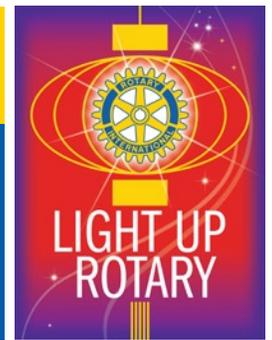


# ROTARY SPOKES

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

**95** YEARS OF  
SERVICE

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## Ventura County Transportation with Darren Kettle

Comedian George Carlin said “Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?”

Whether you are sitting in traffic on the 101 parking lot, just left your car at the shop for a realignment because of the three-foot pot hole you hit or just missed your bus or train and you are going to have to wait an hour for the next one, you know what George is talking about...our transportation system can be maddening



Darren Kettle, the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, will provide a Ventura County transportation system update including a look at the investments made in our highway system and public transit services recently and the challenges ahead.

Darren is the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a position he started in October 2007. The Commission consists of one elected official from each city in the County, the five County Supervisors, and two public members – yes, that means 17 bosses. In his service to VCTC, Darren leads a small but very capable staff with focused efforts on improved transportation planning to ensure the wise investment of transportation funds on a wide array of transportation projects programs, ranging from major highway and freeway projects to bicycle and pedestrian projects and bus and rail projects and operations. The Commission also serves commuters on a daily basis with a robust rideshare program and is Ventura County’s intercity public transit operator, known as VISTA,

serving nearly 1 million riders a year commuting within Ventura County and into Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties.

Darren has a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. His professional career spans 24 years working for local government and regional transportation agencies. Prior to coming to VCTC he served in several senior positions with the county transportation agencies

of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Darren and his wife Keri have been married for 4 years and when the “circus” is in town they have four kids with them in their home in Camarillo, California.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

September 6 and 7. Ride markers, aid station attendants and beer pourers are needed. Our club receives funds from this event for our Dictionary Project, plus it’s a lot of fun! If you can help out, please contact Steve Doll.



## Recap of August 20 Meeting

Lynda Girtsman began things by asking members to silently reflect on the various news of the day that seems to weigh heavy over us these days. RoseAnn Hill flew solo today, leading us in "It's A Grand Old Flag."

Hutch Hutchinson presented Gary Wolfe with his seventh Paul Harris Fellowship.

Mark Kirwin mentioned that volunteers are needed for the upcoming Ventura Marathon for a variety of jobs. Contact Steve Doll for information.

Jack Wood scored big points with the women club members in his Rotary Moment, by celebrating the positive change their entry into the clubs in the late 1980s created. Curtis Cormane fined on British English and how it differs from American English.

### Program

The speaker was an 11-year veteran of the Ventura Police Department, Det. Cpl. David Ruggiero. He had spoken to us more than a year ago prior to leaving for South Asia. He came back to report on what he had experienced that year abroad. He began by thanking club members who had contributed financially towards his trip.

He began with the cultural and social differences he and his young family, who had accompanied him for the year, experienced in this very challenging urban location.

Cpl. Ruggiero's efforts were to fight bonded labor and sex trafficking of young children. Worldwide, by some estimates, some 27 million people are enslaved and some two million children are in the global sex trade.

He cited several case studies in which he personally participated and showed images of several young girls who had been abducted, tricked or sold into the sex brothels in the South Asian city. He described the often tricky methods they used to rescue these children and the long road to rehabilitate the victims.

## Today's Program *Ventura County Transportation Update*

Introductions: Andy Soter  
Rotary Moment: Gary Wolfe  
Fining: Courtney Lindberg

### Future Programs

Sep 03 Aspire Program  
Sep 10 Ronald Reagan Library Presentation  
Sep 17 District Governor Visit



*President Rob van Nieuwburg introduced our program.*



*Det. Cpl. David Ruggiero recounts his time spent in South Asia combatting human trafficking.*



*Hutch Hutchinson shows off the katest Paul Harris Fellowship given to Gary Wolfe.*



*Mark Kirwin speaks about the upcoming Ventura Marathon and appeals for volunteers.*



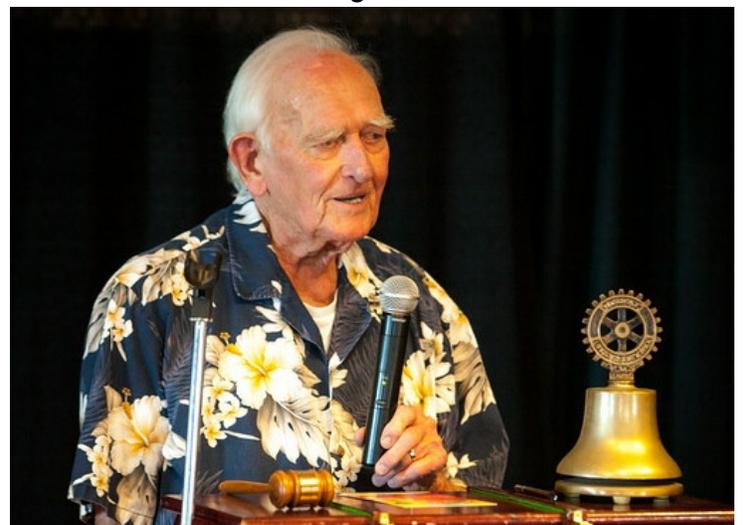
*Lynda Girtsman led off the meeting, asking us to think about the events of the world.*



*Curtis Cormane fined on the differences between British and American English.*



*Rosa Lee Measures introduces her guest, husband Albert.*



*Jack Wood celebrated Women in Rotary for his Rotary Moment.*



## Update from Nicaragua

This is a recent Facebook post from Project WOO concerning the medical clinic our club helped build in Playa Gigante:

“After a full week of house to house screenings with subsequent follow-ups, students from University of Texas PanAm helped our health team identify members of the community with undiagnosed/untreated hypertension. 30% of those screened were found to be hypertensive, and 9 individuals screened had severe hypertension which needed to be addressed immediately. Without these talented students we could not have reached so many people so quickly and so efficiently. It was a great week with a fantastic group of energized students. Thank you to everyone involved in this successful team effort!!”



## WE NEED RUNNERS!

The Color Run Ventura is coming! Last chance to save before pricing goes up 9/1! This benefits the Rotary Club of Ventura. Grab your friends...you won't want to miss this! Buy tix here: [TheColorRun.com/Ventura/](http://TheColorRun.com/Ventura/) and remember to use the code: COL-ORJGMRF to save \$\$\$

## Membership Updates:

Melody Namikas resigned from the club effective June 30, 2014.

A retroactive extension of a Leave of Absence has been granted to Ajay Keshap through Dec. 31, 2014.

## New Member Proposals

The following are proposed for membership:

**Benjamin Unseth**, proposed by Larry Dawes with classification of “Non-profit Social Services.”

**Jesse Wanamaker**, proposed by Rob van Nieuwburg with classification of “Real Estate-Residential.”

If you have any objection to membership of these individuals in our club, please contact the President or Secretary in writing within 7 days.

### August Birthdays

Wayne Bruce, Aug 01 Daniel Holmes, Aug 24

Kristin Taylor, Aug 05 Andrew Soter, Aug 31

Harald Wulff, Aug 15

Dave Wallace, Aug 16 Ron Bamieh, Aug 13

Saurabh Bajaj, Aug 18 Ron Calkins, Aug 14

Dave Loe, Aug 19 Rosa Lee Measures, Aug 20

Sylvia Cheatham, Aug 20 Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21

Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21 John Williams, Aug 26

Erik Feingold, Aug 23 Terry Schaeffer, Aug 28

### August Anniversaries

Ron Bamieh, Aug 13

Ron Calkins, Aug 14

Rosa Lee Measures, Aug 20

Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21

John Williams, Aug 26

Terry Schaeffer, Aug 28



**Rotary Club of Ventura**  
Club #691

**Gary C.K. Huang**  
Rotary International  
President

**Loretta Butts**  
District 5240 Governor

**Rob vanNieuwburg**  
Club President

[venturarotary.org](http://venturarotary.org)



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Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Irene Henry
	<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>

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Assistant Director	Mike Anderson

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Director	Dale Jaedtke
Assistant Director	Dave Wellik

### Vocational Service

Director	Mary Saputo
Assistant Director	Saurabh Bajaj

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SPOKES

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