

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

The focus of Monday's meeting was a discussion of Propositions on the California ballot; the political equivalent of herding cats. Fortunately, with past-president **GLORIA HOM** and San Jose State Political Science Professor Terry Christenson conducting the round-up (and only six propositions to cover) things went well.

The meeting commenced with **TOM GRACON** the Pledge of Allegiance, with homage paid to the late **SAM WEBSTER**. **DANA TOM** presented a Club banner from Mumbai. He was enthusiastic about the warm reception given by our Indian Rotary friends.



Today's guests included Richard Keller (guest of **STEVE MADSEN**), Pat Dolan (guest of **IRIS KOROL**), and Barbara Cameron (...of **BEN THRELKELD**). **LEANNAH HUNT**, joining the President's Club, announced



her appointment as a new Director of the National Association of Realtors. **BERT ROSE** also joined in memory of **GEORGE KNOWLES**, past-Club-president, who passed away at the age of 107.



ROSEANNE FAIRTY brought us up to date on Vocational Scholarships, a major area of our Club's community service. Last year

we gave \$9,000 to nine students majoring in nursing, automotive technology and other vocational interests at local community colleges. This year, thanks to our successful fundraiser, the amount allocated to Vocational Scholarships is \$21,000



Appropriately, **BRIAN SCHMIDT**'s Opening Remarks spoke of the different types of individuals he encounters in his election-time peregrinations around the community. One of the pleasures of a democracy is meeting and talking with candidates.

President E.J. announced at the 10/6 meeting, the Los Altos Sunset Club is struggling with membership and is down to 10 members. If you can, please attend their club social on October 14 at 6:30 p.m. at First and Main, 397 Main Street, Los Altos.

After an introduction by **BETSY BECHTEL**, **GLORIA HOM** and Terry Christensen took up the task of explaining the propositions facing us on November's ballot:



Prop 1: A \$7,000,000 water bond to build dams, increase water storage and address other water-related needs. It was described as, "Something for everything."

Prop 2: A complicated measure would sequester an additional 1½% of the state budget for debt reduction and for schools. With eighty-five percent of California's budget already ear-marked and untouchable by the legislature, this will make it eighty-six-and-a-half!

Prop. 45: Gives the Insurance Commissioner power to reject or approve rate changes.

Prop. 46: Another grab-bag of health care adjustments including increasing maximum medical liability awards from \$250k to \$1 million, and broadening the state database containing names of purchasers of prescription drugs.

Prop. 47: Reduces penalties for selected non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Releases many low-level offenders; reduces prison over-crowding.

Prop. 48: Gives one of California's fifty-eight Indian tribes permission to open a casino off tribal lands (closer to a freeway).

Your reported notes that Shoji Nakamura, discoverer of the white laser was just awarded a Nobel prize. Thanks to **GLORIA** and Terry for illuminating our California propositions so effectively.

GINNY LEAR is coordinating next week's visit of Rotary Past District Governor Oscar Garcia, here for D5170 Partners in Service visit. Please call **GINNY** if you have some time to meet Oscar any day during the week.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 13 Rotary Partners in Service, Oscar Garcia, Past District Governor, RC of Chihuahua, Mexico

October 20 David Kennedy, Stanford Professor of History Emeritus: "Who Bleeds, Who Pays: The US Armed Forces Today"

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org