

ROTARY SPOKES

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



Volume XCXIII
Number 30
05 MARCH 2014



Gary Auer: Healthcare Fraud Investigator

Guest speaker Gary Auer heads the Western Region Special Investigations Unit for Wellpoint, which was developed to detect, prevent and combat healthcare fraud and abuse for their members and for the healthcare system as a whole. In the year 2013, Mr. Auer and his 27 associates, were responsible for saving \$58,000,000 in estimated healthcare fraud. In addition, the SIU West team recovered over \$8,500,000 in fraud and abuse dollars.



Gary is a former 28 year FBI agent who specialized in bombings, white-collar crime and union corruption. He also served as Chief Investigator for the Ventura District Attorney office. Mr. Auer

Auer uses his computer to identify leads. A program highlights suspect billing patterns and particularly high charges from doctors. Auer's office also gets calls from whistleblowers. His team evaluates each case much like a police officer would.

Once the computer flags a case, Auer matches it to an investigator. "His or her job will be to develop more facts," he said. "It may be necessary to get additional medical records. They also have to investigate further what the medical billing rules are to determine whether, in fact, we can establish that the services were not actually rendered, to determine the extent of the losses involved. I may turn to our nurses for further data review."

Investigators describe any issues found to the medical provider and ask him or her to explain the billing. "What we try to do is have them call us to discuss with us the accuracy of the billings so that we can reach an appropriate and equitable resolution," he said. "For the investigator, it's building a case, gathering all the facts and giving the provider the opportunity to tell us we're wrong."

What kinds of cases do investigators see? Generally, billings for services that weren't rendered, including consults that never occurred or equipment that never was delivered, and treatments that are improperly identified by doctors or third-party billers.

"There's a built-in incentive for the doctors or the billers to be very liberal in their interpretation of the billing codes," Auer said. "One biller told me, 'My mission is to push the envelope, to break out of the box' on the billing requirements. Of course, my response to him is that it's my job to keep you in that box and bill according to the law."

Another big issue is prescription drug abuse, particularly pain killers. Auer said investigators have increased efforts to track down doctors who prescribe large amounts of drugs such as Oxycodone.

"Maybe I'm going back to my law enforcement background, but it was one thing for the Colombian and Mexican cartels to be running heroin and cocaine into us and for us to be paying for it," he said. "This is different because we're killing more people with this as a prescription drug, and we're using the American taxpayer's money. We're using dollars from the health care system to kill our own citizens."

Auer said his company uses computer analytics to identify high prescribers of prescription drugs and determine whether the patients receiving them have a reason to use them. If they don't, the company forwards the information to local law enforcement.

Auer said his job satisfaction comes from his efforts to drive down the cost of health care.

Recap of February 26 Meeting

President-elect Rob vanNieuwburg stepped in for President Irene on a very busy Rotary Wednesday. Andy Soter led us off with some prayers and RoseAnn Hill and Staci Johnson led us in "Smile," announcing that we will sing that ditty every last Wednesday of the month.

Ellyn Dembowski asked to vote on the Backpack Project using samples at the dais. Lynda Girtsman announced for the Polio event that there have been 85 tickets sold for the night. Past District 5240 Governor Deepa Willingham visited our club as this year's Foundation Gala Chair, announcing the upcoming March 15 event in Westlake Village celebrating 25 Years of Women in Rotary and 25 Years of the Fight to End Polio. Tickets available at the District website.

A slew of awards followed. Hutch Hutchinson was presented with the Julius Gius Fellowship award for his efforts on behalf of the JGMF. Steve Kipp joined Rob to present two Paul Harris Fellowships to Chuck Huffer and Denise Bean White. Tom Spence, of local radio station KVTa, was made a Paul Harris Fellow and an Honorary member, with Deepa Willingham and Steve Doll presenting the honors. Mary Saputo fined.

Prez-elect Rob presided over the induction of Joe Schaaf to the club; he was sponsored by Steve Doll.

Program

Lynda Girtsman introduced the speaker, Miles Sexton, who happens to be the son in law of club member Sheila Fatarelli. Miles is the CFO and CDO of Point Broadcasting, which owns many stations in the Southern California area, including the Gold Coast Broadcasting family of stations in the Ventura County area.

Miles' presentation was entitled "Behind the Microphone" and showed us the mechanics of how radio works, starting with music and voice in a studio and ending up transmitted to our radios.

He discussed how radio is holding up in an increasingly digital world with many ways to access personal entertainment. He likened it to the fear in the early 20th century around the advent of radio. The recording industry was afraid of this medium but ended up flourishing because of air play of recording artists. The advantage of

Today's Program

Healthcare Fraud with Gary Auer

Introductions:	Roz Warner
Rotary Moment:	Brenda Allison
Fining:	Sarah Abrams

Upcoming Programs

Mar. 12-	So, What Good is Family Therapy? with Robert Beilin, PhD
Mar. 19	City Water Resources with Shana Epstein

local radio is the focus on local news. Point Broadcasting is actually adding new construction to further their reach countywide.



Denise Bean-White and Chuck Huffer receive their PHFs from Rob vanNieuwburg



Speaker Miles Sexton explains the process of producing quality radio for local consumption.



Hutch Hutchinson is presented with the Julius Gius Fellowship award by President-elect Rob vanNieuwburg'



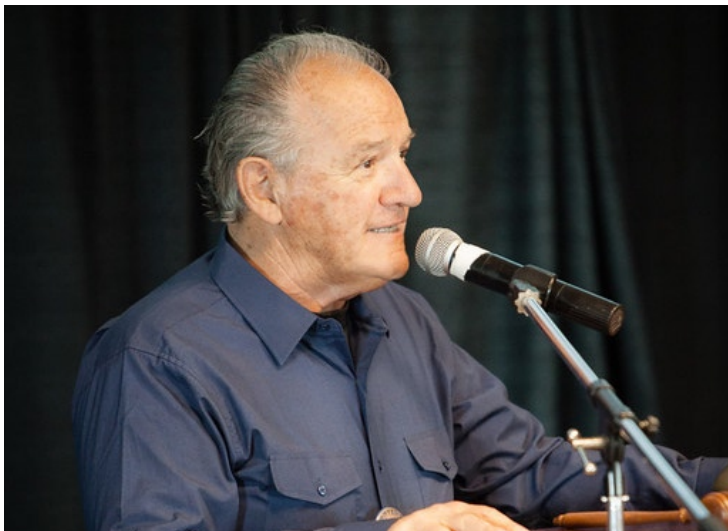
Joe Schaaf is given his Rotary 'swag' as our newest member, while Steve Doll looks on.



PDG Deepa Willingham personally invited club members to the Foundation Gala Dinner.



Steve Doll holds the mike for Tom Spence after receiving a PHF and honorary membership.



Andy Soter started the meeting with biblical passages as his prayer.



Lynda Girtsman announces for the upcoming Polio dinner on March 8.



Ventura Rotaract President Jen Livia appeals to the club to help recruit new members.

Ventura Rotaract Seeks New Members

Rotaract is a humanitarian organization for young professionals between the ages of 18 and 35. Rotaract Clubs are dedicated to contributing to local and international charity work. Their volunteers donate their time and energy to eliminate any type of overhead, allowing all proceeds to be contributed to the cause. They are here to make a difference!

Ventura Rotaract chartered in District 5240 in May 2010. They hit the ground running, taking up service and volunteer projects in support of Rotary, and local non-profit organizations. To date, they've joined over 50 events and benefits within Ventura County.

Encourage Rotary-minded young persons, 18 -35, to attend a meeting!
Ventura Rotaract meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays at the Crowne Plaza Hptel in Ventutra from 6:30-7:30pm.

March Birthdays	Ann Deal, Mar 24
RoseAnn Hill, Mar 03	Sandra Burkhart, Mar 26
Sarah Abrams, Mar 04	Steve Doll, Mar 27
Danny Belitski, Mar 07	Marc T. Vertin, Mar 27
Ed Campbell, Mar 09	Mario de la Piedra, Mar 30
Ellyn Dembowski, Mar 10	
Felice Ginsberg, Mar 10	March Anniversaries
Laurie Rozet, Mar 10	Robert Orth, Mar 10
BJ Jelaca, Mar 16	Larry Emrich, Mar 21
Terri Adams, Mar 24	Tom Naylor, Mar 25



rotaract
of VENTURA



**Get out
Get Dirty
GIVE BACK!**



Rotary Club of Ventura
Club #691

Ron Burton
Rotary International
President

Jack McClenahan
District 5240 Governor

Irene Henry
Club President

venturarotary.org



OFFICERS

President	Irene Henry
President Elect	Rob vanNieuwburg
Secretary	Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary *	Christina Rust
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Indy Batra
	<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>

Club Service

Director	Mario de la Piedra
Assistant Director	Roz Warner

Community Service

Director	Ron Calkins
Assistant Director	Steve Warriner

International Service

Director	Christina Rust
Assistant Director	Albert McCartney

New Generations

Director	Courtney Lindberg
Assistant Director	Dale Jaedtke

Vocational Service

Director	Jeff King
Assistant Director	Mary Saputo

DIRECTORS

SPOKES

Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
Assitant Editor	David Wellik
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, Dave Wellik, Sarah Abrams