

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: April 1, 2013

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

With effect from the April 1 meeting today, the following changes in our club activities will be introduced:

1. Those members who miss any meeting without adequate excuses will be fined \$100
2. Male club members will be required to wear neck ties to all meetings
3. To honor our Rotary colleagues in India, once a month, only spicy vegetarian dishes will be offered
4. On payment of a suitable contribution, members may make a 2 minute commercial pitch, which may cover any topic including advocacy for political views, as well as commercial enterprises
5. There will be an open bar hosted by the Board at 11:30 AM before each Monday meeting
- 6.

That, probably, got your attention. Now we can move on to what really happened.

Today's meeting started with JULIE JEROME leading the flag salute. The President shared the sad news of the passing of LYLE CONNELL's wife, Gwen, and offered our condolences. The visiting Rotarian family contingent from Germany, consisting of Friend-of-Club PETER GUENTERMANN (now with Munich East) together with his brother, Christian (Muenchen-Blutenburg) and mother Christa (Bullach Isartal), was welcomed. We were also pleased to welcome again former member KLAUS HEINEMANN (Gualala, CA.) DICK BUSH had his friend, Clay Marr, as his guest, and STEVE PLAYER introduced LIZ KNISS's guests Gail Price (City Council) and Vic Ojakian (Former Mayor/Suicide Prevention Resource Center).

Board Member, BEN THRELKELD, now coach to his six year old's



softball team, regaled us in his opening remarks with profound baseball quotes. The following gems are recalled: I think that I throw the ball as hard as anyone. The ball just doesn't get there as fast (Eddie Bane); I never take the game home with me. I always leave it in some bar (Bob Lemon); You don't realize how easy the game is until you get up in the broadcasting booth (Mickey Mantle).

President HAL announced that our club's vocational scholarships program would be renamed the Robert Smithwick Vocational Scholarship Program in memory of the late BOB SMITHWICK, esteemed club member, great humanitarian, and educator. As a reminder, the memorial service for BOB is scheduled for 2 PM on Friday, April 19 at the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College.

ROSEANNE FAIRTY, co chair of the Scholarship Program, provided some interesting background on the scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$1,700, being awarded this year – 3 at Foothill, 3 at De Anza, and 2 at Cañada Colleges. The key point made was that our scholarships really make a difference for the recipients.



Contributing to the President's Club were ED DANGLER in honor of his son's wedding in Colorado, where he conducted the unconventional ceremony, as well as

MARCIE COX to mark her wonderful trip to South America and the forthcoming retirement of her spouse, Jim Faull.

BRIAN STEEN invited PAR bicycle riders to participate in an experimental Rotary social/athletic event on Sunday, April 14. It has been tentatively named the "Geek Ride," and would cover the 14 miles roundtrip along the Bayland trails from Facebook to Google. It is conceived as a fun event, leaving Ming's at 1:30 PM, and would loosely follow this map:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=210147867584889553027.0004d867b1e16fe525876&mmsa=0>

More details to follow, but get your Geek on!!

Note that on Thursday, May 16 at 4 PM, there will be a Rotary University (formerly known as a District Assembly) taking place at the Double Tree Hotel by the airport in San Jose.

Two bottles of premium champagne were auctioned off. They were both picked up by contributions from MIKE McMAHON.

LIZ KNISS introduced our speaker Pat Dwyer, former Palo Alto Police



Chief, who is now using his 30+ years of law enforcement experience to improve the way that law enforcement interacts with the mentally ill. Pat provided some interesting statistics on the importance of improvement being needed in this critical area. 10 - 15 % of all police contacts are officially characterized as being with mentally ill persons. Street cops would, anecdotally, put the percentage higher at 25%. More telling is that 10 out of 22 officers involved in shootings are associated with the mentally ill. Pat

is a strong advocate for increased mental health encounter training in law enforcement. He described the Crisis Intervention Team Training that his group has developed, which includes state of the art interactive video simulations (IVST). He also mentioned the important California State Mental Health Services Act. It provides funding for 9 significant programs in Santa Clara County, which is in the forefront of work to assist the care of the mentally ill population. Following the talk, STEVE PLAYER asked about the increase in crime and was told that it may be a result of economic impact. MARCIE COX asked about where San Mateo stood in tackling the area of mentally ill encounters. She was reassured that this county was also paying attention and that Redwood City was the first to use the IVST. ROB LANCEFIELD asked about the problems of returning veterans and was told that interacting with this group was definitely included in the training. DICK BUSH asked about the connection between addition/substance abuse and mental health.

The stage crew on duty today were DAVE THORNTON on the Welcome Desk, ANTONIO SCHETTINO cashiering, STEVE MADSEN doing set up, and yours truly doing the Pinion.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 8 - Melissa Chan, Knight Fellow, Reporting on China for Al Jazeera

April 15 - Palo Alto Mayor Greg Scharff, The State of the City

April 22 - Russ Hancock, President/CEO Joint Venture Silicon Valley, Topic TBA

April 29 - Emma Seppala, Associate Director, Stanford Center For Compassion, Altruism and Education, Compassion and Service

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org