judges usually do not allow them.

Are you in favor of Prop 36 to modify 3 Strikes Rule?

I am in favor of Prop 36. We in Santa Clara County require that a third strike must be violent and serious to trigger the 3 strikes rule.

Who sets policies – the Attorney General or the District Attorneys? District Attorneys have discretion in all 58 counties of the state. He does not answer to the Attorney General, but to the people of Santa Clara County.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 22 Robert Walker, From 6 Billion to 7 Billion How Population Growth is Changing and Challenging our World; and Ryan Gawn, Title TBA

October 29 Sam Stewart, Stanford Knight Fellow, Image Forensics and the Media

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org