



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

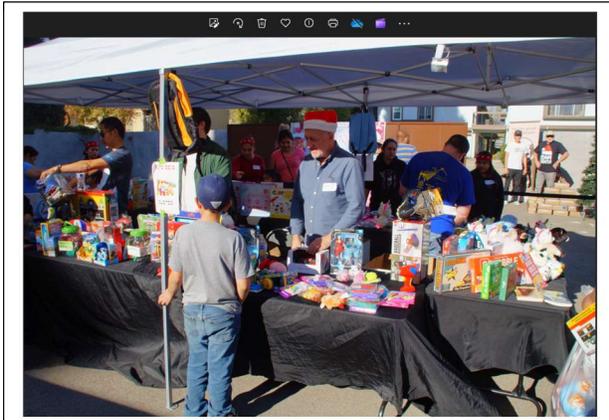
"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

December 17, 2023

### WESTSIDE HOLIDAY EVENT



Our Fourth Annual Holiday Event for Westside Kids was a great success! On Saturday, December 16, the Rotary Club of Ventura and co-sponsors gave coats, toys, food bags, and hot food to approximately 500 Westside children, and Mary Saputo's earrings to their moms. Co-sponsors were Coats for Kids, Arise Ventura, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura, CHP, Spark of Love (Fire Dept's in Ventura County), The Gideons International, Children's Hunger Fund, Interact, and a generous donation from SoCalGas. Thanks to Danny Quintana and Crowne Plaza for laundering the coats. I met grateful families who would not have had presents for their kids without this event. Thank you to all who donated and volunteered!



For a great video of the event, visit our club's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VenturaRotary>/<https://www.facebook.com/VenturaRotary/>

## PACIFIC HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT



Members of the Pacific High School (PHS) Interact presented at our meeting December 13, 2023. Students discussed their personal struggles, including receiving a heart transplant and personal and family issues with drug and alcohol addiction. Students behind in school were able to recover units through PHS and get back on track to graduate. Students receive points for passing all their classes and other activities that will allow them to attend field trips.

The goal of the ASB Leadership class and Interact is to create opportunities for students to help others and honor academic achievement.

Last year, Interact students visited Food Share. Through a Penny Drive, PHS students raised \$600 for Food Share. Interact added \$400 to make it an even \$1000!

This year, they are focusing on the fentanyl crisis. They met with District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and DA Chief Investigator Scott Whitney to learn more about fentanyl in our county. They are working with BRITE, a local organization focusing on teen awareness of drug, alcohol, and tobacco issues.

The students thanked our club for assisting with their Prom through a financial contribution, professional photography including prints, cookies, dessert, decorations, and chaperones. As a result, the prom was affordable for students who would not have been able to attend at a more traditional school.

Present with the students were Principal Ms. Monarres, Advisor Ms. Borer, School Counselor Mr. Sota, and Director of Expended Learning (and daughter of the late Larry Dawes) Lorelle Dawes. (Sorry if I missed anyone...)

## MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2023

**Attendance:** 41 including the welcome return of Ed Summers, and Pacific High School students and staff.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a delicious tri-tip, rice with cranberries, mixed vegetables, fruit, green salad, and cookies for dessert.



**Club Member/City Councilmember Doug Halter** gave his monthly summary of what's up with the city. Downtown Ventura Partners run the **Parking Authority**, which will be building a new parking structure at Palm and Santa Clara. The city is moving forward with the **Water Pure** project that will turn wastewater into drinking water and provide 20 to 30 percent of the city's water needs. We will also build a pipeline to bring **State Water** to Ventura. The city has hired 13 additional **firefighters**. Doug also discussed **land use**, including state mandates for affordable housing, and allocating where buildings up to 6 stories will be located.

**Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Judy Moore.** Rotary exemplifies peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

**Song: Clyde Reynolds, RoseAnn Hill and Jessica Brandon:** "Joy to the World"

### **Announcements:**

**Chris Brashears:** Thank you to the Rotarians who worked as **Bellringers:** Sally, Judy, Roger, Clyde, Keith, George, Rob, Kellye and daughter Sophia, Ellyn, Kristin, and Bev. They raised almost \$1000 for the Salvation Army!

**Neal Lassila:** In January, we will begin a new **membership drive**.

**Judy Moore:** Thank you to those who used the donation from SoCalGas to **buy coats** for our Westside Holiday Event: Ken, Neal, Judy, and Internet members. And thanks to RoseAnn for sorting coats at Hilford Moving and Storage.

**Madhu Bajaj: (1)** Thanks to all who worked to prepare the **Rotary float** for the Rose Parade. **(2)** Our next meeting (December 20) will be **The Price Is Right—Rotary Edition**. **(3) No meeting December 27.**

**Brenda Allison-Hutchinson** will bring the **club checkbook** to meetings if anyone has check requests.

**Happy Dollars.** Proceeds (\$443.50) went to Pacific High School Interact. (Who gave 50¢?)

**Fining: Pacific High School Interact students** quizzed us about fentanyl and other drugs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Dec. 20 lunch meeting: The Price Is Right—Rotary Edition.

Dec. 27: NO MEETING THIS WEEK

Jan. 3 lunch meeting: Club Assembly and New Year's Fun.

Jan. 10 lunch meeting: Kellye Patterson, Vocational Programming.

Jan. 17 lunch meeting: Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning, Ventura Unified School District

Jan. 24 lunch meeting: Turning Point—Growing Works

Jan. 31: NO NOONTIME MEETING. Evening meeting at Foodshare