

ROTARY SPOKES

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Ventura College: the Phoenix Scholarships

Today's speakers are club members Greg Gillespie, president of Ventura College, and Norbert Tan, Executive Director of the Ventura College Foundation.

The Ventura College Foundation awarded Phoenix Scholarships to 32 adults who decided to return to school at Ventura College to achieve their career goals. Scholarship recipients with minimal or no financial resources to cover the costs of their education received scholarships of \$1,000 each at the 15th annual scholarship ceremony, held March 20 at Wright Event Center on the Ventura College campus. The Ventura College Foundation's staff and board of directors hosted the event.

"I'm always inspired by the scholarship recipients' stories of perseverance as they overcome financial and personal challenges to be in school so they can upgrade their skills," said Norbert. "It's stressful trying to pay for college when you're already balancing school with working and caring for a family, so being able to give these hard-working students a Phoenix Scholarship is very rewarding."

Ventura College Foundation board members started the Phoenix Scholarship Program in November 1999 after learning about the special needs of Ventura College re-entry students. Re-entry students are defined as people who return to school to learn new skills in order to be competitive in the marketplace or who are returning to school after an extended break.

Phoenix Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic goals and progress, along with their financial need. To be eligible for a scholarship, the students must submit an application and essay, and obtain recommendations from counselors, faculty and employers.

Established in 1983, the Ventura College Foundation



provides financial support to the students and the programs of Ventura College to facilitate student success and grow the impact and legacy of Ventura College as a vital community asset. The Foundation also hosts the Ventura College Foundation Marketplace, an outdoor shopping experience held every weekend on the Ventura College campus east parking lot.

WE'RE BACK

4th of July

2014 Family Festival & Fireworks
at Ventura College

Help make it happen!
Sponsors/Volunteers ... contact venturafireworks@gmail.com
www.venturafireworks.com



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We need your help for a couple of hours at the July 4 event. Please use the sign-up sheet at your table!

Recap of May 21 Meeting

Duane Georgeson started things off with a prayer asking for blessings. RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds led the club in "America the Beautiful."

There were a couple of announcements. Sign-up sheets for the June 17th President Irene Demotion Party were on tables as were sign up sheets for Fourth of July volunteers to staff the entry gates. Connie Young presented a \$1,000.00 check from Union Bank for the fireworks.

Sally Crain used her fining session to quiz the club on all things Thomas Jefferson, based on a book she had been reading.

Program

President-elect Rob van Nieuwburg introduced the guest speaker, Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney. Apparently Rob has had a few run-ins with the chief in the past.

Chief Corney gave us an update on the state of the city with respect to crime. The good news was a reduction of 15% of violent crimes (2013 compared to 2012), particularly robberies, assaults and rapes. A big jump in homicides (six compared to one) marred the statistics. He warned in the rise of property crimes, about 4%. This is due to people creating easy opportunities for theft- valuables in open cars, unlocked doors, open garages, etc.

For the year 2013 the Per Capita Crime Index for the City of Ventura increased from 39.3 crimes per one-thousand residents in 2012 to 39.7 crimes per one-thousand residents in 2013. Comparatively, 2013 data for the City of Oxnard reported 28.68, Thousand Oaks 13.7, and Simi Valley 14.6 crimes per one-thousand residents. The increase in crime parallels the substantial reductions in resources utilized by the criminal justice system both at the local and State levels, including the State Prison Realignment Program.

Emergency response times are currently at 64% for five minutes or less. This is due to continual personnel turnover and lack of new hires. The force stands at 127 officers, but 43 sworn officers have left the force over the last 5 years.

Current improvements in policing includes improving the crime analysis capabilities and reducing the amount

Today's Program
Ventura College:
Phoenix Scholarships

Introductions:

Rotary Moment:

Fining:

Amy Fonzo

Lynda Girtsman

Mary Saputo

Future Programs
Jun 04 Ventura HS Interact Bake Sale
Jun 11 BRAC
Jun 17 Demotion Party (DARK Jun. 18)

of vagrants and chronic offenders.



Rob vanNieuwburg introduced our guest speaker.



Ventura Police Ghief Ken Corney summarizes crime statistics in Ventura.



Kristin Taylor answers a fining question.



Sally Crain conducted the fining on Thomas Jefferson.



President Irene conducts the meeting with her usual aplomb.

Please sign up at the
District website:
<http://rotarydistrict5240.org/>



District/RI Club Awards & DG Jack Demotion Luncheon

Marriott Courtyard Oxnard
Saturday, June 28 • 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

President Irene's Demotion Party



**Seriously.
It's almost over.**

Discovery | Ventura
**Bowling, Cocktails
& California Cuisine**
1888 E. Thompson Blvd.
June 17, 2014
5:00 PM to 9:30 PM



The Rotary Club Huelén illuminated the Ahu Tongariki on Easter Island with the End Polio Now symbol to share their support for the fight to end polio!

2014 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



FOLLOW THE ACTION

#RICON14





Rotary  www.riconvention.org

May Birthdays

Jim Deardorff, May 06
 Joe Schaaf, May 08
 Connie Young, May 13
 Hutch Hutchinson, May 14
 Neal Andrews, May 15
 Betsy Chess, May 24
 Leo Tauber, May 26
 Mel Cheatham, May 29

May Anniversaries

Gary Young, May 11
 Hoot Bennett, May 13
 Greg & Sarah Abrams, May 19
 Erik Feingold, May 27
 Connie Young, May 27
 Mel & Sylvia Cheatham, May 30
 Matt LaVere, May 30
 Jeff King, May 31

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