



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

June 25, 2023

### STEP DOWN DINNER



On June 20, 2023, we celebrated the Step Down Dinner at the Museum of Ventura County to honor Margi Wray's term as President. We were blessed with beautiful weather for the outdoor event that featured entertainment, recognition of a great year under Margi's leadership, and a preview of next year as Neal Lassila took the helm.

Thank you for the hard work of the Planning Committee: Jessica Brandon, Lynda Girtsman, Sandy Lassila, Greg Wray, and Rob van Nieuwburg. And special thanks to our in-kind donors: Museum of Ventura County, Flourish Event Management, New Art City Theatre, Peirano's, Three Sisters Event Planning, In the Mix Events, and Dan Holmes Photo.





Hors d'oeuvres



Dinner catered by Peirano's



Bev and Kirby Ward rewrote the American songbook with songs like "Suddenly Margi" and "Starry Margi Night." Christopher Lloyd Bratten played keyboard.



Entertainment by Jessica Brandon and Bev Ward



Carol Dawes honored her late husband Larry Dawes by awarding Paul Harris Fellowships to Lynda Girtsman, Jessica Brandon, Joslynn Skelton, Mike Schwartz, Angela Rosales, Greg Wray, Madhu Bajaj, and Patti Birmingham.



Margi Wray presented Neal and Sandy Lassila with a statuette crafted in their honor. Many other club members were honored at the event.



Incoming President Neal Lassila set the tone for the coming year



Greg Wray presented Margi with a Don Frith teapot



Honoring this year's board and officers



Judge John Dobroth swore in next year's board and officers

### DISTRICT AWARDS



At the Step Down event for Rotary District 5240 President Scott Phillips on June 24, 2023, the Rotary Club of Ventura won awards for Best Large Club, Gold Club, and the Impact Award.

## ANNIVERSARIES: JOIN DATE

**Michael Montoya**

June 1, 1989

34 years

**Lynda Girtsman**

June 5, 1991

32 years

**Steve Dato**

June 26, 2013

10 years

**Jason Ritchey**

June 17, 2015

8 years

**Randy Encinas**

June 12, 2019

4 years

**Angela Rosales**

June 9, 2021

2 years

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**June 28: NO MEETING**

**July 4: Fireworks Show and Family Picnic**, Ventura College.

**July 5: NO MEETING**

**July 12 lunch meeting: President Neal Lassila's kick-off meeting** with inspirational words from Ventura local **John Silva**.

**July 19 lunch meeting: Club Assembly.** Neal will discuss goals for the 2023/2024 year, followed by club leaders who will introduce themselves and discuss their roles and goals.

**July 26 lunch meeting: Ventura Chamber of Commerce**, represented by President and CEO Stephanie Caldwell, and Board Chair Dena Rogers.

**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.