



DISTRICT 5160

[www.rotary5160.org](http://www.rotary5160.org)

# the SPLINTER

CLUB 470 - ORGANIZED APRIL 29, 1926

[www.woodlandrotary.org](http://www.woodlandrotary.org)

**Meeting Date:** January 11, 2022

## *Today's Meeting*



**President Dan Stroski** kicked off today's meeting. **President-elect Shawn Seyk** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **President Dan and Steve Venables** led us in singing Rotary Grace. **President Dan** then thanked set up team members **Peter Holmes, Don Huff III,** and **Tim Pettit** for their help today. He also thanked **Yvette Roy** for doing **Meals on Wheels** service today, and **Kris Kristensen** for being today's Splinter writer and his work on the Club's website.



## *Today's Program*

Due our speaker's time constraints, the program was moved up earlier on today's agenda. **President Dan** introduced his former boss, **Yolo**

**County District Attorney Jeff Reisig**, as our guest speaker today. **Jeff** said he was happy to be back with the Club to which he once belonged. He has been Yolo County's District Attorney for the past 16 years. He gave us a presentation on **Proposition 47**, an initiative approved by California voters in 2014, as to what it was intended to accomplish and what has happened

since its passage.



Prop 47 - The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act  
November 2014



**Jeff Reisig** reminded us **Proposition 47** reduced certain drug possessions from felonies and misdemeanors. It also required misdemeanor sentencing for petty theft, receiving stolen property, and forging/writing bad checks when the amount involved is less than \$950 or less.

Proponents of the initiative promised it would reduce State prison population; permit resentencing of prisoners currently serving time for these offenses (approximately 10,000 were eligible); save \$millions in prison expenditures; provide more drug treatment; reduce felony barriers to jobs; and make California neighborhoods and schools safer. Proposition 47 passed in November 2014 with: Yes-4.2 million votes (60%) vs. No-2.9 million votes (40%). Voter turnout in that election was a record low of 42.2 of those registered to vote.

# PROP 47

- Reduces certain drug possession felonies to misdemeanors.
- Requires misdemeanor sentencing for petty theft, receiving stolen property and forging/writing bad checks when the amount involved is \$950 or less.

source: [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/news/Proposition\\_47.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/news/Proposition_47.html)

neighborhoods and schools safer. Proposition 47 passed in November 2014 with: Yes-4.2 million votes (60%) vs. No-2.9 million votes (40%). Voter turnout in that election was a record low of 42.2 of those registered to vote.

What's wrong? **Jeff** explained implementation of Proposition 47 **stripped law enforcement and the courts of their ability** (the 'carrots and sticks') to deal with these crimes. There is **less drug treatment** now; **Drug Court participation is down 86%** since Proposition 47. **Drugs are even more available on the streets** today. Instead of arresting users of illegal drugs, they are issued a citation. When the user fails to make a court appearance, or pay a fine, the court can only issue an arrest warrant. Knowing an arrest can only lead to an additional fine, many courts simply do not issue the warrant, and law enforcement does not allocate the time to find the user again. **Homelessness** in California has significantly increased under the passage of Proposition 47. **Jeff** explained **property theft cases have grown, and become underreported**, because it is easier and less time consuming for business owners to simply write off loses rather than reporting smaller value thefts.

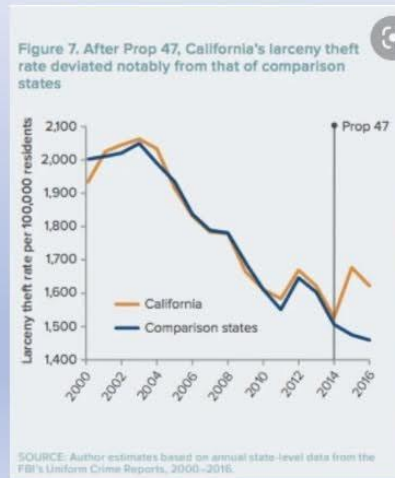


**Jeff** said the activity of **'smash & grabs'** (breaking into a store, smashing glass and taking merchandise) has been encouraged by the passage of Proposition 47. With an emboldened criminal mindset, thieves are **'making a killing'** in California says **Reisig**. He noted Woodland, Davis and West Sacramento have all experienced an increase in these crimes.

**Jeff** acknowledges prison populations in California have become smaller since Proposition 47 but added much of these reductions were already underway at the time of its passage. He also pointed out that Proposition 47 has resulted in fewer people of color

## Property Theft After Prop 47

Sharp Increases followed by  
Massive Underreporting



(primarily African Americans) receiving felony convictions. However, **Jeff** said State prison budgets have increased each year during this period, despite the original promises of reductions.

**While** there is some discussion in the State Legislature of reform being necessary, **Jeff** said the path to such change is a 'political mine field'. It will take 'courage' to make these changes. He encouraged anyone with an opinion on this question to share them directly with their State representatives such as **Assembly member Cecelia Aguiar-Curry** and **Senator Bill Dodd**.

**President Dan's Inspiration of the Day:**

*'Celebrate endings - for they precede new beginnings.'*

**-Jonathon Lockwood Huie, Author**

*Visiting Rotarians and Guests*



**President-elect Shawn Seyk** introduced **Harmon Sandu**, Senior Business Banker with Tri Counties Bank who was his guest today.





## Announcements



**David Pinto** reminded the Club we are still in a membership drive and encouraged us to bring guests to our meetings. He invited **Aniek Pflager** to talk about her reasons for joining the Club. **Aniek** joined in February 2005. Her father had been in Rotary in Yuba City. She saw the main benefits being networking with other professionals; giving back to the community; and good programs.



**President-elect Shawn Seyk** said the due to the current rise in COVID cases locally the Club's Board of Directors voted at their meeting last night to **postpone the Club's 2022 Dinner Auction** from February 19 until April 23, April 30 or May 7 depending on venue availability. He will be reporting back with more details. **Shawn** went on to say the Club has only received donation two requests for funding (from St. Johns, and the Girls Fastpitch softball fields). He hopes to have representatives make presentations to the Club in February about their requests so the Club can decide who will benefit from

Auction proceeds this year.

**President Dan** reminded us signups for Rotary's Camp Royal are currently underway. The Club will be sponsoring at least one attendee this year. If you have a local high school student in mind for this opportunity, contact **Jayne Williams** or **Gary Wegener** to recommend.

## Birthdays



**Kris Kristensen** fessed up to having his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday on December 21 (Ross CA).

**Gary Wirth** celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on January 6 (Woodland).



### *Recognition*

**Don Huff III** took the lead on today's Recognition. **Don** started off with a \$5 fine for **Mike Chandler** for his phone ringing during last week's meeting.

**Don** generally asked members what was special during their recent holidays.

**Eric Sharp** had an enjoyable Christmas with all his family gathering for the event. **Yvette Roy** liked hosting breakfast, lunch and dinner for Christmas. **Lisa Martinez**



also enjoyed family gatherings during Christmas, including attending a showing of the latest Spiderman movie. **Tim Pettit** enjoyed having 6 people stay over for the Christmas holidays, as well as sharing New Year's Eve at **Gary Wirth's** home.

**Mark Ullrich** was happy the SF 49ers won last Sunday ('couldn't believe it') and enjoyed three days of Christmas celebrations. **David Pinto** and wife **Rebecca** had a great Christmas in Valencia, Spain with their daughter. **Steve Venables** was happy about nothing in particular; he and wife **Lydia** spent time last week in Pismo Beach with their son from Los Angeles.

**Gary Bunch** enjoyed the Christmas celebrations with family, but also established a new, New Years' tradition of taking the family to the Texas Roadhouse in Fairfield.

In another **Don Huff III** question, **Peter Holmes** learned Yellowstone National Park is celebrating its 150 anniversary this year. **Kevin Haarberg** knew that President Ulysses S Grant signed the legislation creating the park. **Tom Schwarzgruber** found out the Park was established March 1, 1872.



## *Rags to Riches*



With the pot at \$500 and 15 cards left, **Mike Chandler won the pot!**

## *Upcoming Programs*

# January 2022

## *Vocational Service Month*

18: **Raychel Kubby Adler, "Thriving Pink"**

<https://www.thrivingpink.org/>



25: **Grace Romero, Executive Director; Time of Change; 'Helping At-Risk Youth, Families and Communities Heal from Domestic Violence';** <https://timeofchange.org/>



See more program listings on the Club's website at:

<http://www.woodlandrotary.org/Programs.cfm>