

# ROTARY SPOKES

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



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## County of Ventura C.E.O. Mike Powers

Michael Powers became the County Executive Officer for Ventura County in April of 2011. In this role he oversees a budget of \$1.8 billion, and over 8,400 employees in 26 agencies and departments. He is responsible for overseeing and supporting all major county functions and services including budget, finance, legislation, human resources, labor relations, economic development and information technology. As CEO Mike's focus is on quality public service, fiscal discipline and investing in both our community and County workforce.



includes a workforce in excess of 2,300, over 300 contracted physicians, public-private partnerships, as well as the VCMC Family Medicine Residency, affiliated with UCLA. In 2010, the Agency provided over 1.7 million patient and client contacts at 63 locations throughout the county.

At HCA, Mike also served as Hospital Administrator, Physician Services Director, Compliance Officer and Deputy Director. He began his career with the County in 1992 as an Assistant County Counsel. Prior to joining the County, he worked

in private legal practice with Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton. With a degree in Economics and Business from UCLA, he received his Law Degree from Loyola Law School.

The County Executive Office is responsible to the Board of Supervisors for the general administration and coordination of all County operations and programs. The CEO has direct responsibility for the administration of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as well as preparation of the annual County budget, labor relations, recommendations on state and federal legislation, development and coordination of County administrative operating procedures, identification and assistance to departments in the pursuit of state and federal grant opportunities, and conducting analyses of program operations as requested by the Board of Supervisors.

Prior to his appointment, Mike was the Director of the Health Care Agency (HCA) where he oversaw the operation and management of the County's health departments. These included the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), Santa Paula Hospital, the Ambulatory Care Department, which provides a network of 30 community-based outpatient and specialty clinics, the Public Health Department, the Behavioral Health Department, the Medical Examiner's Office and the county-run health insurance plan. The Agency's budget totals over \$500 million, with only a six percent County contribution,

Mike also serves or has served on a number of community boards, including Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation; United Way of Ventura County, American Red Cross, Ventura County Chapter, and recently joined the Arc Foundation of Ventura County.

Mike feels it is a privilege to work alongside the talented, passionate and high caliber people who form the County Family. He was born and raised in Ventura, where he resides with his wife Erin, and sons Charlie and Zackary.



## Recap of January 15 Meeting

Ellyn Dembowski opened the meeting with an inspirational quote from Steve Jobs. Staci Johnson and RoseAnn Hill reintroduced an old Rotary song "Smile" complete with projected lyrics. President Irene reminded us that there is a joint meeting of the Ventura Rotary Clubs on January 29 at the Poinsettia Pavillion. A sign up sheet was available to know our head count. There will be a wine tasting event for Rotarians at Labyrinth Winery in Downtown Ventura on January 31

President Irene presented a Rotary Certificate of Appreciation to Sheel Bajaj, Saurabh Bajaj's mother, for her involvement in many Rotary humanitarian projects in her home country. Sponsored by Rob vanNieuwburg, we welcomed Jerry Bloom from the Salvation Army as our newest member. Jerry was very pleased to join our club and acknowledged our club's participation in the holiday bell ringing.

Mark Kirwin made a presentation of his aid efforts in the Philippines- he showed us slides of his trip to hardest hit area, Barongay Borongon. The people were welcoming despite their great loss but Mark was able to assess their most immediate need of roofing materials. Mark worked to make maximum use of the money he came with and also made sure materials were delivered to people who needed them. All told he was able to help 226 homes.

Dan Holmes fined on the southern section of the Sierras, while Norbert Tan used his Rotary Moment to celebrate the things that we do as Rotarians.

### Program

The program was a panel of three who discussed aspects of the local business for last year and what's in store for 2014. The panelists were Ed Summers of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Clerici of the Downtown Ventura Organization and Marlyss Auster of the Visitor and Convention Bureau.

Ed was optimistic of the future based on growth from last year. He spoke of new businesses moving into Ventura, the most significant being the new Walmart which will bring 200 jobs to the city. He also noted sales tax increases. Kevin noted that vacancies were down specifically in the Downtown, while attendance was up at the many events held year-round. He has also seen increased real estate

## Today's Program *County of Ventura CEO* *Mike Powers*

Introductions:

Dave Loe

Rotary Moment:

Connie Young

Fining:

Curtis Cormane

transactions in the Downtown. Marlyss noted that from the point of view of her organization, 2013 was the best in years and, specifically, this last December was the most successful in many years. New events on the horizon include BMX International event in May. The Bureau is also kicking off a new branding project and she looks forward to many events that celebrate the unique aspects of Ventura.



*Neal Andrews introduced our panel of guests.*



*Speaking on the business climate in Ventura were Ed Summers, Kevin Clerici and Marlyss Auster*





*Mark Kirwin gave the club a presentation of his recent trip to the Philippines for disaster relief.*



*Saurabh Bajaj introduces his mother, Sheel Bajaj, who later received an award from the club.*



*Dan Holmes entertained us with his fining.*



*New member, Jerry Bloom, was officially inducted. Rob vanNieuwburg introduced him*



*Norbert Tan shared his Rotary Moment with some self-deprecating remarks.*



*Ellyn Dembowski started off the proceedings with a quotation from the late Steve Jobs.*





## Dictionaries Delivered

Ventura Rotarians successfully delivered dictionaries to all third-graders in the District. Here Terry Schaeffer explains Rotary to kids at the Sheridan Way School.

### Membership Updates:

A Leave of Absence has been granted to the following:  
John Williams from 1/1/2014 to 6/30/2014.



**Our meeting of January 29, 2014  
will be held at the  
Poinsettia Pavillion  
as a Joint Meeting with  
our fellow Ventura Rotary Clubs.**

#### January Birthdays

William J. Kearney, Jan 01  
Sally Crain, Jan 11  
Roz Warner, Jan 12  
John R. Brant, Jan 13  
Juan M. Soto, Jan 21  
Tom Naylor, Jan 23  
Ron Bamieh, Jan 24

#### January Anniversaries

Norbert Tan, Jan 03  
Sonny Shah, Jan 08  
Chris Brashears, Jan 10  
Jim Deardorff, Jan 13  
Cessy Figueroa, Jan 15  
Jorge Arman, Jan 16

 <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 <b>Facebook</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>	President Irene Henry President Elect Rob vanNieuwburg Secretary Jim Deardorff 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> 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 Assistant Director Dale Jaedtke <b>Vocational Service</b> Director Jeff King Assistant Director Mary Saputo
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