



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

January 29, 2023

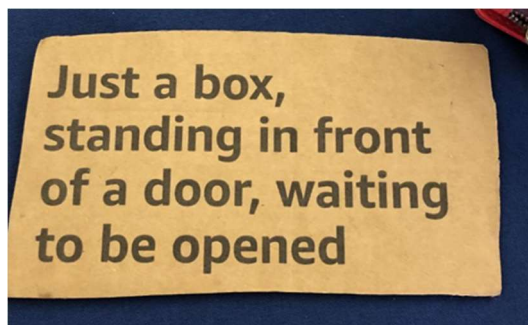
MEETING JANUARY 25, 2023

Attendance—Forty-five members and guests attended, including several prospective members. We were pleased to see (and I was happy to meet) club member and past president (1986-1987) **Andy Soter**. I don't believe anyone attempted to participate by Zoom, which is a good thing because the computer was on the fritz.

Lunch— Chicken in sour cream, white wine, and lemon sauce; vegetable medley; rice; salad; brownies.

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Lynda Girtsman**. She shared a note:



Lynda explained that every time you do something for someone else, you open a door.

Songleaders—**Bev Ward** and **RoseAnn Hill**—"This Land Is Your Land"

Awards—Hutch Hutchinson presented **Karl Waage** with his Paul Harris plus 1 pin. Hutch gave us an example of how Rotary Foundation donations are used, as highlighted in *Rotary* magazine: a 100 acre orchard in Mongolia was expanded to 1200 acres with five windbreak forests. **Ed Summers** presented himself with his Paul Harris plus 2 pin (he received it in the mail directly!)



Announcements:

Lynda Girtsman: Member survey: if you haven't already done so, please respond by January 31.

Meaghan Smith: Needs one more judge for the **"Four-Way Test"** essay contest.

Margi Wray: Rotary Direct allows members to make automated donations to the Rotary Foundation. See attached flier.

Angela Rosales: Members are encouraged to join our team for the Ronald McDonald House Charities **Walk for Kids** on Sunday, March 19, 2023. You can sign up online or fill out a fine slip. The registration fee is waived for club members and those walking with you as a thank you for the work we do for RMHC. Sponsorships are available. See attached announcement. The flyer and sponsorship package are on the club's website.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—Bev Ward enthusiastically quizzed members about festivals around the world, from Burning Man to the Scare Away Festival to the Lord Tweedmouth Golden Retriever Festival.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or our web site, VenturaRotary.org)



February 1 lunch meeting—Carl Morehouse will discuss Ventura's **sister city program** with Loreto, Mexico. Carl served on the Ventura City Council for 17 years and served as Mayor 2005-2007. He is Past President of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), with his one year term running from May 2014-May 2015. Carl represented the City of Ventura on the Ventura Council of Governments, the Ventura County Transportation Commission, and the Gold Coast Transit District, and he also was one of the two city representative seats on the Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Additionally, Carl served on the League of California

Cities Board of Directors from 2012-2015, following his presidency of the Channel Counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties) Division in 2011, he served on the League's Housing Community Economic Development Policy Committee from 2005 to 2016, serving as Chair of that committee in 2013. Carl is a Land Use Planner by training and worked for twenty years for the Ventura County Planning Division. In 2018, he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Planners, the highest level of recognition that is within the American Planning Association. Today he is Chair of the Ventura Sister City Association.

(Upcoming Events continued next page)

February 23—Board Meeting at the Ventura Housing Authority, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

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PROGRAM—BRAIN INJURY CENTER



Chrissy Stamegna and Lisa Morris gave a presentation about the Brain Injury Center (BIC) at the Rotary Club of Ventura lunch meeting January 25, 2023.

Chrissy is a club member and is Associate Director of the BIC. It was founded by David and Midge Stork when their 19-year-old daughter Sue suffered a traumatic brain injury in a traffic collision. Meetings in families' homes grew into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for those impacted by brain injury.

Traumatic brain injuries are caused by trauma to the head, including traffic collisions, assaults, falls, strokes, tumors, anoxic events, and accidents at home or work. A concussion is a mild form of brain injury. The consequences vary for each person but may include memory loss, language loss, reduced ability to concentrate and process information, inability to walk and other motor deficits, sensitivity to light or sound, isolation, and depression, to name a few. Some injuries are “invisible” because they are not obvious to other people. Each year, 69 million people worldwide sustain traumatic brain injuries, including one every 23 seconds in the United States.

The Brain Injury Center provides support groups for patients and their families and caregivers, training and skill development, social opportunities, and operates a residential home.

Lisa was working as an intake and release specialist at the Ventura County Jail when she received a massive overdose of dye for what was supposed to be a routine MRI. When she awoke in the hospital, she did not recognize her mother or her husband of 17 years. Her memory of the first 42 years of her life never returned. She had to learn everything again: how to talk, walk, and care for herself. She still has trouble walking and remembering words. The slogan on her car—Just Keep Swimming—does not refer to aquatics, but to her perseverance. The Brain Injury Center has helped with her recovery.

Lisa appeared to me to have an “invisible injury.” She was articulate, upbeat, and her voice gave no clue of her journey to recover language. She has not been able to return to work but is an active member of the Ventura Lions Club, volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, is a community ambassador for Relay for Life, and bakes cookies and other treats for clients including the Ventura College Foundation.

District Direct Information



Dear Margi,

Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and support on behalf of The Rotary Foundation. As a leader in Rotary, you play an essential role in ensuring that Rotary Foundation programs can continue to create positive and lasting change in your community and around the globe. One way you can help Rotary continue to do good in the world is by encouraging members to [enroll in Rotary Direct](#), our Foundation's recurring giving program.

Last year, our Foundation raised over **\$434 million** and funded more than 1,190 global grants, 470 district grants, and 225 disaster response grants to help communities thrive. Rotary Direct is one of the easiest and most secure ways for our donors to support the Foundation: because contributions are automated, donors don't need to worry about sending checks or remembering to make an annual contribution on time.

Rotary Direct saves time and reduces administrative costs. Monthly, quarterly, and annual gift options are available. Members can enroll at the [Rotary Direct page](#), return a completed [Rotary Direct enrollment form](#), or enroll by phone by calling the [international office](#) that serves their area or +1-866-976-8279 if in the U.S.

For more information, you can refer to [these frequently asked questions](#). If you have additional questions, we are here to help! Reply to this email or write to our [Annual Fund staff](#).

Thank you for your dedication to Doing Good in the World.

Sincerely,
The Rotary Foundation



Sunday March 19, 2023

We are so excited to be once again participating in Walk for Kids to support the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Ventura County Medical Center.

Thanks to Rotarians like you and other generous donors, the family room opened its doors in September 2002. Since then, the family room has served 250 families. At the VCMC Family Room, families can now spend some quality time together. Parents can catch up on work, wash clothes, cook meals and even get a little quiet time, all while remaining close to their child's bedside.

But there is more work to be done! The Family Room's next goal is to install showers and extend the Family Room to 7 days per week.

Walkers wanted:

- Join your fellow Rotarians at the Walk for Kids event.
- Spread the Word, or even create your own team!
- Unable to attend the walk? Skip registration and simply donate. Funds raised are used exclusively for the Family Room at VCMC.

When:

Sunday March 19, 2023

Check-In starts at 7:00 a.m.

Walk Kick-Off at 9:00 a.m.

Registration Fee**: \$25.00 per Registrant 18 and over

How:

Go To: <http://www.walkforkids.org/goto/Rotarydowntownventura>. Click the "Join the Team" button. Add your team members. Every walker must register, including team members. 17 and under walk for free.

**The \$25 Registration fee is waived for Rotary Members. Use Code: VWFK23. However, each adult walker is encouraged to raise \$100. *Free Adult T-Shirt for funds raised \$100 or more!*

Healing Happens Together, any amount – grand or small – makes a difference!

