



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

June 16, 2024

PACIFIC HIGH GRADUATION BRUNCH



On June 10, 2024, the Rotary Club of Ventura hosted a brunch for graduating seniors at Pacific High School. It is a model continuation school with no parent organization of its own. Graduating were 115 students, with an impressive 85 percent graduation rate. Churro Champ provided fresh churros to augment the breakfast. The students made us a poster in appreciation. Congratulations to the grads, and thanks to the Rotarians who volunteered!



MESA FARM PROJECT



County Supervisor **Matt LaVere** and Mesa Farm Executive Director **Dan Parziale** gave a presentation at our meeting June 12, 2024. Matt is a prior member of our club and represents District 1 on the Board of Supervisors. Many people pitch him ideas, but when he sat down with Dan, he was immediately inspired.

About 2,400 people are unhoused in Ventura County. Another 15,000 to 20,000 are on the verge of homelessness. Seniors and young people are the largest growing group of homeless. Among these are youth who age out of the foster care system and immediately become homeless.

Dan feels that if we spend all our resources on the chronic homeless, we will never catch up or make progress. Instead we need to work “upstream” to help those who would otherwise become homeless.

Mesa Farm is a pilot program in Ojai that will soon house its first residents. Twelve young adults from throughout Ventura County will be selected to live on the property for 24 months free of charge. They will receive vocational training and physical, mental, and emotional wellness. Each participant will have their own personalized program. They will live in ten 270 square-foot tiny homes, fully furnished, with a larger building for additional residents and staff.



Residents must be 18 to 24 years old and experiencing homelessness or be at high risk of homelessness. The program seeks community mentors to provide the residents with volunteer opportunities. Dan hopes to expand the program to other locations in the county.

MEETING JUNE 12, 2024

Attendance: I looked nervously around the room as we began serving lunch shortly after noon. There were only 20 people in the room, and some tables had only two people at them. But more people started dribbling in, and in the end I counted 34 members and guests. A respectable number, but with over 80 members, we can do better! Visiting Rotarian Sherry Scott was in attendance—she was the third female member of our club and is now a member of the Rotary Club of St. Albans, Vermont. Guests included prospective member Vicky Erickson from Fractional CFO Services.

Lunch: Sour cream chicken breasts, peas with pearl onions, rice, salad, and fruit. A white cake for dessert (sponge cake? pound cake? angel food cake? I don't know the difference between them, but it was delicious!)

Flag salute/introductions: Judy Moore. I didn't catch the full inspirational quotation, but she emphasized the importance of fellowship and service above self.

Song: Bev and RoseAnn: "America the Beautiful"

Past President Margi Wray called the meeting to order as President Neal Lassila was out of town.

Announcements:

Margi Wray: Our Step Down Dinner is Tuesday. (See below for details).

Madhu Bajaj: No lunch meeting next week (June 19) due to the previous evening's Step Down Dinner.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids—school is out next week—if you are responsible for a school, call the school to collect coats and jackets from the lost and found.



Brenda Allison-Hutchinson: We need more **volunteers for the Fireworks Event!** Please sign up and ask family members to do so too!

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson received her **Paul Harris +7 pin**, with two rubies. Brenda joined Rotary in 2005, and transferred to our club in 2006. She is a Benefactor, member of the Bequest Society and the Paul Harris Society. She currently serves as our club Treasurer. Congratulations!

Happy Dollars.

Dan Glassman was inducted as our newest member.

Dan owns The Glass Man Professional Window Washing, Inc. Welcome to the Friendliest Club in Rotary!

Finig: Keith Moschetto quizzed us about U.S. History. Even though the questions were pretty hard, there were a lot of correct answers. I know our members are smart, but I think there were a lot of lucky guesses.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18: Step-Down Dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant and Bar at the Harbor, 1500 Anchors Way Drive, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Living Life Like a Song." Since Neal's favorite musician is Jimmy Buffett, we are welcoming you all to our Tiki Bar in our own "Margaritaville." Knowing that Neal will be President for another year, dress will be casual—think flip flops and Hawaiian shirts. Let's take time to celebrate and thank Neal for this year and root him on for 2024-25.

June 19: NO MEETING due to Step-Down Dinner.

June 26 lunch meeting: Get Ready for Fireworks planning meeting.

June 27: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

July 4: Fireworks Show and Family Picnic, Ventura College, 5:00-10:00 p.m. This joyous event includes a spectacular fireworks show, live music, food vendors, a Kids Fun Zone, and what we like to call "the friendliest hometown picnic in America"! For information and tickets: <https://www.venturafireworks.com/> Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BA5A92BA1FAC43-49814613-ventura>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Karynsue Rose-Thomas

June 21

Curtis Cormane

June 22

Ken Leandro

June 23

Daniel Quintana

June 24

Rosa Lee Measures

June 25

Amani Hishmeh

June 26

HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

Steve Dato

11 years

Jason Ritchey

9 years