



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



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October 5, 2011

## **Meeting of September 28, 2011 Program – County Financial Issues Reporter: RoseAnn Hill**

### **Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by President Lynda Girtsman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Kearney. Bill kept us on our



toes by changing the order of things a bit, having our songsters lead us in My Country 'Tis of Thee, and then having members introduce their guests before giving his invocation. Guests included Liz Donnelly of Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors, Commercial Realtor Lisa Engels, Matt Carroll from the County of Ventura, the guest presenter and Steve Doll's son. Bill Kearney's invocation emphasized the optimism and enthusiasm of Rotarians. He stated that despite our politicians not being able to get along and the media portrayal of doom and gloom that he is confident that the best days of our country are still ahead, with Rotarians leading the way! Our "exchange intern" from France, Marine Waels, gave a brief presentation covering her internships with several members including Sonny Shah of Four Seasons Cleaners, Irene Henry of State Farm, Margo Bryne of the YMCA,

as well as her home stay with Kathy Scroggs and many trips and adventures, including learning to surf with Past-President Roger Case!

### **Announcements**

Kristin Taylor announced that the Coats for Kids project is off to good start and thanked the Ventura County Star for donating \$3,000 in advertising and member Saurabh Bajaj of Fast Signs for donating all the labels for the donation boxes. Hanger sponsors have been lined up: Ellyn Dembowski of Prudential California Realty, Irene Henry of State Farm



Insurance, Rob van Nieuwburg of Ventura Toyota and Dave Bianco of Road Scholar have committed being sponsors. Kris also thanked : Scott Patterson of Meathead Movers and Sally Crain of Hilford Moving and Storage, who will provide the donation boxes again this year.

Terry Schaffer reminded us that the next club social will be Seafood by the Sea, coming up **October 13th 5:30-7:30** at the Ventura Yacht Club. This is a correction from last week's meeting notes, please note the correct date. Bring a seafood dish to share and your favorite beverage, along with your significant others and family. Non-seafood dishes are welcome as well.

Mike Anderson and Past-President Larry Emrich announced the End Polio Now fundraiser: \$50 for 5 squares or one for \$10 on a football pool. Four

Web addresses: Club [www.venturarotary.org](http://www.venturarotary.org) – Photos: [www.rotarycov.smugmug.com](http://www.rotarycov.smugmug.com) *cont'd*  
District 5240 [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org) – R.I. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## Meeting Programs & Assignments

### Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

October 5, 2011

*Mental Illness Awareness Month  
(Ratan Bhavnani)*

October 12, 2011

*Traveling in Liberia  
(Karol Shulkin)*

October 19, 2011

*October 19: Kinetic Sculpture Race  
Christy Cantrell*

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Oct 5 – Juan Soto      Oct 12 – Cheryl Heitmann  
Oct 19 – Larry Rasmussen      Oct 26 – Sonny Shah

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Oct 5 – Ginger Lynch      Oct 12 – Tom Naylor  
Oct 19 – Brenda Allison      Oct 26 – Larry Dawes

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

TBA

## 2011-12 Officers and Directors

### Officers

President ..... Lynda Girtsman  
President Elect ..... Indy Batra  
Secretary ..... Jim Deardoff  
Recording Secretary \* ..... Larry Emrich  
Treasurer ..... Christine Tonello  
Assistant Treasurer \* ..... Mark Sauer  
Immediate Past President ..... Hutch Hutchinson  
•Non-Voting Position

### Avenues of Service

#### **Club Service**

Director ..... Terry Schaeffer  
Assistant Director ..... Dan Holmes

#### **Community Service**

Director ..... Curtis Cormane  
Assistant Director ..... Nanci Cone

#### **International Service**

Director ..... Mario de la Piedra  
Assistant Director ..... Ed McCombs

#### **New Generations**

Director ..... Ellyn Dembowski  
Assistant ..... Ken Cooper

#### **Vocational Service**

Director ..... Bill Finley  
Assistant ..... Todd Binkley

### **Announcements continued:**

winners will be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship.

### **Rotary Moment**

Melody Namikas gave examples from R-O-T-A-R-Y.  
R=relationships, O=opportunities, T=talk, A=altruistic,  
R=RYLA, Y=yummy chicken lunch.

### **New Generations Member Induction**



President Lynda Girtsman and New Generations director Ellyn Demowski introduced and inducted Courtney Lindberg as the first member in our club of the New Generations program in Rotary, geared towards people 30-45. Courtney comes from the Space Center

Houston Club, and is ready to use her environmental background to help our club and our community.

Welcome, Courtney!

Many Happy Dollars were given by members, which supports the local Homeless to Home campaign.

### **Program**

Mark Sauer introduced the day's speaker, **Matt Carroll, Assistant Executive Officer for the County of Ventura.**

Matt spoke on a variety of Ventura County's financial issues, noting that our county has a unique governmental structure with a combination of six elected and 19



appointed officials. Ventura County's total budget for the coming year is 1.66 billion, down 1.3% from 2010-11.

The county employees 8,097 people, up 58 from the previous year.

Services include public safety, health, social services, watershed protection, land use and animal services.

Where does the money go? The #1 area of expenditure is public safety, which encompasses 57.4% of the county's budget. Health and social services is 9.7%, Other general fund is 20.1% and 2% is miscellaneous. As an overview, Matt indicated that county services are generally maintained at current levels. For comparison he noted that Santa Barbara is facing a 80M shortfall while Ventura's current shortfall is less than 10M. The current priority is managing the negative impact from the economic downturn, which he stated that Ventura County is doing well with due to a variety of changes in structure and programs, including the Service Excellence Program. This program has managers and the workforce improving efficiency and

**continued p. 3**

innovating ways to cut costs, using performance measures that were already in place for most programs combined with long-term strategic planning. The realignment of detainees from the state to county facilities will be a large focus of the county in coming months, as this takes effect on October 1st. This change will result in non-serious state wards being re-assigned to county jurisdiction. Matt said the hope is to improve recidivism rates, and that local control appears to be much more effective at rehab, etc. In regard to the Service Excellence Program, Matt pointed out that as Darwin stated, it is not the strongest but the most adaptable of the species that survive, and likewise the county is attempting to adapt to the changing financial environment. He mentioned the implementation of the Lean Six Sigma, which is designed to eliminate waste and variation. He said the County is training staff and changing the culture to create results, thus far over 8.2M in savings has resulted from the program, with Ventura County being the first county in the state to implement it. An example Mike gave is that water use at the County Government Center is down 50%. He stated that overall the county's financial health is among the best in the state, and that there is broad commitment to manage expenses.

President Lynda Girtsman thanked Matt for his presentation and pointed out that member John Brant, financial planner had a display on the Getting to Know You table for members this week. She then adjourned the meeting.

## **OCTOBER – VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

During October, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important area of service. Discussions on Vocational Service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within our communities.

### **October 5: Mental Illness**

Ratan Bhavnani, President of the Ventura chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will present this program in observation of Mental Illness Awareness month.

### **October 12: Traveling in Liberia**

Karol Shulkin, employee of the County Department of Social Services and recent traveler to Liberia, will share her experience.

### **October 19: Kinetic Sculpture Race**

Christy Cantrell, the "Kinetic Sculpture Race Queen" will present this program. More info to come ...

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **October 13 (Thursday) 5:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Seafood by the Sea club social**

**Ventura Yacht Club**

*For more information contact Terry Schaeffer.*

### **October 20 – 23 (Thursday – Sunday)**

**District 5240 Conference – Carpinteria**

*For more information go to the District website  
[www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)*

### **November 13 (Sunday) - 1:00 PM**

**Peace Conference – Palm Springs Convention Center**

**Keynote Speaker: Mr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi**

**Other Speakers, Breakout Sessions & Displays**

*For informational flyer and registration go to our club website under "stories"  
[www.venturarotary.org](http://www.venturarotary.org)*

### **December 28**

**Joint Club Meeting with Ventura East**

Award-winning composer, humanitarian, educator and world musician, **John Zeretke**, will be presenting a unique program for our Rotary group about his travels around the world.

## ***Getting to Know You Program***

October 5:

Bruce, Byrne, Bysshe

October 12:

Calkins, Campbell

October 19:

Chadbourne, Case, Chandler

October 26:

The Cheatham Family (Melvin, Sylvia & Bob)

## ***OCTOBER IS ALSO POLIO AWARENESS MONTH***



Larry Emrich & Mike Anderson have planned a month-long fundraiser around weekly football pools. The four winners will receive a Paul Harris Fellowship. Get ready fans – this will be FUN!