

JULY 24, 2014

THIS WEEK:

The next regular meeting of the Tri-Valley Executives' Association will be held on **July 31st** at Vic's All-Star Kitchen at 7:00am.

GREETERS will be **Chris Rugaard** of The Law Office of **Christopher P. Rugaard** and Jim Pease of Pease Tax & Accounting Service.

The SPOTLIGHT will be on **Pease Tax & Accounting Service** by **Dan Brown**, and **Andy Anaya** will SPOTLIGHT **Dr. Endre Selmeczy**.

The CLASSIFICATION will be given by **Allen Eddy** of Cal Coast Plumbing.

SPOTLIGHT:

BY JOEY MINAHAN

Prior to becoming a stock broker, Dave Parker was a successful mortgage advisor. Today, working for Edward Jones, Dave is helping people with their investment choices. He has proven to go above and beyond, even when there was no commission involved. He works with clients to set goals, whether it be a house, gifting money to loved-ones, college education for children or grandchildren or end-of-life care. Dave works hard to make sure that his clients have accurate expectations of their stock portfolios. For help with your investment choices, call Dave Parker 837-7730 david.parker@edwardjones.com.

MEMBER NEWS:

Pleasanton Financial Advisors, acquired by BlueSky Wealth Advisors, LLC in September 2013, is now officially operating under the name: **BlueSky Wealth Advisors**. BlueSky has been named the fastest growing firm in the US. Congratulations!

UPCOMING:

August 7 – **Sheri Facciolla**, Patriot Pest

August 21 – **Jim Pease**, Pease Tax & Accounting

August 28 – **Jim Bowen**, Pleasanton Auto Repair

September 4 – NO MEETING

THE WEEKLY "POT" REPORT:

TVEA's 50/50 raffle has **only 2 marbles left** and is at **\$84.00** with no white marbles, 1 blue marble (\$10) and 1 red marble (winner takes all).

CLASSIFICATION:

Chris Rugaard grew up in Castro Valley, but moved to and worked in Nevada to establish residency to go to college there. In 1978 he graduated from the University of Nevada with a business degree.

Just out of college, a friend of the family offered him a job with the biggest salary he had ever had at the time, which he accepted and joined the union. He decided to continue with his education and graduated from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in California.

Chris has been married for 27 years and has 21-year-old twin sons, both of whom are attending the University of Nevada. His wife has been his best support, listening to his cases and telling him her view, and a lot of the time, gaining a different perspective himself.

Attorney Chris Rugaard has been practicing family law since he passed the Bar in 1984. He worked with three partners in Dublin for 11 years, and opened the Law Office of Christopher P. Rugaard in 1995 in San Ramon. He works in both the Hayward and Martinez Municipal Courts to serve clients in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

His office specializes in divorce, custody, support and modifications; he does not however, draw prenuptial agreements. Chris can do consultations or just a court appearance. After the recession, he changed his business model to allow credit card payment to make it easier on his clients.

In 1969, California became the first state to allow a “no-fault” divorce. Divorce, the dissolution of a marriage, takes 6 months and 1 day from the date it is filed with a \$435 filing fee, plus attorney’s fees. However, each one always takes longer, even the “amicable” ones (which are never amicable). The longest marriage ending in divorce, that he’s worked with, was 45 years. The shortest marriage he has helped dissolve was 17 days. The longest separation was 20 years; many people stay legally separated, not divorced, to be able to continue receiving health benefits of the spouse.

The cost of his services is based on whether the parties agree or disagree. It is ill-advised to not retain representation for a couple of reasons, but judges are unforgiving and can come down harder on those who choose to represent themselves. The courts do not require parties to retain attorneys, and they will now allow “limited-scope” representation. If he takes on a client that doesn’t work out, he can’t just fire them, as you can do in other businesses. Attorneys are not allowed to “abandon” their clients; they must file a motion with the court for substitution of representation.

Business has changed a lot due to technology and the availability of communication, i.e. email. In his line of work, communication is key. He reminds himself that while he has many cases he’s handling, this is the ONLY case in that person’s life. When a client calls, they want an immediate response. Chris is often called into the middle of a case because the client didn’t feel their attorney was being responsive. The hard part of communication is that you never know what’s on the other end when you answer the phone; his business is unpredictable.

Chris strives to give people assurance to help them get through a tough time. He always downplays his “wins” and tries to move quickly through the case to get people back on track. His business comes mostly from

referrals; he has even been referred by the opposing party for the way he handles his cases.

To refer or to contact the Law Office of Christopher P. Rugaard, call 925.820.8288 or crugaardatty@aol.com.
