

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

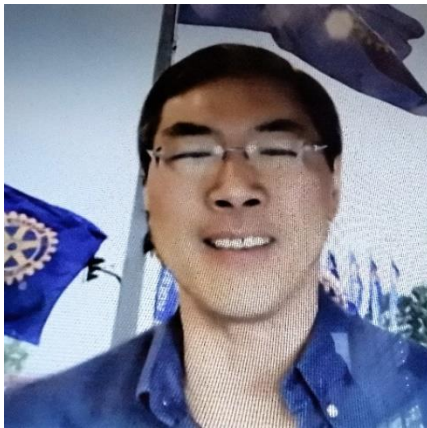
March 16, 2020

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In a world turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, the Rotary Club of Palo Alto replaced in-person meetings with virtual meetings via Zoom technology. After making sure that all participants were properly connected, President DANA TOM called the meeting to order at 12:39, with 42 present.

Noting that this is a new way for us to meet, DANA



quoted Governor Newsom who said that each of us has power to slow the spread of this disease. We are all doing our part.

Apparently, we entered this realm of virtual meetings before the Los Altos

Rotary Club, and five of their members joined us to learn and share: they were Jack Higgins, Bonnie Burdett Walker, Frank Elmer, Kathy Berry, and Frank Verlot.



In her THOUGHT FOR THE DAY, OANA MARCU took a remarkable perspective on the coronavirus pandemic. She looked at the pandemic on a global scale (we are doing well in fighting something that just came upon us quickly), and an evolutionary scale (viruses and humans have co-evolved over billions of years). An uneven

distribution of deaths from a variety of causes is True but not Fair, but Oana believes that a crisis like this can build Better Friendships and ultimately be Beneficial to All as we rediscover basic needs, spend quality time with family and friends, and humbly recognize our role in society and as a species.

**PLANS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:** DANA announced that we will continue virtual meetings indefinitely.

HENRIETTA noted that President Trump just asked no more than 10 people get together at time, and REBECCA announced that in California a shelter-in-place order will go into effect tonight at midnight. Only essential businesses will be allowed to continue operation. Jack Higgins noted that the CDC now says two months is length of their 10-person restriction on meetings.

Red Badger MIKE REYNOLDS described working at



Project WeHope, where our club has been helping to serve a meal to needy clients in East Palo Alto. Last week was our last service with them until we are past the coronavirus shut down. Mike said it was easy to do and very rewarding. He was impressed with all the people who were there, and glad to have a chance to connect over a meal with people that we don't usually share a meal with.

Two people had news to share as part of the PRESIDENT'S CLUB. This weekend TOM GRACON and his wife Helen will celebrate their 50th anniversary. There was going to be a big party, but now he is not quite certain how they will celebrate. Pizza delivery just doesn't seem quite the thing!



On the other hand, BETSY BECHTEL managed to get her celebrating done before the lock down. She and her daughter each had decadal birthdays recently, and to celebrate, they flew to New York City where they saw two plays and were back home before the curtains came down on such outings.



DANA shared an inspiring short video celebrating the fact that India is polio-free as a result of international collaboration that includes Rotary.

DANA thanked our helpers Pinion writer SALLY TOMLINSON and Pinion editor LYLE CONNELL.

**PROGRAM – BRUCE GEE, The Annual Crab Feed Alternative Plan**



There was no financial liability incurred when we cancelled the event. The room rent was refunded, and Ada's and the crab supplier did not charge for cancellation. The crab feed is the main source of funds for our annual charities, so its cancellation leaves us well below our normal for this time of year. Here is how the committee and board

hope to fill the gap:

- This year's Fund-a-Need charity is Ecumenical Hunger Project. Fund-a-Need comes out of the current year budget. Usually, this happens when donations made at the Crab Feed go directly to the charity. This year, the Board decided to take \$10,000 from existing funds for the Fund-A-Need charity so that we don't have to wait for direct contributions.

- We have received \$31,000 in sponsorships and hope all of them will convert those to donations.

- People who have bought tickets are changing those to donations.

- Plan to ask members to donate the amount they would have contributed to the Fund-A-Need and their ticket to the Crab Feed. Hoping to raise \$10-15,000 in these donations.

- PATTY McGUIGAN has offered at \$10,000 DICK BUSH matching fund for donations.

- Will organize an online auction. Hoping to raise another \$10-20,000 through the auction.

- Stretch goal is \$75,000 from all sources.

\$31,000 sponsorships converted to donations

\$15,000 donations in lieu of fund-a-need and

tickets converted to donations

\$20,000 online auction

\$10,000 Dick Bush match

- Hope to complete this in early April.

Thank you to the Crab Feed leadership team: BRUCE GEE, GINNY LEAR, PETER SHAMBORA and REBECCA GERALDI.

To make a charitable donation now to the DICK BUSH CRAB FEED MATCHING FUND Please click on this link:

<https://www.rotarypaloalto.org/page/crab-feed>

**DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S MEETING:**

March 23 @ 12:30 pm.

Please click this URL to join Palo Alto Rotary's Video Conference <https://zoom.us/j/8224330584>