



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

August 6, 2023



DR. JOHN FANKHAUSER

John Fankhauser, MD, MHA, was the speaker at our meeting August 2, 2023. He is the CEO of Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital.

Dr. Fankhauser has been a family practice physician and lecturer most of his career. From 2013-2018 he worked for a faith based medical mission in Liberia, West Africa. He was accompanied by his wife and children. He joined a small hospital to teach midwives and obstetrics care. Medical staff consisted of six people from various countries.

Liberia in 1980 was one of the richest countries in Africa. When its 20-year civil war ended in 2000, it became one of the poorest. The average daily wage was \$3.00.

In March of 2014, a small child died of a mysterious illness in Guinea. They discovered that it was Ebola. The virus

began to spread in West Africa. Dr. Fankhauser and his partners started to prepare “just in case.” For three months, there were no cases. Then they were overwhelmed. Few patients survived for the first few weeks. Three doctors on the staff were on duty 24 hours a day. They converted the chapel at the hospital to a six-bed isolation unit.

A doctor and a nurse on the medical staff contracted Ebola and they decided to treat them with an experimental vaccine that worked well in primates. They were transported to Emory in Atlanta and are survivors.

Other hospitals in the area shut down due to illness and lack of staff. His hospital was able to stay open and treat patients. With donated seed monies, they created the Ebola Survivors Clinic for those who suffered from long term health issues and losing family members.

ELWA Hospital received great support from the local Rotary Club in Monrovia, Liberia, receiving a global grant to build oxygen plants for four hospitals. The hospital went from 50 beds to 114 beds and got a residency program started for an HIV Clinic.

Dr. Fankhauser is grateful to be part of VCMC. It is a facility with a great heart that seeks to serve all as everyone deserves good health care. He feels they are good stewards of taxpayers’ money.

Thanks to the Rotary walkers, 150 families are served each month at the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

MEETING AUGUST 2, 2023

Attendance: Present were 35 members and two guests: our speaker, Dr. John Frankhauser, and Amy Towner, Executive Director of the VCMC Foundation.

Lunch: Food Affairs by Stacey served fruit, salad, coconut rice, tilapia, and mint ice cream pie for dessert.

Introductions: **Mark Sauer** spoke about why we gather, and repeated the Rotary Four-Way Test.

Song: **Bev Ward** led singing of “America the Beautiful.”

President Neal Lassila invited **Doug Halter** to make a brief announcement about **City news**. The city has been conducting an international search for a new City Manager (there has been an interim since last December). There are three finalists and Bill Ayub is one of them. (NOTE: Ayub has now been selected.)

Announcements:

Mobile Eye Clinic Fundraiser at Winchester’s August 2 @ 4:30p.m.

Kellye Patterson (Vocational Director) is introducing a new idea for our meetings where you can provide a personal photo and your business and she will advertise it on the video screens during mealtime. Contact her.

Betsy Chess has **County Fair tickets** – see her.

Fining: **Lynda Girtsman** fined on riddles. President Neal thought her topic was the best he had experienced in his 4 years.....we never knew that he was such a fan of riddles! Examples:

No one has walked this way. Answer: The Milky Way

Stronger than steel but can’t handle the ice. Answer: The sun

What kind of band never plays music? Answer: Rubber band

What travels around the world but stays in one spot? Answer: A postage stamp

What is red and smells like blue paint? Answer: Red paint

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carol Greeby
August 4

Andie Contarino
August 6

CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Roger Case

August 1, 1977
46 years

John J. Johnson

August 1, 1989
34 years

Sonny Shah

August 1, 2004
19 years

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson

August 1, 2005
18 years

Chris Figureida

August 1, 2016
7 years

Debby Millais

August 1, 2018
5 years

Amy Bailey-Jurewicz

August 3, 2022
1 year

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



August 9 lunch meeting: Craft Talks, Andie Contarino & Crista Hermance.

Andrea (Andie) Contarino is Event Coordinator at the Museum of Ventura County. Born in San Jose, grew up in the San Fernando Valley. In 1975 she started spending summers in Ventura when her parents bought the house she currently lives in with her mom, Freddie Contarino. High school in Agoura, college at



Pepperdine in Malibu. Was married for 16 years, with no children and lived in Venice, Santa Monica, Malibu, Pacific Palisades. Moved here full time in 2016. She enjoys the logistics of events and has worked behind the scenes for Whole Life Expo, AFI Fest, TCM Classic Film Festival, American Film Market. Andie shares a close relationship with her three siblings and loves riding her e-bike everywhere she can.

Crista Hermance is the founder and managing attorney at Hermance Law, where she's known as the Estate Planning Mom. Born and raised in Ventura, Crista's journey took her to exciting places, like working as a project manager for Citigroup in Jacksonville, Florida, and even living in the Philippines for a year!

But Crista's true passion lies in helping families with estate planning. She started her legal career by volunteering at the Ventura DA's office and the Coalition to End Family Violence as a Victim Advocate. After attending law school at the Southern California Institute of Law, she became an associate attorney. After having her first daughter, Crista realized the importance of work-life balance and decided to create her own practice, Hermance Law, focusing solely on

estate planning for families with young children. Crista is married with two young girls, age 6 and 8. She enjoys traveling with her family and going on adventures.

August 16 lunch meeting: Janet Barron, Court Appointed Special Advocates.

August 19: Rotary Backpack Project. VUSD District Office, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Ventura, 9:00 a.m. This is a partnership with all three Rotary Clubs and the Downtown Lions Club servicing children in need throughout Ventura Unified School District. The principals of every school were contacted and provided the number of backpacks needed for needy students within their schools. We will be stuffing backpacks with school supplies. Donuts and coffee provided. Contact Kellye to sign up to deliver backpacks to each school at the event!

August 23 lunch meeting: Saurabh Bajaj, Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation update.

August 24: Board Meeting, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

August 30: NO LUNCH MEETING—EVENING MEETING at Stembassador's Idea Center.

Sept. 23: End of Summer Beachside Bash, national ribeye steak cookoff, brew fest, car show, and more. San Buenaventura State Beach, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thanks to Sandy Lassila for taking notes and photos of the August 2 meeting!

