

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

December 7, 2020

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**CALL TO ORDER:** President **BEN THRELKELD** called the first meeting of December to order. While participants are muted on Zoom the voices of our fellow Rotarians are fully participative with hand raise and chat features.



**A BREAK FROM THE ORDINARY:** Today's meeting is our Quarterly Membership

Campaign Meeting followed by a presentation from highly regarded Ambassador Michael McFaul. With our focus on membership and the guest speaker's popularity, the business portion is compressed to 10 minutes and individual acknowledgement of guests and visiting Rotarians is waived to accommodate time demands. Either way to our visitors, "Welcome to Palo Alto Rotary and we are glad to have your participation!"

**WHY JOIN ROTARY?** The motivations to join Rotary are as varied as the members themselves. Social engagement, volunteerism, growth and development, community and global engagement or just to have fun and make friends. While the reasons are varied for Rotary membership the benefits and resources are steady and reliable. For more information on membership contact Membership Committee Chair, **KAREN ROHDE**.

**HOLIDAY PARTY:** To celebrate the holidays and comply with stay at home orders, Palo Alto Rotary is having a virtual wine tasting featuring Neely Wine. Samples for the wine tasting are available to pick up at President **BEN's** office in Palo Alto through this Wednesday at 5:00PM. One sample flight should be enough for two people. Please check for emails with the Holiday Party flyer and Zoom link. The holiday party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th from 5:30PM to 7:00PM

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** December 31st, from 9:00AM until 2:00PM at Homewood Suites Hotel, 4329 El Camino Real. Due to impact of the pandemic, blood shortages are impacted by far fewer donors. Thank you to **LINNET KWOK** and **KIM BOMAR** for volunteering to help with the drive. We still need one more volunteer

between hours of 9:00AM and 11:30AM. If you are high risk it is recommended to not volunteer. To volunteer or if you have questions please connect with President **BEN THRELKELD**

**PAUL HARRIS AWARD AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTION:**



Past President, **GINNY LEAR** had the honor to present a Paul Harris Fellow Award to Ambassador McFaul in consideration for his contributions in furtherance of better understanding and relations across the globe. **GINNY** then introduced Ambassador McFaul as our

speaker with his presentation, Great Power Competition. His thoughtful comments and observations regarding power positions between US, Russia and China provide an insightful observation to complex world issues. Most notably Ambassador McFaul maintains a positive view for the US to navigate the challenges ahead.

**CLOSING:** Thank you Ambassador McFaul for taking time for Palo Alto Rotary. Thank you members and guests for attending. Meeting adjourned and "see you next week"



Today's Volunteers: Pinion writer, **MATT DOLAN** and Pinion editor **LYLE CONNELL**.

December 14 – Gunn HS Choir, Directed by Bill Liberatore

December 21 & 28 – DARK – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 4, 2021 - Lynn Orr, former Under Secretary for Science and Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy

Energy and Science issues facing the Biden administration