

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 21, 2018

Reporters: MATT DOLAN, Hal MICKELSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

REMINDER – NO MEETING NEXT MONDAY MAY 28TH!

Call to Order: With a ring of the bell President BETSY BECHTEL began our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thought of the Day: LEN ELY shared the value and instructional support of the Twelve Steps from the "Big Book." He said that he found the twelve steps useful in coping with a wide range of life's challenges – even the challenge of dealing with the Palo Alto city staff..."

A few key elements from twelve steps are:

- Admitting that your problems have become unmanageable;
- Turning for help to a Higher Power;
- Taking a moral inventory of yourself;
- Making amends to people you may have harmed;
- Learning to live a new life with the help of a mentor or sponsor;
- Carrying this message to others who need help



Visiting Rotarians: Lisa Lorenz, from the Niles chapter and Chairperson for the 2018 District Conference provided an update on the Inspiration – Leadership – Fellowship from the upcoming events June 1 – 3, 2018 at San Jose State University. Register for the entire conference or specific events using three easy options.

Online: events.rotarydistrict5170.org, (Preferred option)

Fax: 408.273.4555 (Note your fax Rotary District 5170)

Mail: Rotary District 5170, 2570 N First Street, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95131



Visiting Friends: KATIE SEEDMAN was accompanied by Eric Seedman, DIANA DIAMOND invited her good friend Levora Blackman, AMY ANDONIAN introduced Tim Andonian, Charlie Goldenberg was a guest of KEVIN CURRY and STEVE PLAYER introduced Alison Cormac, his guest and a city council candidate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DICK and ELLIE MANSFIELD were equally humbled and pleased to win the Avenidas Life Time Achievement Award. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.



GINNY LEAR provided a friendly reminder, on behalf of Brian Steen, for the up-coming debunking of President BETSY BECHTEL. It will be on JUNE 18, Michael's Restaurant @ Shoreline, 5:30 p.m. Reservations will soon be open. A great evening!



JULIE JEROME provided an update on the Endowment Fund activities and noted the date change from this November to next May for focus and giving. The endowment fund stands at approximately \$830,000.

Learn more about giving opportunities and the available options for legacy giving. Connect with your fellow Rotarians on the Endowment Fund Committee.

To honor his mother and a life time event, TIM WATSON joined the Presidents Club to celebrate her 70th birthday. Fortunately, a health diagnosis from 50 years ago proved incorrect and the Watson family has the stories to prove it!

TGIF Update: TGIF is planned for Friday, June 8th from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Hosted by MATT DOLAN at Avalon Towers on the Peninsula, 2400 W El Camino Real (apartment towers next door to Silicon Valley Community Foundation.)

Program Speaker: Michael McConnell formerly a



Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and now serving as Director of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School shared a few salient points regarding the judicial branch in times of conflict.



His presentation began with an observation of American civic duty made by Alexis de Tocqueville in his book "Democracy in America" from 1835. Our guest linked this same desire for civic duty to organizations like Rotary.

Michael directed observations to a few points that represent a variety of cases reviewed by the Supreme Court with the proviso that SCOTUS decisions are based on consistent application of the law.

1. The Supreme Court by a 6-3 decision overruled the Third Circuit Court of Appeals based on the decision this violated the state's 10th amendment rights. This will create opportunities for states to legislate gaming within their states.

2. Gerrymandering. A political challenge that creates and provides challenges for political parties. SCOTUS will provide a constitutional review and not a political review regarding voting district boundaries.

3. Cake Shop. The court will review requirements of business establishments to decline providing goods and services. In this case it is wedding cake for a same sex wedding. The court's decision is focused on the constitution and finding consistency in application of the law.

4. Presidential Power. Specifically focused on executive authority regarding refugee ban. In this case along with other cases brought to the Supreme Court the decision is based on constitutional application. Active debate, agreement and dissent on SCOTUS decisions transcends political affiliations and centers on the review and application of the constitution.

The actions and decisions of the Supreme Court are interesting topics for attorneys and citizens alike.

PROGRAMS and EVENTS

May 28 DARK – No Meeting

June 4 Patrick Hunt, Archaeologist, Historian, Author, Lecturer at Stanford: "Hannibal's Secret Weapon"

June 8, TGIF Dolan Residence

