

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 30, 2018

Reporter: WALT HAYS

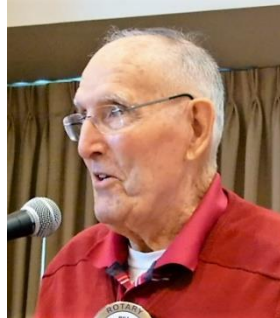
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

RICHARD KELLER led the flag salute. There were no visiting Rotarians. CHARLIE WEIDANZ introduced Julio Nino for his 4th visit and pending application for membership.



NINA MOORE made a generous contribution to the club endowment in expression of her gratitude to the many members who reached out to her upon the death of her husband. She also gave the Word of the Day: "If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else."

BILL BUSSE joined the Presidents' Club in honor of BRUCE GEE's fundraising. He also recanted how he won and enjoyed the auction item giving the winner the privilege of throwing out the baseball at the Stanford-Cal game because his daughter kept adding his name as the highest bidder.



President BETSY also recognized AMY ANDONIAN of Avenidas, who invited members to attend the occasion celebrating that DICK MANSFIELD and his wife Ellie received that organization's Lifetime of Achievement Award.



TOM GRACON gave the three truths and a lie:

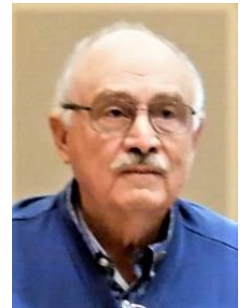


- (1) He has 60 cousins.
- (2) He participated in a gathering of accordion players whose size broke the Guinness Book of Records.
- (3) He represented the Diocese of Pittsburgh twice in the Finals of the National Catholic Forensic League and was rated in the top ten in the nation.

(4) He gave a speech on the same dais as the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The lie was No. 2: The gathering took place, but he wasn't there.

MIKE MCMAHON introduced the speaker, Commander Mathew J. Waldron of the U.S. Coast Guard. Commander Waldron earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy and was commissioned in May 1999. After a number of assignments and promotions both at sea and ashore, he earned a Masters in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College and spent several years in that field. He returned to sea as an Executive Officer in 2016 and has earned medals for his service.



Commander Waldron said that ninety percent of illegal drugs smuggled to the U.S. are carried by sea, and Coast Guard ships sail up and down the coasts of Latin America seeking to intercept the vessels carrying them. They spot the vessels from aircraft and then close in quickly to avoid giving the smugglers time to scuttle the drugs, which would make it hard to prosecute them. They fire across the bow of the smugglers' vessel to demand that it halt, which it usually does, with the demand being backed up by a sniper, a machine gun and a cannon capable of sinking the ship. They then launch small boats to reach the smuggling vessel and enable crew to board and arrest. The smugglers are taken back to the U.S. to be prosecuted, and the drugs are destroyed. In 2017 they interdicted 43 vessels, capturing 23 tons of cocaine, but they estimate that that is only one fifth of the drugs shipped.



PROGRAMS and EVENTS

May 7, Jim Nadel, Founder, Artistic and Executive Director of Stanford Jazz Workshop: "Inside Jazz"

May 14, Martha Kanter

May 21, Michael McConnell, Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School: "The Supreme Court in a Time of Division"

