

DECEMBER 11, 2014 NEWSLETTER

THIS WEEK:

The next meeting of the Tri-Valley Executives' Association will be held on **December 18th** at Vic's All-Star Kitchen at 7:00am.

This last meeting of the year is our traditional Dirty Santa. **Please bring an anonymous wrapped \$15-25 gift.**

WHAT IS A DIRTY SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE?

Another variation on the gift exchange is a fun game called Dirty Santa. Suitable for small to large groups, the game, also going by Pirate Bingo, Yankee Doodle or Yankee Swap, adds an element of excitement and humor to traditional gift giving.

In Dirty Santa each participant brings a wrapped, unmarked gift and places it in a designated area. Guests are given numbers as they arrive, or their names are randomly drawn, and they select and unwrap gifts from the pile in that order — with a twist.

The person who receives the number 1 will pick a gift (that is not their own) from the pile and open it for all to see (or models it, reads it, or demos it). During the selection of a wrapped gift, the participant may visually inspect the gifts, pick them up and/or gently shake them.

The person who receives number 2 then chooses whether to select a new gift from the pile or steal the first player's gift. Each person in order then gets to select a present or steal any other gift someone has already opened with a limit of 2 steals per gift (third person keeps it).

Opening of gifts and stealing takes place until all the presents have been chosen. Finally, the person who picked first gets to choose from all the gifts or keep what he/she has already received. In the end, the gift you are holding is the gift you take home.

Regular meetings will resume on January 8th.

TWO TRUTHS:

By Darlene Crane

1. Darlene Crane-Peel has an identical twin sister.
2. She and Mike have two pets: a squirrel named "Rocky" and a dog named "Lady".
3. Darlene has been kissed by Elvis Presley.

Darlene Crane-Peel (not her identical twin, Marlene) was kissed by Elvis when he was performing at Sierra at Lake Tahoe during the honeymoon of her first marriage.

Darlene only has "Lady"; there is no "Rocky". But if the mortgage rates are driving you "nuts", call Darlene at RPM Mortgage so that she can help you down the road to a cheaper mortgage dcrane@rpm-mtg.com 699-4377.

UPCOMING:

December 25 – NO MEETING – Christmas Day
January 1 – NO MEETING – New Year's Day

THE WEEKLY "POT" REPORT:

TVEA's 50/50 raffle is at \$62 with 8 white marbles (\$5), 2 blue marbles (\$10) and 1 red marble (the Pot).

CLASSIFICATION:

Jay Woidtke joined the TVEA about 5 ½ years ago, but he has been a long-time Exec. He helped found the Southern Alameda County Executives' Association 35 years ago and has gained 40-50% of his clients from his membership.

Jay Woidtke has been a life-long resident of Castro Valley. He graduated from UC Berkeley and got his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law, where he was somewhat of a prodigy, being the only student who couldn't drink... legally.

He was married to his high-school sweetheart, but divorced after 18 years. Finding that the single life did

not agree with him, he has been remarried for 20 years. His wife does medical research focusing on sleep disorders. Between him and his wife, they have 5 daughters. He is hoping that their youngest who has just started college, will be following in his footsteps and take over his practice, although he has a nephew that is also a promising candidate.

Originally, Jay thought he wanted to be an environmental lawyer and majored in Political Science with a minor in Geography. He soon learned that there was no money in environmental law. He graduated summa cum laude, #3 in his class. After law school he worked as a clerk in Santa Clara, which he hated. In 1979 he had the opportunity to open an office along with an accountant. He has now owned the office for nearly 40 years. He is a solo practice and loves both the freedom and the responsibility. He currently has over 8,000 clients, and his office gets about 50 calls a day.

It is very important for Trusts, Wills and Powers of Attorney to be drawn up by an attorney whose primary practice is Estate Law. Jay Woidtke is a Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law designated by the State of California, to which only a very small percentage of attorneys are awarded. For heirs to avoid probate (upon death), conservatorship (upon incapacitation), attorney fees, estate taxes and property reassessment in the event that something should happen, everyone should be proactive and have a living trust. Not needing a trust is really the exception, especially if you own property.

Keep in mind, when refinancing any of your property, it needs to go back (be recorded) in the name of the trust. Children who choose to keep their parents' property can transfer Prop 13, but have to file quickly and correctly. It is essential to make sure that you get legal advice when titling real property.

A Will, a Power of Attorney and a Healthcare Directive are just as important as the trust itself, and all four should work together if prepared by the right person. Whereas a Trust lives on after ones death, a Will directs the disposition of the assets owned by the Trust, and is required in California; therefore it is essential that the Will is properly written and witnessed.

It can cost a lot of money if it's done wrong. You can save money by not waiting... the charge for Mr. Woidtke to act in an emergency situation is double. Two-thirds of Jay's work is problem cases. He gets a lot of work from real estate companies and loves getting probate referrals from other attorneys; probate is a money-maker and typically costs over \$23,000.

The average cost for a single person to have a living trust drawn up is about \$1,000; a typical couple costs about \$1,250. Jay charges \$250 per hour and having him review your existing trust to make sure that it is complete would be worth the hour. Keep in mind that your Power of Attorney needs to be updated every few years.

Jay has a houseboat at Lake Don Pedro, loves water skiing, is a big Raider fan and goes to the Pro Bowl EVERY year without exception.

If you or someone you know needs to have a new trust drawn or to have a trust reviewed, call Jay A. Woidtke, Attorney at Law at (510) 881-5026.
