

# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919*



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## How Our Club Started...

The Rotary Club of Ventura was chartered by Rotary International on May 1, 1919. The club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara.

But that date is not really the beginning of the story. A meeting of Ventura business people and Santa Barbara Club Rotarians took place almost a whole year earlier in the week of June 3, 1918, where the seeds were sown for the establishment, immediately, of an unchartered Ventura Rotary Club.

The first meeting of the Ventura Rotary Club took place on Wednesday, June 12, 1918 at the Hotel De Leon in downtown Ventura. James Briscoe, retiring President of the Santa Barbara Rotary Club, which had received its charter in January, 1918, and Byron Terry, a charter member of Rotary Club Number One, (Chicago Rotary Club, Mr. Terry actually knew Paul Harris), were present and explained the purposes of Rotary.

Twenty prominent Ventura members of different professions joined that day, electing J. Hyde Chaffee President and L. P. Hathaway Secretary. A committee was formed and instructed to formulate a Constitution and By Laws. Wednesday at noon was fixed as the date and time of the weekly meeting, which, of course, holds to this day.

Before receiving its charter our club was very active, recruiting more members and working for Rotary International approval.

On January 2, 1919, the Club speaker was William Dalliba, an American in Paris that organized the great

American Ambulance during World War I and received the highest honor of the French Republic, the Chevalier Legion of Honor.

On February 12, 1919, by unanimous vote, our club voted to affiliate with the International Association of Rotary Clubs. At the time Rotary International had 429 Clubs and a membership of 38,800, located in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Cuba, China and Uruguay. Through this affiliation our club had to raise its annual dues from \$5.00 to a whopping \$10.00.

The Ventura Star reported on April 1, 1919, that Dr. F. F. Nalder of the University of California gave a talk on the popular Rotary idea of "Pulling Together." Club singing was a preferred method.

"If any Rotarian knows another Rotarian who has nerve enough to sing in that bunch of highbinders, an opportunity may be given at an early meeting."

Our Club received its Charter from Rotary International on May 16, 1919, and appropriately celebrated together in song.

Our Club heritage and its activities today truly reflect the history of our County, the events that have shaped the lives of many generations, the individual and cooperative contributions of our many members and the purposes of Rotary International.

*This article was adapted from material prepared for our 90th anniversary by John McConica II with invaluable assistance from Tim Schiffer, Executive Director of the Museum of Ventura County, MVC Librarian Charles Johnson, and other sources.*

MAY 1, 1919  
CELEBRATING

95

YEARS OF  
SERVICE

THE ROTARY CLUB OF VENTURA

## Recap of April 23 Meeting

John Brant started the meeting with a Rotary-oriented prayer. RoseAnn Hill led the club in “My Country ‘Tis of Thee.”

Lucas Johnston brought our Belgian exchange student Laura to the dais so she could thank the club for sponsoring her. Laura will soon be finishing up her year at Ventura High before returning to Europe. Lucas also announced that our next student will be coming from Ecuador and he is seeking housing for him during the next school year.

Roger Case appealed for members to help sponsor the club’s Fourth of July Fireworks event.

Rob Orth used his passion for palms in his fining. Whether you got the question correct or not, the responder received their very own *Butia capitata* grown by Rob himself.

Jim Deardorff used his Rotary Moment to highlight an El Paso, TX news article featuring Chris Figureida who is cycling cross country in support of our club’s Polio Plus efforts.

### Program

Ed Summers introduced the program which brought together, in a forum, club members who are directly involved in the City of Ventura’s homelessness issues. For many reasons, Ventura continues to have the highest percentage of homeless in the County. In recent years, a more cooperative interaction among social service providers has been having an impact on those numbers.

Jeff Lambert, Community Development Director for the City, spoke of the formal efforts of the council, particularly the “safe and clean” initiative to act on vagrancy and illegal activities as opposed to criminilizing someone’s housing situation. Jeff reminded us that the City itself does not provide homeless services, but rather the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department.

Jim Duran of Project Understanding emphasized the “hand up not hand out” approach used by churches and agencies to address the needs of the homeless.

Rob Orth, with the Salvation Army, touted the “Homeless to Home” project to transition people to self-sustaining

## Today’s Program

### *Member Spotlights*

Introductions:

Larry Rasmussen

Rotary Moment:

Sonny Shah

Fining:

Jim Deardorff

status.

Clyde Reynolds of Turning Point Foundation explained the Safe Haven program which provides a bridge for those seeking to escape homelessness. Turing Point focuses mainly on those with mental issues.



*Clyde Reynolds and Jeff Lambert each described their roles dealing with homelessness in Ventura.*



*Jim Duran and Rob Orth talke about the successes and challenges of homelessness in Ventura.*





*Lucas Johnston introduces our foreign exchange student Laura.*



*Roger Case is seeking sponsors for our club fundraiser, the Fourth of July.*



*Ed Summers introduced our panel of guest speakers..*



*Jim Deardorff spoke of one of our favorite guest speakers for his Rotary Moment.*



*Besides being part of today's program, Rob Orth also fined the Club members.*

## **Membership Updates:**

The following member has recently left our club:  
Danny Belitski, as of Apr. 3.

Leaves of Absence have been granted to the following:  
SusAnne Lee Chung through Sep. 4, 2014; John McConica II extended to Jun. 30, 2014 and Melody Namikas extended to Jun. 30, 2014.

Also Maria Berntson has achieved the status of  
Excused Attendance (Rule of 85), effective 4/1/2014.

## President Irene's Demotion Party



**Hey Rotarians! Grab your favorite poison and toast to the end of the Henry Regime!**

**Discovery | Ventura**  
**Bowling, Cocktails & California Cuisine**  
**1888 E. Thompson Blvd.**

**June 17, 2014**  
**5:00 PM to 9:30 PM**

**April Birthdays**  
 Greg Kincaid, Apr 04  
 Maria Berntson, Apr 13  
 Doug Halter, Apr 15  
 Robert Orth, Apr 16  
 Hoot Bennett, Apr 18  
 Linda Roos, Apr 18  
 Doug Wood, Apr 22  
 Kevin Clerici, Apr 24

**April Anniversaries**  
 Indy Batra, Apr 15,  
 Roz Warner, Apr 24  
 Mark S. Sauer, Apr 26



## Our First Club President



John "Hyde" Chaffee was the Rotary Club of Ventura's first president when the club was officially chartered on May 1, 1919. At the time of the charter, membership numbered only about twenty men.



Chaffee was born in Ventura on January 29, 1869. He spent many years with the National Bank of Ventura (started by his father), and later with the Bank of America. In 1891 he was a teller at the Bank of Ventura. He spent two and a half years as Chief Deputy Auditor and became the Chief County Auditor from 1936 to 1950. He also the President of the W.S. Chaffee Estate Company (office at the Bank of Ventura) along with W.G. Wilde, Vice-President, W.S. Chaffee, Secretary, A.L. Chaffee and F.E. Woods.

Chaffee was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Ventura, the Elks Lodge and VFW-Honorary. He attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Ventura.

He died in Ventura on January 25, 1950 at age 80.

 <b>Rotary Club of Ventura</b> Club #691  <b>Ron Burton</b> Rotary International President  <b>Jack McClenahan</b> District 5240 Governor  <b>Irene Henry</b> Club President  <a href="http://venturarotary.org">venturarotary.org</a>  Find us on Facebook	<b>OFFICERS</b>	
	President	Irene Henry
	President Elect	Rob vanNieuwburg
	Secretary	Jim Deardoff
	Recording Secretary *	Christina Rust
	Treasurer	Connie Young
	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
	Immediate Past President	Indy Batra
	<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>	
	<b>Club Service</b>	
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Director	Mario de la Piedra
	Assistant Director	Roz Warner
	<b>Community Service</b>	
	Director	Ron Calkins
	Assistant Director	Steve Warriner
	<b>International Service</b>	
	Director	Christina Rust
	Assistant Director	Albert McCartney
	<b>New Generations</b>	
	Director	Courtney Lindberg
<b>SPOKES</b>	Assistant Director	Dale Jaedtke
	<b>Vocational Service</b>	
	Director	Jeff King
	Assistant Director	Mary Saputo
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