

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: June 16, 2014

Reporter: BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PROP 13...A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

Straight from the horse's mouth...our speaker was the everlasting Santa Clara County Assessor, LARRY STONE. You'll find a summary of his presentation near the end of this missive. However, due the reporter's lack of shorthand skills you will find a shorthanded version. What Larry shared is known as a "core dump". Everything known about Prop 13 in 30 minutes. For an in depth analysis of Prop 13 I refer you to the three volume tome entitled "An In Depth Analysis of Prop 13".



Our Still Standing Prexy, STEVE EMSLIE, handled the various introductions for one of the last times. He's being drummed out as you will discover later in this rag. Anyway, here are our visitors:

VISITING ROTARIANS:

We were honored by a visit from our esteemed District Gov. ANGIE HASSLER. (More about the reason why later.) We had two visitors from the University Club...Leif Erickson and Sookla Han. Rounding things out was LARRY STONE from the San Jose Club. Yes, he is the same Larry Stone mentioned earlier.

GUESTS

Patricia Chidyausiku visiting from the nonprofit organization, Rebuilding Together. (More about R.T. later.) Chat Vaewsorn was a guest of ZAFAR IQBAL



A SPECIAL SURPRISE PRESENTATION

was made by TOM GRACON. Everything you ever want or need to know about the proper use of the cordless mike...plus a bit of "intro protocol". Thanks, TOM...We needed that!

OPENING REMARKS

BETSY BECHTEL shared her thoughts on politics, especially about the importance of voting. **"With a recent 23% turn out of registered voters, there is a need to be concerned."** Apparently two things were happening. Either people think that everything is going well or they are disillusioned. She went on to point out that, in her experience, "every vote matters". So encourage friends, family (including yourself) to vote whenever the opportunity presents itself!



AN ENDOWMENT BOARD REPORT

Chairman BILL FOGARTY invited his committee members to join him at the podium. (If he calls me in time I'll list their names.) The report was that our Endowment Fund has resulted in 29K being added to this year's charity larder. Since our fund is in perpetuity, this will grow annually as we all contribute. So, dig deep and we'll increase our ability to serve others during Pres. E.J.'s reign.



HONORED BY DISTRICT 5170

Our District Governor, ANGIE HASSLER, attended to bestow an award on MIKE McMAHON for his service in support of the District's High School Speech Contest. In addition, she presented to the Palo Alto Rotary Club the Presidential Citation... with Great Distinction, I might add...for our Service Above Self during President Steve's tenure. Well done one and all, especially Mike and Steve.



REBUILDING TOGETHER

Patricia Chidyausiku shared the background and activities of her organization. (Incidentally, Club members have participated in their program in past years.)

Rebuilding Together, previously known as "Christmas in April", has 185 chapters nationwide. Their mission is to provide a safe and warm home for everyone. This basically amounts to home repairs for the needy. Certainly a program we should support.



FLAG VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DON MORGAN announced that flag bearers are need for 4th of July. Together with the University Club we install flags on University Avenue on national holidays. Call DON if you have not already volunteered to help. Your country will be proud of you!

DEBUNKING ALREADY?

Co-chairperson JACKIE SCHOELERMAN reminded us that the long awaited debunking of Pres STEVE has finally arrived. Debunking is a time honored event not to be missed. Great food, wine, and entertainment. IF YOU ARE A NEWER MEMBER be sure you and your significant other are in attendance! It's the year's best event! Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View from 6 to 9 pm on June 30th. 55 per person or 100 per couple. You still have time to get married and get the bargain rate! Oh, the date....June 30th...this year. See you at Michael's!



PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PAST PRESIDENTS, ART STAUFFER, joined the President's Club in honor of perhaps the newest most illustrious past...to be...president, STEVE EMSLIE!



LIZ KNISS gave us a report on Palo Alto's Sister City, Oaxaca, Mexico. Over the years we have given eight fire trucks to Oaxaca each one named after a Palo Altan. LIZ is the City Council's liaison with Neighbors Abroad the local organization that maintains contact with our six international sister cities. If you want to know the direction and distance to any of the cities look at our Club's display sign in front of City Hall.



PROGRAM NOTES

Past President MIKE McMAHON (Is everybody in this club a past president?) introduced County Assessor, LARRY STONE. Larry was first elected in 1994 and has had the honor of running unopposed this most recent election. A past mayor of Sunnyvale with an MBA from UDub, he is a fellow Rotarian from the San Jose Club.



(Larry began by thanking VIC ROSASCO for inviting him to come to California some many years ago.) Prop 13 came into law in 1978 primarily due to the huge increase in property taxes. Over the previous five years property taxes had risen by 76% due to the inflationary housing market. The solution was to freeze the amount paid to 1978 rates which created huge problems...due to lower tax income our schools went from #1 in the nation to #47.



...Although this alleviated one inequity it put us "in a race to the bottom".

...Other fees have been raised to cover the loss.

...This has resulted in shifting the matter from counties to the state.

...The tax burden has moved from commercial to home owners.

...Prop 13 is popular with home owners and has no chance of being repealed. It would be like touching the third rail!

These are just a few of Larry's many comments about the implications and ramifications of Prop 13. However, your scribe faded out from the info overload and sat back and enjoyed his iced tea. Sorry gang, but I think I have carpal syndrome or sleep deprivation or both.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 23 Jude Barry, "Great American Speeches"

June 30 No regular lunch meeting **Debunking of President Steve – 6:00 pm. Michael's at Shoreline,**

July 7 President EJ's First Meeting: Club Assembly

July 14 Dr. Phil Rizzo, Former Dean Stanford School of Medicine

July 21 Vocational Talks – Dave Thornton, Leannah Hunt, Ben Threlkeld

July 28 Larry Magid, "Tech Policy: Privacy, Safety and Security"

Info: www.rotaryvpaloalto.org