



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

November 6, 2022

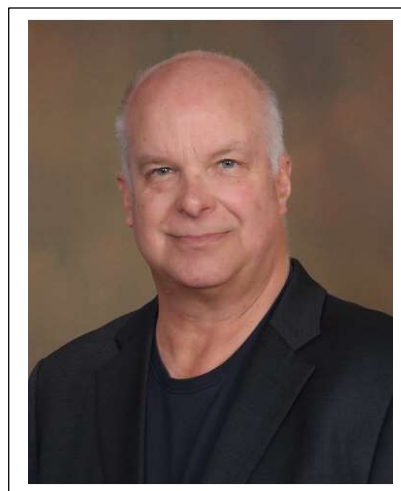
PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

by Neal Lassila

Note: This is part of an occasional series of messages from the club's officers, directors, and committee chairs.

As I look forward to becoming president next year of The Friendliest Club in Rotary, I'm filled with optimism and hope for our club's future. And by good fortune, I'm honored to have learned by watching and following in the footsteps of some of our club's great presidents who served before me, including Doug Halter, Connie Young, Saurabh Bajaj, Rob van Nieuwburg and Margi Wray.

I come from 35 years of a professional career that has prepared me well for next year. I'm a strong believer in collaboration. And with that belief comes hope that we can leverage the best of our members' amazing expertise and life lessons to continue supporting our community wherever there are opportunities to strategically apply our time and resources in smart ways to create sustainable support and change in Ventura and beyond.



From 25 years working at The Walt Disney Company, I believe in dreaming big and working with other organizations, like the other Ventura Rotary Clubs and the Lions Club to name a few, in making a bigger impact. One of my areas of focus is to continue cross-organization collaborative work and to find more opportunities to work together on projects and fundraisers. A first step is to make sure we're using your talents and gifts to the fullest. In the coming months, please do consider volunteering for projects and committees, including board positions. If you haven't been asked yet, please contact me directly and we'll plug you into a role that both fulfills a critical need and enables you to have fun and make an impact!

And as you probably know, we also need more new, young members in our club. This is an area of focus in my role of Director of Membership Services and one where I need your help. Attracting new members is not easy. To be successful, Membership Services needs our other committees and avenues of service firing on all cylinders.

We need to have effective Community Services (and outreach), we need to continue to work with our Rotaract and Interact Clubs to inspire young people to remember who we are, we need

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE continued

Club Services continuing to seek out and bring inspirational, informative, and entertaining programs to our club weekly.

AND to bring it all together, we do need to BE LOUD and that means our Communications Committee needs to tell Ventura our stories, amplify our values, and let everyone know the numerous ways we make a difference to our community day in and day out! With the help of Mike Schwartz, Kellye Patterson, Ken Leandro and others in our club who have marketing and social media talents, we will make our club known as a beacon and pillar of Ventura!

Finally, I have a request of each and every one of you ... please invite a friend, colleague, neighbor, an acquaintance, a business owner or anyone who you think would make a great Rotarian to come to a meeting. Each new member means we will have new ideas and new energy to sustain our club for decades to come!

MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2022



Attendance—About 40 members and guests, none via Zoom.

Lunch—A delicious early Thanksgiving Feast of turkey, gravy, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, fall-inspired vegetables (I call it “succotash plus”), rolls, fruit, and cake.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—Chrissy Stamegna. She is inspired by *Hugo and the Impossible Thing* in which a little dog learns it is an extremely difficult but absolutely possible thing. And from Eleanor Roosevelt: “Surely, in the light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear, to try rather than not to try. For one thing we know beyond all doubt: Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, ‘It can’t be done.’”

Songleader—Clyde Reynolds—“You’re a Grand Old Flag”

Debby Millais received her **Paul Harris Fellow** plus 4 pin from **Hutch Hutchinson**. As a **Paul Harris Society** member, Debby has pledged to donate \$1,000 each year. Our district’s goal is that our club have two Society members—will you be the second?



Announcements:

Margi Wray—(1) Each year, our club's Board of Directors passes a **Continuing Resolution** to augment the provisions of our club constitution and bylaws. The Continuing Resolution provides that Announcements at meetings are limited to Rotary activities. Non-Rotary events may be shared by contributing Happy Dollars. Only materials from our club or speaker-related materials may be placed on individual luncheon tables (or materials from other Rotary clubs if approved by the president). A table to the left of the stage has been designated for non-Club materials.

(2) Our club purchased two tables for the November 12 **Salvation Army Red Kettle Gala**. at the Ventura Beach Marriot. Six seats are still available.

Madhu Bajaj—(1) The **Book Club** will meet November 10, 5 p.m., at the home of RoseAnn Hill. Will discuss *The Santa Claus Girl*.

(2) Members of the **Pacific High School Interact** will be presenting at our November 9 lunch meeting. Our goal is to donate \$4,000 to fund their club.

Kristin Taylor—(1) **Coats for Kids** has 23 people involved this year. November 7 is the last day to get the boxes out to donation locations. You can also bring coats to Kristin at our meetings.

(2) **November 12: Winter Supply Drive**, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Salvation Army, 650 Petit Ave., Ventura. Jointly sponsored by our club and Ventura Downtown Lions. Drop off sweaters, jackets, new undergarments, socks, shoes, cleaning supplies, paper towels, and twin bedding, to benefit the Salvation Army and Westminster Clinic. Can also bring the donation items to Kristin at our meetings. (See flier.)

Keith Moschetto—Seeking volunteers to do the flag salute/inspirational message/**introductions** through the end of June.

Sandy Lassila—The **Winter Social** will be Saturday, December 10 at the home of Betsy Chess, 6:00-10:00 p.m. BYOB. No children please. RSVP to lasillas@roadrunner.com by December 1. (See flier.)

Dale Jaedtke—The **Mexico Build** is Saturday. Rotaract is still short of its goal to fund the project—donate at VenturaRotaract.com, or by filling out a fine slip. Still some spots available on the bus for those who want to volunteer.

Auction—**Neal Lassila** donated two **Disney Park Hopper tickets** and auctioned them off to benefit the Happy Dollar/JGMF fund. After fierce bidding by Joslynn Skelton, **John Barrick** had the winning bid at \$310.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—Not enough time for Fining this week. (Darn! I was hoping to pay a fine for not knowing the exact population of some city I never heard of!)

PROGRAM – CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY



Club member **Karynsue Rose-Thomas** was interviewed by **Lynda Girtsman**.

Karynsue described her “accident-prone” childhood, including some “accidents” facilitated by her brother. She made her first foray into finance when she traded dimes with her brother for nickels—a good trade in her mind because nickels are bigger.

Karynsue obtained her bachelor’s degree in architecture from Florida A&M University, where she designed and built a giant rattlesnake to participate in a parade. The snake was too heavy for her and her fellow architecture students to lift, so she recruited the aid of other students and thereby furthered inter-racial rapport. She earned a Masters of Science Healthcare Management from Marymount University and a Master Certificate in IT/IS Project Management from Villanova University.

As a lieutenant in the Navy, Karynsue served as the operations and regulatory officer for a 350-bed tertiary hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, and received numerous medals and commendations. She left the Navy and became a manager at Adventist Health System in St. Helena, California. There she was active in Rotary but was unable to join because the chapter already had its quota of hospital employees. She and her partner developed a non-profit to aid Nicaragua that built schools and playgrounds and brought in optometrists to perform cataract operations.

When COVID hit, Karynsue quit her corporate job and purchased 43-foot RV, which she used to visit 18 states, with a Harley on a trailer in tow.

Karynsue’s latest venture is KRAVE in Portside, Ventura Harbor. Construction started this week, and she hopes to open in April or May. It will be a gelato and coffee bar and sell handcrafted botanical products. She will employ Pacific High School students as chefs and in other positions in keeping with her philosophy that not everyone can go to college, but everyone can excel at life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, see our web site, VenturaRotary.org)

November 9 lunch meeting: Pacific High School Interact. Madhu Bajaj will host members of our PHS Interact Club to discuss their Thanksgiving fundraising project. The meeting will include an auction to help support the Interact's activities.

November 10 Book Club. Home of RoseAnn Hill, 5 p.m. Will discuss *The Santa Claus Girl*. RSVP to madhubajaj@gmail.com

November 12: Winter Supply Drive, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Salvation Army, 650 Petit Ave., Ventura. Donate sweaters, jackets, new undergarments, socks, shoes, cleaning supplies, paper towels, and twin bedding, to benefit the Salvation Army and Westminster Clinic. (See flier.)

November 12: Mexico Build. Join with Ventura Rotaract to build a home for a deserving family in Tijuana. Sign up at: https://www.corazon.org/3381_venturarotaract

November 16 lunch meeting: George Poulakos will discuss the upcoming **Guatemala Team Trip**.

November 17: Board meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Meeting one week early due to Thanksgiving holiday.)

November 18-20: District Conference, Santa Barbara Hilton.

November 23: NO MEETING THIS WEEK

November 30 lunch meeting: Hutch Hutchinson and the Rotary Foundation District Chair.

December 7 lunch meeting: Members of the Ventura County **Grand Jury**.

December 10: Winter Social, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy Chess RSVP to Sandy Lassila by text or at lassilas@roadrunner.com by December 1. (See flier.)

VENTURA DOWNTOWN LIONS AND VENTURA ROTARY HOST

WINTER SUPPLY DRIVE

HELP US RESUPPLY NEEDED ITEMS TO
GET THROUGH THE WINTER SEASON

NOVEMBER 12 | 9-11A.M



DROP OFF LOCATION: SALVATION ARMY
650 PETIT AVE., VENTURA CA 93003

ITEMS NEEDED

SWEATERS
NEW UNDERGARMENTS
CLEANING SUPPLIES
PAPER TOWELS

TWIN BEDDING
JACKETS
SOCKS
SHOES

ALL ITEMS BENEFIT
THE SALVATION ARMY
AND WESTMINISTER
FREE CLINIC

 **EAT** 
DRINK
 **AND BE**
MERRY



WINTER SOCIAL

BETSY CHESS' HOME



DECEMBER

SATURDAY

10

6-10 PM

LET'S CELEBRATE



ADULTS ONLY, NO CHILDREN


...FOOD, GAMES, FUN...

BYOB

PARKING AT
CEMETERY PARK
SHUTTLE PROVIDED



PLEASE RSVP BY DEC 1st

TEXT SANDY  or email lassilas@roadrunner.com