

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

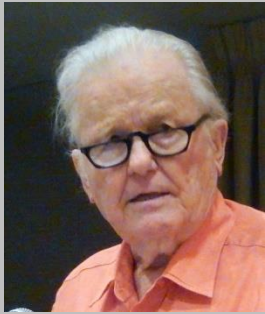
Weekly Newsletter

Date: July 21, 2014

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

This was a bewildering meeting to report on because so many varied matters were covered and numerous flowery appreciative comments were being exchanged. This latter practice was triggered by DICK FREEMAN's opening remarks where he advocated the concept that more praise giving would result in making the world a better place. He suggested that using phrases like "I believe in you" or "You were a great help" or even "I love you" can make a big difference. It was, certainly, so at this meeting.



The meeting opened calmly with DAVID HOLLAND leading us in the pledge. The two Rotary visitors we welcomed were former members. Dave Fraser now a fitness coach hails from the Mad River/McKinleyville area of California. (Bonus points if you know where that is.) Economist Dick Carlson lives in Tucson, Arizona. (No prize for knowing where that city is.) Members with guests were DAVE THORNTON hosting Sheraden Nicholau and Charlie Weidanz from Abilities United; BEN THRELKELD hosting Sheetal Bagoa a financial advisor in Palo Alto; STEVE PLAYER hosting Jon Gifford who is relocating to Palo Alto from Budapest.

On the "We Care" front, DARYL SAVAGE has reported that SY GREENSTONE was greatly moved by the card signed by club members. It meant a tremendous amount to him and regrets that his painful back prevents him coming to Rotary meeting. He sends thanks and best wishes to all. BILL LOVE is recovering from a hip fracture. A memorial service for JOHN CHILDRESS is being held at the Alta Mesa Memorial Park at 4 PM this Wednesday, July 23.

Besides receiving his blue badge, it was announced that JOE SINNOTT would become our official Sergeant @ Arms.

In that capacity the president expects him to act as our "bouncer" and escort out of the room any members making unseemly jokes related to her stature. After E.J. gave thanks to JIM SUTHERLAND for his service, he and Joe paused for a photograph.



Three multiple award Paul Harris pins were then distributed: GEOFF ZIMAN (+7); BOB MCCOWAN (+5) and JON STOUMEN (+1).

BEN THRELKELD assisted in the (re)induction Of ELLIOTT WRIGHT, a former member who has now moved back to the area with the Nature Conservatory.



On August 11th the District Governor will be visiting the club. Members were invited to submit any questions that they would like him to address.

The president shared with us another "Why did I join Rotary" statement which, unfortunately, was anonymous. It, movingly, stated: "I joined Rotary because of the horrific events of 9-11 in 2001 and the resulting aftermath of the human-made disaster. Rotary International is the only non-governmental organization with a delegate at the United Nations."

NINA MOORE reminded us of the New President's Social being held next Tuesday, July 29 at 5:00 PM at IRIS KOROL's home. Those with a friendly disposition and a bottle of wine will be welcomed. Four noble members stepped forth to join the President's Club. BEN THRELKELD wanted to share with us details of his Alcatraz swim followed by a 7 mile run and that fellow club member MIKE BAIRD braved the Bay with a bare chest.

JOHN KIDD joined in acknowledgement of DICK FREEMAN's opening remarks and the musical prowess of E.J.'s daughters.

DICK BUSH wanted to do it in quadruple fashion: #1 in honor of STEVE EMSLIE's leadership last year; #2 for E.J.'s leadership this year; #3 to mark a family trip to Italy with 20 members; #4 for some obscure sporting event.



BETSY BECHTEL in thanks for a delightful meal provided by CHESLEY DOUGLAS, TOM GRACON and MIKE MCMAHON through our annual fundraiser.



MEL MATSUMOTO introduced our three members giving vocational talks.

First up was DAVE THORNTON, retired President and CEO of the YMCA of the Santa Clara Valley. He spoke of the challenges of balancing the organization's mission of Healthy Living, Youth Development and Social Responsibility versus financial stability. He asserted that you need to do well to do good. We learned that the scope of his position involved dealing with 7 facilities, 90 childcare centers, revenue of \$40 million/year, raising \$27 million in capital funds, 1100 employees and a large corporate board of 40-50 individuals. We sensed that Dave was happy to have those responsibilities successfully behind him and, especially, to not be involved in the current Page Mill controversy.



Next up to bat was LEANNAH HUNT, a Palo Alto resident for more than 45 years and who is now a leader in residential real estate sales. At an earlier stage in her career Leannah was involved in fund development in the organization now known as Abilities United. This made a nice connection with our two visitors. Leannah provided us with a valuable insight into the complexities of home sales, how some sales situations were traumatic and the need for integrity and being knowledgeable of local housing conditions. Earning respect from both buyers and sellers was essential. She concluded by stating that real estate sales was a great profession and that good agents had to be good listeners.



Last in line was BEN THRELKELD who provided a clear picture of what being an optometrist involves and its concentration on eye glass prescriptions. He contrasted it with Opticians who deal with just the glasses and Ophthalmologists who are MD's and are specialists in visual health aspects. Ben claimed that his was a happy low stress profession and that he enjoyed the 30 minutes of mainly social interaction that he has with his patients. A growing challenge to his profession is that insurance reimbursements are not keeping pace with rising costs. He commented on some of the possible problems involved in smart contact lens. ED DANGLER asked about equipment differences and was assured that it was mostly standard.



During the meeting our president acknowledged and praised this week's duty team: Cashier PETER SHAMBORA – 3 weeks in a row; Greeters KATIE SEEDMAN, MIKE BAIRD and DERRICK BRITT, Set-up specialists GINNY LEAR and STEVE MADSEN; Pinion writer GEOFF ZIMAN with Editor/Photographer LYLE CONNELL. Also worthy of special mention was DICK MANSFIELD a recidivist at the Visitor Desk and a strong plea is being made for someone to step forward to relieve Dick at that position before he collapses. Club.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

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

July 29 Rotary Garden Party@ IRIS KOROL'S Home

August 4 New Member Talks

August 11 District Governor

August 18 Buzz Thompson Stanford Woods institute for the Environment "California Drying"

Sept. 3 - Wed. 10-11:15 a.m., Vocational Tour, Stanford Hospital, Andy Coe

Space limited, sign up at meeting on July 28, until slots are filled, or email

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