

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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DICK FREEMAN, on behalf of the We Care Committee, welcomed KEVIN CURRY back from the Midwest.

Marco von Gunten, guest of CYRILLE BETANT, is checking out the area and thinking on how to run his business here; Nick Granowski, a realtor at Pacific Union, was the guest of DICK FREEMAN; Peter Landsberger, a candidate for the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District was the guest of BETSY BECHTEL; George Kelly, a retired partner of Deloitte, was the guest of ROB LANCEFIELD; Don McDougall, a PA city council candidate was the guest of HAL MICKELSON; and James Young, a 20 year former member was welcomed to the meeting.



LEN ELY gave opening remarks. LEN noted the last time he did this was in December 2008. He decided not to give the same talk he gave them as it was not especially well received and now that he is running for city council he pays attention to this. He spoke to us about a book he read entitled "How To Raise an Adult". One theme of the book is developing grit. This does not mean being ornery or unpleasant like John Wayne in "True Grit". Grit is defined by unyielding courage. It is developed by failure. One must dust oneself off and try again. It seems, now, that kids are afraid of making decisions. The recent issues at Wells Fargo partly resulted from employees acting out of fear and being trained not to make decisions. Our country was built on grit. Franklin Roosevelt's philosophy during the depression was to try something and if it failed, admit it and try something else. We must learn how to fail. Grit is a learned skill

At the conclusion of the opening remarks, President BRIAN STEEN noted that everyone here in Rotary has grit.

Pres. BRIAN announced that our club has donated \$1,000 to the Clayton Fire Relief Fund organized by the Lakeport Rotary Club.

KATIE SEEDMAN came up to speak on behalf of The Rotary Foundation. September is the fund raising month. Next week, TIM WATSON will speak to us about Rotary's International Programs. KATIE has ordered annual reports from The Rotary



Foundation and they will be at the entry table next week.

DAVE SMULLIN joined the President's Club in honor of Peter Landsberger. Peter was the former general counsel of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District and thereafter became the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Business and

Computer Service. Peter was then hired as the President of the College of San Mateo, and later became Senior Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District.



MIKE COUCH joined the President's Club in honor of Peter Landsberger.

DANA TOM joined the President's Club to honor chef STEVE EMSLIE, BRUCE GEE and GINNY LEAR for their amazing paella dinner. RALPH ADAMS joined in honor of the blind date he

had with his now wife some 50 plus years ago. LEN ELY joined the President's Club in his own honor and reminded us that he is running for PA city council.



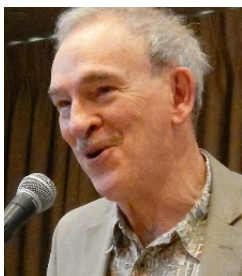
Our program, presented by GLORIA HOM and LIZ KNISS, concerned the 17 state-wide election propositions on the ballot in November 2016. LIZ and GLORIA gracefully, and almost, but not quite, flawlessly, traded off in discussing the 17 propositions which ranged from marijuana to condoms to taxes.



Gloria explained that there are three kinds of ballot propositions: bonds, constitutional amendments and initiatives. You need an initiative to repel a prior initiative. An initiative can be put on the ballot with the signatures of 5% of voters in the last election. Since turnout was low in the last gubernatorial election, it was relatively easy to get a proposition on the ballot this year. Liz reminded us that she also is running for office. She asked us how many of the registered voters in Palo Alto would likely vote in November. The answer is 85%.

Gloria and Liz then spent one minute on each proposition.

Proposition 51, according to Gloria, is a school bond issue to raise \$9 Billion, of which \$7 Billion is earmarked for K-12 education. The



money is only for construction. The total cost including interest would be \$17.6 Billion. Approximately \$7 Million would be available for Palo Alto.

Proposition 52, according to Liz, makes MediCal fees permanent for private hospitals.

Proposition 53, Gloria informed us, provides that if future revenue bonds are issued for more than \$2 Billion they must be put on the ballot. This would cover projects such as the High Speed rail and Delta Water projects.

Proposition 54, according to Gloria, states that legislative bills must be posted 72 hours prior to a vote. This would eliminate the "gut and amend" procedure by which innocuous or uncontroversial bills are completely replaced at the last minute by other legislation.

Proposition 55, Gloria told us, is an extension of the existing higher income tax on higher income individuals. It is expected to raise \$9 Billion per year. It will extend the existing higher rates for 13 years.

Proposition 56 is a cigarette tax increase that would raise the tax by an additional \$2 per pack. All money will go to health care. Liz told us that because people are smoking less the taxes raised by the cigarette tax have been going down, resulting in less money available for health care.

Proposition 57, Gloria told us, relates to shorter sentencing for non-violent felons and that youth, ages 14-17, can only be tried as an adult with the permission of a judge.

Proposition 58, Gloria told us, reinstates bilingual education in California when a school district chooses to implement such a program on a local level.

Proposition 59, Liz told us, is a purely advisory initiative to register opposition to Citizens United Supreme Court decision that allowed unlimited political spending.

Proposition 60, Liz told us, requires the use of condoms in adult films and requires licensing. The intention is to protect the performers.

Proposition 61, according to Gloria, will provide that the State of California, in purchasing prescription drugs for low income individuals, state employees and prisoners, would get the same low prices paid by the Veterans Administration. Many MediCal people will not be covered by this, however.

Proposition 62, Liz told us, would repeal the death penalty. The death penalty is currently costing us about \$100,000 - 150,000 per year per person on death row.

Proposition 63, according to Liz, provides additional restrictions on ammunition and magazines and clips for guns and requires enhanced background checks.

Proposition 64, Liz told us, will legalize marijuana and provide for taxes on retail sales of marijuana.

Proposition 65, according to Liz, provides that fees charged for carryout grocery bags would go to the State of California rather than the grocer.

Proposition 66 limits the time that a death penalty conviction may be on appeal. It requires habeas corpus petitions to go the superior court initially, allows death row inmates be housed in prisons other than San Quentin, and increases the portion of inmates' wages that may be applied to victim restitution.

Proposition 67 is a ban on single use plastic bags. A vote in favor of the proposition keeps in place the existing ban on single use plastic bags at grocery stores.

There are two county initiatives in Santa Clara County:

Proposition A provides \$150 Million in general obligation bonds for affordable housing.

Proposition B continues the existing half-cent sales tax for 30 years to fund transportation issues. It is not as concentrated on BART as the prior funding.

More information about these propositions can be found in your vote information guides.

Many thanks to GLORIA and LIZ for their presentations, and to Pinion writer ANDREW PIERCE for heroic reporting.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

September 26, Tim Watson, Chair, World Community Service Committee, Palo Alto Rotary: "Our Club's Global Grants Projects 2016-2017"

October 10, Jeff Orth, District Governor: "Rotary International and District 5170"

October 17, Candidates for Palo Alto City Council