

## ABOUT THE 6 SPEECH CONTEST:

For any reader who is not familiar with (or has forgotten) local Rotary organization, Almaden Rotary works jointly on many activities with 5 nearby Rotary clubs, in a group officially known as "Area 6". Almaden Rotary works with fellow clubs: Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Gilroy Sunrise, Hollister and San Juan Batista on international projects, one major joint local project each year and on such youth activities as the speech contest.

Each club has its own speech contest, then those winners move on to the Area 6 contest to see which one will in turn move on to the District contest (and so on up to the national level) with prize awards, as well as bragging rights and college app points increasing at each level. The Area 6 contest is rotated among the 6 clubs, with this year being Almaden's turn to be host.

It's a pleasure, not a chore, to have an event like this one where we get to see friends from the other clubs with whom we too have little opportunity. And the speakers were great. When you see preparation and delivery like that shown Thursday night, you know you are seeing young people who are on their way to successful lives. 36 people came to hear the contest, with every club represented. We were also honored to have Michelle Dexter, who supports Councilman Johnny Khamis, join us for the event.

Asst. District Gov. Art Testani reads the contest rules and President Brian O'Neill details the contest rules - no applause until all speakers finish!

Special congratulations to Channing Buehman, the contest winner – but really, congratulations to all four speakers for their presentations of well thought-out speeches.

All four speakers had excellent speeches. Winner Channing Buehman and runner -up Stevi Rae Page were particularly polished presenters, but honorable-mention speakers Sadagopan Paloniappan and Emiliano Esparga had unique content as well. Emiliano, from San Juan Batista, offered the idea of having people generating public media postings subject all their tweets, posts and videos to Rotary's four-way test before actually posting them. For starters, just check the posts to see: 1. Is it the truth?. Is it fair to all concerned? Only half way through the 4-way test and probably 80% of recent political tweets are gone. What an idea!

Unfortunately, I didn't get the future plans on all four speakers, but we did learn that Channing Buehman is headed to University of Western Oregon and is interested in a career in medicine. Emiliano Esparga has been accepted at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo but is hoping to also hear from Claremont McKenna. Sadagopan is a tennis player who is also interested in a career in medicine. Those three and Stevi Rae Page are all going to do well – bet on them!