



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

July 23, 2023

CLUB ASSEMBLY JULY 19, 2023

The July 19, 2023 meeting was our Club Assembly. (More about that below.)

Attendance: We were again in the cozy Santa Paula Room. I counted about 40 members and guests, including members Andy Souter, BJ Jelaca, and George Poulakos,

Lunch: Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious lunch with a picnic theme: beef ribs, baked beans, macaroni salad, corn off the cob, green salad, and fruit salad. Peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream for dessert. (My notes say “perch cobbler,” but that sounds awful and I’m sure it’s just my bad penmanship.)

Introductions: Margi Wray. “Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past - let us accept our own responsibility for the future.” (John F. Kennedy)

Song: RoseAnn Hill and Jessica Brandon: “America” (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee)”

Announcements:

Madhu Bajaj: Max the Virtual (and physical) Idea Box. Members can provide ideas and feedback to the board by using the physical idea box, or by scanning a QR code.

Mike Schwartz (for Indy): Blood Drive Wednesday, July 26, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Poinsettia Pavilion. See flier at end of this newsletter.

Judy Moore: Needs two volunteers to handle the **Welcome Table** at our meetings.

Joslynn Skelton: Planning for the **Beachside Bash and Steak Cookoff** is in full swing. More sponsors are needed—even an introduction would be helpful.

Happy Dollars.

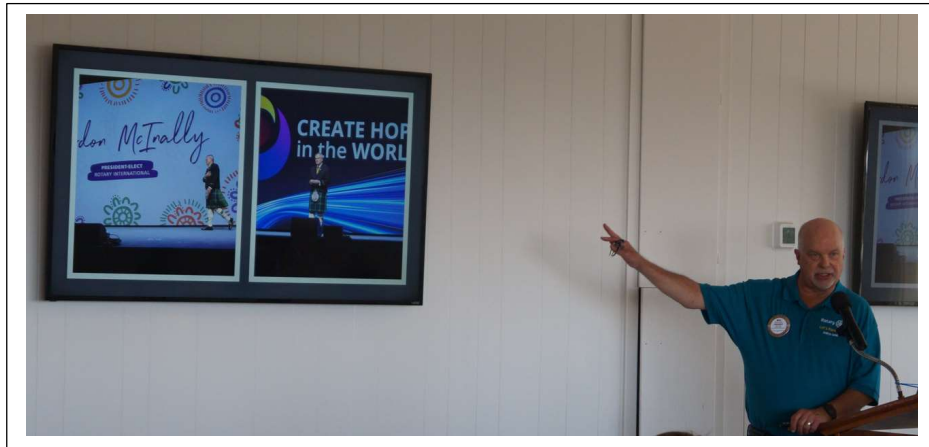
Finig: **Jessica Skelton** began with questions about greetings from around the world. When those questions were too easy, she switched to questions about her kids.

Hutch awarded a first-time **Paul Harris** pin to **BJ Jelaca**, who joined Rotary in March 2013, and joined our club last month.



Andy Souter received his **Paul Harris plus 8** pin. Andy joined the club in February 1979, was President 1986-1987, and is a Benefactor and Bequest Society member.

CLUB ASSEMBLY



The July 19 meeting was our Club Assembly. President Neal Lassila gave a presentation, which is available on our club website. He gave highlights of his participation in the Rotary International Conference in Melbourne, Australia, May 27-June 1, which was attended by some 18,000 Rotarians from around the world. He also discussed ideas from the President Elect training he received, and our Club Leadership Retreat in May.

District 5240 Governor Marta Brown has made this year's theme "Let's Have Fun!" Neal interprets this as being joyful in how we serve the community.

The vision for our club (our "why") is: "Our Rotary Club aspires to bring a higher quality of life to all people in Ventura."
(continued next page)

CLUB ASSEMBLY *(continued)*



Following Neal's presentation, each Board Member and club leader gave a "one minute" (more or less—mostly more) description of their role, and their plans for the upcoming Rotary year.

CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Ellyn Dembowsky
July 21, 2004
19 years

Hein Nguyen
July 19, 2016
7 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Roger Case
July 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



July 26 lunch meeting: Ventura Chamber of Commerce, represented by President and CEO Stephanie Caldwell, and Board Chair Dena Rogers. They will provide an update on emerging issues affecting Ventura and how those issues are impacting the business community,

how the Chamber is working to support the business community, and new happenings around town.



Stephanie Caldwell began her career in sales and management in the hospitality industry and then the staffing industry, responsible for branch and on-site contingent staffing operations in Silicon Valley for tech-firms such as Novell and Compaq (Now HP). She worked for State Assemblymember Jim Cunneen in his District Office, then worked more than 5 years as Director of Education and Events for the non-profit California Apartment Association. For 10 years, she was a member of the executive leadership team at the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce (now the San Jose Chamber of Commerce). Since April of 2015, Stephanie has served as the President and CEO for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the City of Ventura's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), is on the board of The City Center, is an active member of the City of Ventura's Homeless Stakeholder Committee, served as the 2017 Chair of FOOD Share's CAN-Tree and was recognized in 2018 as one of the Top 50 Women in Business by the Pacific Coast Business Times. Stephanie has two adult children and 3 grandchildren.

Dena Rogers has been an independent contractor State Farm Agent in Ventura since 1991. In this role, Dena helps customers manage risk and recover from the unexpected. She's been a board member or volunteer for various local organizations including Soroptimist International, Laubach Literacy, Ventura County Master Gardeners (not to mention VUSD school volunteer opportunities) and currently District 63 Little League and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Dena has one adult child that she loves to spend time with when she's not gardening, jogging, taking piano lessons or attempting to speak Spanish.

July 26: Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. (See attached flier.)

July 27 Board Meeting: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Anacapa Room, 12:00-1:30 p.m. All members welcome to attend.

August 2 lunch meeting: John Frankhauser, M.D., CEO of Ventura County Medical Center.

August 9 lunch meeting: Craft Talks by Andie Contarino and Crista Hermance.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE

Because of you, life doesn't stop.



Rotary Club at Poinsettia Pavilion

Wednesday, July 26
11:00 - 2:00

To schedule an appointment
please: Visit Donors.vitalant.org
Blood Drive code K8559

**All donors will have a chance to win 1 of 5 \$5,000
prepaid gift cards**

Questions please call - 805-543-4290



APPOINTMENTS
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