



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 6, 2022

MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2022

Attendance—About 36 members and guests plus one via Zoom.

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey hosted an Oktoberfest feast of boiled potatoes, sauerkraut, purple cabbage, cucumber salad, fruit, chicken kielbasa, knockwurst, and bratwurst. It could be wurst! Chocolate cake for dessert.

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order.

Flag salute inspirational message, and introductions—Ed Summers. Sometimes the journey to find an inspirational message is as rewarding as what he finds. The world is a scary place right now, but Rotary inspires it to be less scary by helping hurricane victims, famine victims, and people around the world. That’s a blessing we all share together.



Songleaders—An all-star group of **Jessica Brandon, RoseAnn Hill, Bev Ward and Clyde Reynolds** led us in singing “America the Beautiful.”

Announcements:

Kristin Taylor: We have fantastic support for **Coats for Kids** this year. Saurabh will make the signs again this year. KVTA will provide interviews and announcements. We will be joined by Rotary Ventura South, and the Foothill and Ventura High School Interact clubs. We need more collection sites—we have 25 or 30 but need a total of 50.

Angela Rosales: We are invited to attend **Rotaract** meetings 6:30-7:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month at Leashless Brewing, 585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) The **Book Club** will meet October 10 at 5:00 p.m., location to be announced. Will discuss *The Santa Claus Girl*, historical fiction about the 1950’s polio epidemic and how a community came together to raise funds for iron lungs. (No Book Club meeting October or December).

(2) Meet a Rotarian event with our Interact club at Pacific High School, October 17, 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. We have room for two more Rotarians; RSVP to Madhu.

Jessica Brandon: We are hosting a **World Polio Day** event Oct. 23, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center. Seeking donations of “My Favorite Things” gift baskets to auction at the event.

Beverly Ward: A few tickets still available for fundraiser at the **Rubicon** this Saturday evening featuring award-winning singer Norm Lewis with musical theatre hits.

Happy Dollars

Fining—Lynda Girtsman, who recently returned from a trip to France, quizzed us on all things French, including tons of snails and upside down baguettes.

Awards—Hutch Hutchinson played a short video about ending polio and presented two awards:



Barbara Asbell receives Paul Harris pin + 2



Maria Ventura receives Paul Harris pin and certificate

PROGRAM—MARIA M. VENTURA

Maria M. Ventura, Senior Affairs Manager for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) gave a presentation on The Evolution of Energy.

Maria represents SoCalGas to local governments, community organizations, the news media, and the community in general. She has over 20 years' experience in the public and private sectors and has received many awards for her professional accomplishments. She serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Ventura, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast, and El Concilio.

SoCalGas is the largest natural gas distribution utility in the United States. It receives the gas from out of state, where it travels to us at only 26 mph. It has made a climate commitment of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Its initiatives include using hydrogen gas to fuel homes, private vehicles, and public transportation. Its Angeles Link will be a dedicated pipeline to Los Angeles for green hydrogen. A Hydrogen Home is nearing completion in Downey which will use electrolysis, fuel cells, and hydrogen gas mixed with renewable natural gas. Natural gas is methane that naturally occurs when things decay. Renewable natural gas is based on methane produced at dairies, landfills, etc., rather than ancient gas in the ground.

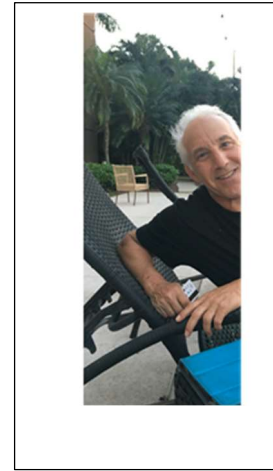
Between 2020 and 2024, SoCalGas will invest \$9.2 billion to upgrade its pipelines. The Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan includes using drones to locate leaks, and "pigging" (a robotic tool that travels miles through the pipeline).

Margi presented Maria with a coffee table book that features—appropriately—photos of Ventura.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

October 12 lunch meeting: Presentation by **Brian Benel, Ojai Storytellers Festival.** Brian is the founder of Performances To Grow On and its signature event, the Ojai Storytelling Festival, now in its 21st year. He received his BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and his MA from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Brian comes to the arts from a teaching background with over 23 years in the classroom. His career in the arts began with musical plays written for his students. His work in the Ventura Unified Schools was awarded a state-wide Golden Bell Award and led to a county wide position as “Arts Specialist.” He has served on the Ventura County Arts Council and also on the board of directors for the National Storytelling Association. Brian is a member of the California Presenters, Western Arts Administrators and National Storytelling Association.



October 17: Meet a Rotarian. Meet members of our newest Interact Club at **Pacific High School**, tour the school, and learn about PHS and its students. 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. Space is limited—contact Madhu Bajaj for more information and to RSVP.

October 19 lunch meeting: Presentation by **Lysa Urban, Women’s Economic Ventures (WEV).**

October 23: World Polio Day event at Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

October 26 lunch meeting: **Mary Maranville, SEEAG** (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture).

October 27: Board meeting, Crown Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Check out the club’s web site at venturarotary.org
Includes photos, a list of officers and board members, information
about upcoming events, bio’s and photos of upcoming speakers,
archived bulletins, links, and more!