



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

April 23, 2023



CAREER DAY AT PACIFIC HIGH SCHOOL

Our club sponsored Career Day on April 21, 2023. Our members were among the speakers to help students explore potential careers. For more photos, visit the Ventura Rotary Club Facebook page.



LAURA VAN AUKER – ASSETs



Laura Van Auker, BCBA, M.Ed., gave a presentation at our meeting April 19, 2023, about ASSETs (After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens). Laura has directed the program at Ventura High School since August 2022. (The other Ventura Unified school with ASSETs is Pacific High School.)

The program provides a safe and healthy place for students after school, including those who do not have immediate transportation home. Students enjoy snacks, ping pong, pool, and other recreation.

One goal is credit recovery for students who have fallen behind. Tutoring is provided in all subjects. Field trips encourage students to try something new, like making pottery or learning yoga. During a three-day/two-night field trip to the Pali Institute in Running Springs, CA, students enthusiastically built a snow fort and enjoyed zip lining. Other activities include a Dia de los Muertos event, honoring the artist of the month, a barbeque, and other food preparation.

Participation in the program is voluntary and requires only parental permission. Before COVID, 600 students were enrolled. The numbers declined while the program was online, but it is growing again, with 300 enrolled and an average of 50 to 60 participating each day. The program is funded by a federal grant and all services are free to all students.

Laura Van Auker has been an educator for 15 years. She began as a paraprofessional in special education and went on to earn her Education Specialist Credential and Master's in Education at UCSB. She taught special education at the Hueneme Unified School District and Ojai Unified School District before becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She enjoys biking, bodysurfing, swimming, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Laura's father was a Rotarian. When she was a child, she joined him in a Rotary bowling tournament and received a trophy of a horse's behind, which is still a prized possession.

MEETING APRIL 19, 2023

Attendance: 38, including **Curtis Cormane**, who later this month will celebrate his 26th year as a Rotarian (7 years in Rotary Club of Ventura).

Lunch: Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious Chicken Alfredo with green salad, fruit salad and bread. We had ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Even though I'm lactose intolerant, I decided to live dangerously and ate half a sandwich!

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions: Jim Deardorff. "Let us live the Four-Way Test by being fair and truthful to all people at all times." Jim led us in reciting the Four-Way Test in unison.



Songleaders: Jessica Brandon, RoseAnn Hill, Clyde Reynolds, Bev Ward. "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)"

Announcements:

Margi Wray: The Rotary Club of Westlake Village is presenting the **Wild Oaks Country Music Festival** June 3, 2023, 12-7 p.m., at Conejo Creek Park, Thousand Oaks. Early Bird tickets (by April 30) are \$55 but enter code R5240 for a \$5 discount. (I went on their web site, and it looks like quite an event, with lots of musicians, food, vendors, and 6,000 guests expected!)

Clyde Reynolds: April 29 is **Rotary at Work Day** throughout the U.S. Our Habitat for Humanity Team Build will repair and replace a deck and stairs at 4388 Central Ave. #71, Camarillo from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To participate, contact Clyde to sign up, and register with Habitat for Humanity.

Andrea Contarino: **Club Polo Shirts** are still available for pick up (one freebie per member).

Neal Lassila: **Fireworks volunteers** will meet right after next week's (April 26) meeting.

Jacquelyn Gargano: Rotary Clubs in Ventura County raised \$30,000 for the **Ronald McDonald House Walk for Kids**, including \$8,500 from our club. Still tabulating to see if we were the biggest donor.



Albert McCartney (former club member and international director) gave a report for the 20th anniversary of the **Free Clinic in Honduras** that Rotary established. Our contributions have included a blood sugar analyzer, EKG, security fences and gates, exam tables, and air conditioning. Community Memorial Hospital continues to provide staff and medication.

Hutch Hutchinson presented Judy Moore with a **Paul Harris Plus 2 pin**. Despite great progress, polio cases continue in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere. The Rotary Foundation helps support polio eradication.



Happy Dollars.

Fining: **Angela Rosales** quizzed us about flowers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or on our website)



April 26 lunch meeting: Sheriff James "Jim" Fryhoff. Our newly-elected Sheriff grew up in Pasadena, California. He joined the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1990. His assignments included detention services, patrol, special enforcement, investigations, and crime prevention. He was the Assistant Chief in Thousand Oaks, Chief of Police of Ojai and of Thousand Oaks. Jim received his bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in Vocational Education, a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in Administrative Leadership, and graduated from the FBI National Academy. He is a two-time Deputy of the Year recipient and received the Medal of Valor in 1997. Jim and his wife, Traci, have two daughters.

April 26: Fireworks volunteers meet at Poinsettia Pavilion at 1:30.

April 27: Board meeting, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

April 29: Habitat for Humanity Team Build, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Rotary at Work Day, 4388 Central Ave. #71, Camarillo, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Clyde to sign up, and register with Habitat for Humanity.

May 3 lunch meeting: Conversations in Rotary. Interview of a mystery club member.

May 10 lunch meeting: Foothill High School Interact, Mother's Day flower sale.

May 12: Pacific High School Teacher Appreciation Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 501 College Drive, Ventura. Volunteers needed—contact Madhu Bajaj.