



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

January 14, 2024

CONGRESSMAN SALUD CARBAJAL TO SPEAK



Congressman Salud Carbajal will be the speaker at our luncheon meeting January 24, 2024. Congressman Carbajal was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2016. The 24th Congressional District of California, which he represents, includes all of Santa Barbara County and portions of San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties, including most of the City of Ventura.

Congressman Carbajal immigrated to the United States from Mexico at the age of 5, worked summers as a farmworker, and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from UCSB and a master’s degree in Organizational Management from the Fielding University. He served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, including active duty, and served 12 years on the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING MONTH!

Please invite friends, family, and/or business acquaintances to a Club Meeting this month where they can experience the Friendliest Club in Rotary, a complimentary lunch (on the Club), and if they agree to join, **NO CLUB JOIN FEE!**

MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024

Attendance: 36 plus “Jake from State Farm.”
(I hope the caterer didn’t charge us for him!)

Lunch: Chicken enchiladas, refried beans, Mexican rice, salad, and orange slices. For dessert: chocolate brownies with custard and whipped cream.



Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Monica Smith.

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.

(J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*)

Song: RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds led us in singing “America the Beautiful.”

Announcements:

Neal Lassila: Please let him know if you are interested in serving as **President**. Past Presidents are eligible to serve again.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids: Hundreds of coats have been donated. We need to sort, clean, and distribute them. We need two more volunteers to help sort coats on Monday (Jan. 15), 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. There might be two or three additional sorting days coming up.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) At the **Club Assembly** on January 3, we filled out cards with our favorite Rotary memory from the first half of this Rotary year. We will share them at the end of the year in June. The notes we wrote on poster boards (Post Its) are summarized on the sheet attached to this newsletter (the numbers after some of the items are those who wrote they agreed with the comment). One thing that stood out is the desire for more service projects.

(2) We are forming a **Club Social Committee** to plan more club socials.

(3) Please RSVP if you will be attending the January 31 evening meeting at **FoodShare**. If possible, please bring a bag of canned food to donate.

(4) If you RSVP for an event, please make every effort to attend. Seventy people signed up for the Holiday Party but only 50 attended...the “no shows” cost the club extra money for food.

Irene Henry: Ventura High School Interact collected almost 1,000 cans for the **food drive**. We need six volunteers for the **VHS Pancake Breakfast** on January 18, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Brenda Allison-Hutchison: Our bylaws provide for **quarterly billing** for dues, etc., but members are welcome to pay monthly.

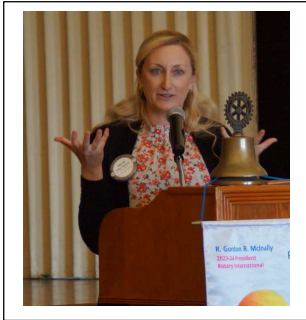
Happy Dollars.

We all sang “Happy Birthday” to **Sally Crain**.

Fining: Madhu Bajaj gave an informative fining session about **FoodShare**.

PROGRAM: VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Through a personal disaster, our club's Vocational Service Director, **Kellye Patterson**, learned the value of the professional connections in our club. The downstairs of her home and one of her vehicles were flooded during the flash flood on December 13, ruining Christmas presents, the family Christmas tree, and so much more. She called upon club members and received valuable advice. **Mike Anderson** led a panel discussion with those who assisted Kellye (but who failed to sit behind the correct name signs during the presentation!). They also discussed "lessons learned" from the Thomas fire.



Dale Jaedtke, contractor (Far West Construction Co.), came out to Kellye's house at no charge to assess the damage and what needed to be done to remedy it. Things are not always as bad as they appear (but sometimes they're worse!). It is important to NOT PANIC!!!! He recommended getting different ideas from different people. Many people were victims of con men after the Thomas fire who gave low estimates and collected downpayments, then disappeared. You should check contractors with the Contractors State Licensing Board and make sure they have workers compensation and liability insurance, and obtain lien releases.

Rob van Nieuwburg, Business Relations Director at Ventura Toyota, observed that cars are not boats. When water gets in the interior of a vehicle, it can ruin the electronics and the insurance company will total the car. He ran Kellye's vehicle through their appraisal software and gave her an accurate value of her car to use in dealing with the insurance company.

Erik Feingold, a partner at law firm Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold, received a call from Kellye asking his opinion whether it would be worthwhile to join a neighbor's plan to sue the city for insufficient flood protection. He told Kellye he knew the attorney the neighbor planned to hire had a good reputation. In the Thomas fire, many homeowners were uninsured or underinsured...he stressed the importance of keeping up on your insurance.

Irene Henry, a State Farm agent, advised Kellye that few people in Ventura have flood insurance. Although Kellye has insurance through another company, Irene is familiar with the standard language many companies use. She is also familiar with resources in the community to deal with different types of problems (like the skunk Patti Birmingham found in her garage!). As a lesson learned from the Thomas fire, Irene suggests keeping a "to go" box of essential documents, nonperishable food, blankets, etc. (she has a list).

Neal Lassila wrapped up, noting that a common thread is Trust between club members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 17 lunch meeting: Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning, Ventura Unified School District. Dr. Dawes leads all the after-school programs for nearly 2,000 students at 23 sites across Ventura Unified School District. She and her team have shifted the old paradigm of “after school care” to one that creates meaningful experiences for students to improve academically, learn through enrichment activities, and to be physically fit. These programs are designed to help kids grow and learn beyond the school day so they may have similar opportunities to their more affluent peers. She enjoys the creativity involved with planning enrichment activities for students and seeing them enjoy learning as they ride bikes, swim, create art and music, build STEM projects, take trips, learn from guest speakers, grow produce in the garden, cook tasty bites in the kitchen, and so much more.



Prior to leading expanded learning programs, Dr. Dawes was the Principal of Cabrillo Middle School for eight years, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Ventura High School for seven years, and a teacher at Ventura Adult & Continuing Education for eight years. She is an Adjunct Professor at California Lutheran University and helps manage her family’s rentals. In her free time, Lorelle enjoys cycling, volunteering, and traveling with her wife, Amy. She recently accomplished her goal of 50 x 50 x 50 which was to visit all 50 states and 50 countries before turning 50.

***Also, please bring denim jeans without stretch for service project, and craft supplies to make valentines, for the January 19 Pacific High School Day of Joy.

Jan. 18: Ventura High School Pancake Breakfast, 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Irene Henry to volunteer.

Jan. 19: Pacific High School—The Day of Joy—A Time for Students to Relax, Have Fun, and Learn Stress Management Skills, 501 College Drive, Ventura, 8:45 to 1:15 a.m. Sign up to lead fun activities for Pacific High Students as they take a break before finals to experience simple pleasures and JOY! Supplies will be on hand. You will work with 3 different groups of students in 40 minute sessions. Activities: Rock painting, clay sculpting, drawing, outdoor games, valentine making for seniors, cooking, photography, tie dyeing, coloring (and therapy dogs), board games, and denim cutting for service project. Optional, join the students for lunch from 11:15 - 11:45. Thanks to Jessica Brandon for envisioning this Day of Joy so students can relax, have fun, learn something new, build resiliency in the face of stress and take care of themselves. For questions, contact madhubajaj@gmail.com. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-46982978-pacific/>

Jan. 22: Pacific High School Interact, City Hall Meeting. Join us as the Interact Club/ASB Student Leaders visit City Hall for meetings about the Opioid Crisis and drug paraphernalia in local parks, followed by lunch at In-N-Out. Meet at Pacific at 8:45 a.m. to noon. RSVP to madhubajaj@gmail.com

Jan. 24 lunch meeting: Congressman Salud Carbajal (see top of page 1).

Jan. 25 Board Meeting, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Jan. 31: NO NOONTIME MEETING. Evening meeting at FoodShare, 4156 Southbank Road, Oxnard, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. One in four people in Ventura County struggle with food insecurity. Join us to learn how FoodShare makes a difference every day. CEO Monica White will provide an update on FoodShare and give a tour. Dinner will be served. You must wear closed toe shoes as we will be taking a tour of the warehouse. Children are welcome to attend, but they must be very closely supervised by their parent. While not required, it is highly encouraged to bring a donation of canned food when visiting a food bank or food pantry. If you cannot attend and would like to donate canned food in support of our visit, please bring to a club meeting or drop at FASTSIGNS 3959 E. Main St M-F 9:00-5:30. Questions:

madhubajaj@gmail.com. RSVP and dinner selection:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzoxU3WhCrmmsOy2wcqXrljyAyYJSUNsbKLKyOIwzZwt2cw/viewform?pli=1>



Jim Deardorff shared old and new **Paul Harris Fellow** medals provided by **Dick Hatcher**.

(See next page for Club Assembly feedback)

**Rotary Club of Ventura
January 3, 2024 Feedback on Post Its**

Keep in mind, only 1/3 of the membership was in attendance and everyone did not participate.

Club Meeting Experience

Optional Lunches x2
Club Socials x9
Restaurant Raid in Lieu of Mtg
3 lunches a month x8
More Offsites x5

Service Projects

Continue Dictionary Project
More Service Project(s) Instead of Beachside Bash (a party)
Stronger Connection to PHS x2
Take A Kid to work
Mentor Senior Student
More Community Service Projects 13

Membership

More Energy, More Members x4
More Engagement from Members x3
Buddy System to Call Missing Members

Misc.

Bigger Beachside Bash/Early Planning
No Beachside Bash- Money Loser, Public Disappointed
Take Over Ventura Chalk Art Festival
Faster, More Upbeat Tempo on Songs
Be Thoughtful of Impact v. Effort for All Rotary Projects; Quality over Quantity x2
Monthly Billing x3 (1 No)

Board

More Engagement from Board Members x3
Board Format
Consider Joint Presidency
Transparency/Reporting from Club Officers x5

Speaker/Program Suggestions

Member Conversations/Vocational Programs x3
How to Protect and Preserve 2nd Amendment Right
Alan Salazar- Chumash Elder and Storyteller
National or State Parks
Social Service Providers
Public Officials x3
Camarillo White Horses