



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 22, 2023

JEFFREY LAMBERT

Club member Jeffrey Lambert, CEO of the City of San Buenaventura Housing Authority, gave a presentation at our meeting October 18, 2023. Jeff has held the position for eight weeks and brings with him experience as community development director for the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, and Santa Clarita.



The Housing Authority is not a city department but is its own entity with its own board of directors. It is the largest landlord in the city, with more than 1,000 affordable units. Its mission is to provide and develop quality affordable housing to eligible low-income county residents. The goal is not just to provide housing, but to grow skills that will lead to employment and moving out of public housing.

The Housing Authority manages several voucher programs. For Section 8 vouchers, the tenant pays 30 to 40 percent of their income and HUD pays the rest. This affords landlords an extra layer of security. Unfortunately, the waiting list is now 15,315 people long, which takes years. Other voucher programs are for veterans and emergency housing.

Jeff showed photos of recent affordable housing built by the Housing Authority, including projects for seniors, farm workers, and persons with special needs. Old public housing projects are being redeveloped into attractive units. The new units help not only the residents, but also revitalize the neighborhoods. The Housing Authority is building “net zero” projects that are all electric and solar.

A current project is converting the La Quinta Inn into 134 permanent supportive housing units. It is funded by \$32 million from the state, plus grants from the county and city. The Housing Authority has only 15 months to buy the property, remodel it, and fill it to 95 percent capacity. Half the units will house people who are currently homeless, and the other half are at risk of homelessness.

The Housing Authority awards up to six scholarships a year for community college and four-year college students. It is funded in part by the Haunted Housing Run (5k) October 28 at 8:30 a.m. <https://www.hauntedhousingrun.com/>

MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2023

Attendance: 35 in attendance, including visiting Rotarian Kate O'Connor (Thousand Oaks), and former Rotary Exchange participant Andy Kirkwood (relocating here from Scotland).

Lunch: Tortellini with vegetable Alfredo sauce and meat sauce, salad, fruit, garlic bread, and chocolate cake.

Immediate Past President Margi Wray called the meeting to order—only two weeks after receiving a total knee replacement!

Introductions/Flag salute/Inspirational message: Indy Batra. He expressed sadness about what is happening in the world, and his disappointment that with all the resources we devote to education, we have failed to teach what it means to be human. We observed a 30 second moment of silence.

Song: Bev Ward led a rousing rendition of “The Hokey Pokey.”



Announcements

Kellye Patterson: The first polio vaccines were administered 1955. In honor of **World Polio Day**, October 24, we will hold a 1950s **Sock Hop**, 6-9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, featuring dancing, hamburgers, and a costume contest. (See attached poster.)

Kristin Taylor: **Coats for Kids** collection boxes will be delivered next week. Sign up to be in charge of a collection site.

Team 4414 HighTide Robotics will host a competition this weekend. Competing are 34 teams, including four from Mexico and one from Hawaii.

Rob van Nieuwburg: Andy Kirkwood and his pregnant wife, baby, and dog are relocating here and are seeking housing.

Happy Dollars.

CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Sally Crain
22 years

Juan Torres
3 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Greg Wray
October 15

Dave Wellik
October 21

Monica Smith
October 22

Hutch Hutchinson played a video featuring some of the projects funded by the **Rotary Foundation** around the world. For each dollar you donate, you get credit for yourself AND earn points that can be used to honor someone else—a BOGO (buy one/get one). **Sheila Fattarelli** used her points to honor a member who joined in October last year, and who has helped with Coats for Kids and organizing other events: **Andrea Contarino**. Hutch presented her with her first **Paul Harris Fellow** certificate and pin. Congratulations, Andrea!



Saurabh Bajaj presented Past President and longtime member **Lynda Girtsman** with a **Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation** certificate and pin. Congratulations, Lynda!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Oct. 24: Sock Hop for World Polio Day, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Dancing, hamburgers, costumes. \$40 per person, \$70 per couple, Sponsorships \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100. Contact Jessica Brandon to RSVP.

Oct. 25 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace.

Oct. 26: Board meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Nov. 1 lunch meeting: Ashley Pope, Autism Society Ventura County.

Nov. 8 lunch meeting: Veterans Day program.

Nov. 15 lunch meeting: Craft Talks by Monica Smith and Rena Sepulveda

Shake, Rattle & Roll

IT'S TIME TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
WORLD POLIO DAY

OCTOBER

TUESDAY **24** 6PM - 9PM

CROWNE PLAZA VENTURA BEACH
450 HARBOR BLVD
VENTURA, CA 93001

\$40 per person - \$70 per couple

Hey cats and kittens, you can't lose, go on and grab your blue suede shoes.

*Come on over and don't be late, we've got **Polio** to eradicate!*

*Enjoy classic **50's** diner delights (vegetarian options available)*

Retro photo booth to capture the memories and more...

*Test your knowledge with **50's** trivia*

Costume contest with fabulous prizes

R S V P

Call or Text by October **20th**
Jessica Brandon (619) 634-5501

Come dressed in your best '50s attire as we transport ourselves to a world of soda shops, jukeboxes, and sock hops. We'll be jiving to the tunes of Elvis, Chuck Berry, and Buddy Holly all night long.



**END
POLIO
NOW**