

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 7, 2019

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President GINNY LEAR called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

GUEST, Paula Snyder visiting from Franklin, Tennessee.

OPENING REMARKS

ROB LYMAN challenged the members to set some personal goals for 2019.



They should be inspiring and fun, he said, and should be distinguished from New Year's Resolutions. In his case they have been challenging and impactful. Give yourself a chance and write them down. Partner with your spouse or a good friend. He finished by challenging everyone to set one goal for 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRISH BUBENIK is back home and doing well.
ED DANGLER is doing well at the Veterans Hospital.



DAVE SMULLIN remembered former Palo Alto Rotarian DAVID MITCHELL who recently passed away.

President GINNY acknowledged receipt of a thank you from the Paradise, CA Rotary for our recent gift.

CASH ALAEE announced the annual Palo Alto Rotary Speech Contest will take place at the City Council Chambers on Thursday Jan 31 at 7PM.

HAL MICKELSON that he is hosting a Wine and Cheese Reception after the Palo Alto Players performance of "Shakespeare in Love" on Sunday January 20. Tickets for Rotarians are discounted by \$10 are available.



GINNY announced the Jan. 30 PA Rotary annual Chinese New Year Dinner at Chef Chu's Restaurant, \$65 per person.

DERRICK BRITT was awarded a Paul Harris pin for his recent Rotary Foundation contribution



between 4 and 5:30 PM at he Art Center.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB - discounted January special of \$20

GLORIA HOM just returned from a 15 day cruise in

SE Asia

HAL MICKELSON treated his nephew in Budapest to Thanksgiving dinner. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF observed a large raptor in Union Square, San Francisco feasting on a mouse!

JOHN O'KEEFE was delighted to see 35 wild turkeys while he was playing golf on New Year's Day!



PROGRAM

MICHAEL PATRICK presented a program on California Civil Grand Juries based on his recent service on the San Mateo County Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury, a citizen watchdog organization, is required by California State Law so there is one in all 58 Counties in the state. Each jury has a year term and can investigate any government entity in its county. Examples are: human services, health care, Sheriff, cities, police and fire departments. It does not investigate any private entities.



Each grand jury selects its own topics from such sources as citizen suggestions and prior year subjects but most come from the jurors themselves. No one tells a Grand Jury what to do. The focus is not on policy but on good government, integrity, existence of procedures and the following thereof.

The process is to pick topics, brainstorm them, research them, winnow them down to 15 to 20. At the end of the year 15 to 20 written reports are produced. The jurors can request documents, interview at the

entity, and even have the power of subpoena. Draft reports are produced for the jurors with emphasis on findings of facts and recommendations. Entities have to respond in writing and discuss in open hearings. Entities are not required to take action, but if they do not, they have to say why not. Jurors are selected from volunteers. Santa Clara County is now accepting volunteers for the coming year starting on July 1, 2019. An application form is available at the following website:

http://www.scscourt.org/court_divisions/civil/cgj/grand_jury.shtml

Service requires 15 to 25 hours per week, serious analytic, writing, and interpersonal skills and the ability to be fair and objective. Examples of Grand Jury Reports are available at the above website. For example, there is a June 2018 report, "Affordable Housing-Density is our Destiny" on the web site which also includes the response from the City of Palo Alto..

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 14, TOM GRACON, SHERRI SAGER, BILL BUSSE: Vocational Talks.

