



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

March 5, 2023

PACIFIC SPORTS GROUP PRESENTATION



The **Pacific Sports Group** (PSG) gave a presentation at our meeting March 1, 2023, to discuss their proposal for improving the **Ventura County Fairgrounds**. **Phil Ranger**, great-grandson of E.P. Foster, began by discussing the original concept and history of the fairgrounds. **Rick Conrad**, PSG's President and CEO, then discussed the proposal. The projected cost is \$320 million, and development would take six years. The Fair Board (31st District Agricultural Association) would run the County Fair and events under existing contracts. PSG would have a 30-year master lease to run other events.

(continued next page)



The current grandstand, which seats 5,500, would be replaced with a baseball stadium that would also be used for concerts and other events and would seat 7,500, with radiant heating imbedded in the concrete. The equestrian area would be increased by 86 percent and parking increased by 516 spaces. The current vehicle entrance would be supplemented by an entrance on Garden Street, improving traffic flow. The Clark Pavilion and the Derby Club would be retained, and the other exhibition halls would be replaced. Restaurants and retail would be added. Most of the opposition at the recent meeting pertained to the proposal's elimination of the Speedway; Rick stated that it was only used 15 times last year.

PSG is currently seeking approval from the Fair Board and private funding.

MEETING MARCH 1, 2023

Attendance—We had a great attendance of 52 members and guests. We were happy to see Danny Quintana, Dick Hatcher, and his wife Linda. No remote members due to computer problems.

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious St. Patrick's Day lunch of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, boiled carrots, green salad, fruit salad, rye bread, and banana bread.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—Dan Holmes.

Songleaders—Clyde Reynolds and Bev Ward—"You're a Grand Old Flag"

Announcements

Margi Wray: Another host family is needed for a **Rotary Youth Exchange** student.

Saurabh Bajaj: Please send Madhu any table notes from our **Club Survey** discussion.

Angela Rosales: (1) Seeking **GoFundMe** donations for Rotaract President Olivia to attend the International Rotary conference. See attached flier.

(2) **The Salvation Army** donated food to the **Ventura High School Interact** basic needs pantry, enough to cover them through summer. Interact is currently seeking donations of school supplies (paper, pencils, etc.).

Ken Leandro: The **Fireworks event** will be July 4 this year. He is seeking members for the subcommittees: sponsorships, volunteers, and kid zone.

Abiel Acosta: **Fireside Chat** is March 16. Please RSVP to select potluck dish to bring.

Lynda Girtsman: Our club has contributed \$4,000 to the **Walk for Kids**. Our goal is \$5,000. Please wear your Rotary shirt at the walk.

Margarida Eidson: Rotary Ventura East is hosting a fundraiser for the Walk for Kids at Topa Topa Brewing Company, Friday, March 17, 4:00-8:00 p.m. \$25 includes Irish stew and a beer, Irish dancers, and bagpipes.

We sang **Happy Birthday** to **Chris Brashiers**.

Juan Torres received his **Blue Badge**.

Hutch presented **Jorge Arman** with his **Paul Harris Plus 5 pin**. He joined Rotary in 1956 and served as our club President 1977-1978. Hutch described a project funded by the Rotary Foundation, as featured in *Rotary* magazine: donation of sturdy Buffalo Bicycles to 220 students in Columbia to facilitate the long and sometimes dangerous journey from their homes to school. They seek to expand the program to include teachers.



Brenda Allison-Hutchinson conducted **fining** on the subject of football.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



March 8 lunch meeting—Dr. Joe Cahill, Executive Director of the **Ventura Botanical Gardens**. Dr. Cahill is a botanist with over 20 years of professional experience in a combination of botanic gardens, conservation non-profits and NGOs, compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the horticulture industry. He has contributed in a leadership capacity to the Ventura Botanical Gardens since 2008, first as a volunteer, then board member and now, Executive Director. He holds a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California Riverside and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan and is an adjunct professor at California Lutheran University.

March 15 lunch meeting—Cecilia Ramirez Cid from **strwEATS**

March 16—Fireside Chat at Portside Community Center, 1196 Portside Drive, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This is open to ALL members, but we especially encourage our newest members to join as an opportunity to learn more about our Ventura Rotary, meet people from our chapter and learn what committees we are all involved in. Spouses and significant others welcome. Beef/chicken will be provided. Please email Abiel Acosta to RSVP and indicate which side dish you will bring (to serve 12): vegetarian main dish, vegetarian side dish, salad, appetizer, dessert, wine (white/red), bottled water.

March 19—Walk for Kids to benefit Ronald McDonald House Room at Ventura County Medical Center. Meet at San Buenaventura State Beach, 901 San Pedro Street, Ventura. Check-in starts at 7:00 a.m., kick-off at 9:00 a.m. See Lynda to sign up at a weekly meetings, or register at www.walkforkids.org/ventura. Minimum \$25 per two adult walkers and children; those who raise \$100 will receive event t-shirt. Registration fee waived for club members.

March 22 lunch meeting—Lynda Girtsman will host **Conversations in Rotary** when she will interview a mystery club member.

March 23 Board Meeting, 12:00-1:30 p.m., tentatively at VCMC Ronald McDonald Room.

March 29 lunch meeting will be a **Social Picnic** at the Summit of Ventura Botanical Gardens.

March 23—Board Meeting, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Tentatively scheduled at VCMC Ronald McDonald Room.

