



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

October 8, 2023

### DISTRICT GOVERNOR MARTA GOLDING BROWN



We were honored this week by a visit from District Governor Marta Golding Brown. A reception for Marta was held at the Portside Clubhouse Tuesday evening, October 3. Wednesday morning, she met with our board members to discuss goals. She was the speaker at our Wednesday lunch meeting.

Marta discussed her background as an exchange student in Japan. She joined Lancaster Sunrise Rotary in 2005 where she served two terms as club president. She participated in a Rotary professional exchange in Rio, where she saw first-hand armed guards at a school to ensure the safety of the students. She joined the Oxnard Rotary Club in 2015.

Marta's theme for the year is "Let's Have Fun." She explained that members will participate if it brings them pleasure.

The Rotary International theme this year is "Create Hope in the World." One priority is mental health. Each chapter should have a mental health initiative. Another priority is polio, with our goal of total global eradication close at hand. Maui Relief is ongoing, with Rotary support committed for the long haul to rebuild.

For the 2022-2023 Rotary Year, the Rotary Foundation raised more than \$427 million. We funded more than 1,100 global grants, 470 district grants, and 310 disaster response grants.

Marta discussed the upcoming district conference October 20-21 in Bakersfield. It will include a class on grants, a hospitality suite, wine tasting, and the opportunity to socialize and engage.

Marta is co-founder and CEO of Smart Coast California, which supports property rights in coastal communities. She lives in Ventura with her husband Forrest. Their daughter MacKenzie lives in Colorado.



## ASSEMBLYMEMBER STEVE BENNETT



On the evening of September 28, 2023, club members met at the VUSD District Office with Steve Bennett, Assemblymember for the 38th Assembly District, which represents the western part of Ventura County. Nineteen members and guests attended. He was introduced by club member Doug Halter.

Steve was a high school teacher first. He served on the Ventura City Council 1993-1997. He then served on the County Board of Supervisors 2001-2020, and was elected to the state Assembly in 2020.

Steve is considered the “father” of SOAR, which guarantees urban curbs around the city and county. He helped the AIDS Partnership. He was instrumental as a County Supervisor to ensure Ventura County had budget reserves after having a few years of no reserve monies.

Steve appreciates service organizations like Rotary as they make cities different and give a sense of community.

Steve talked about the state budget with its giant fluctuations as the stock market goes up and down. California is the 4th largest economy in the world. He explained that transit is the biggest threat to the California budget. Transit is mostly managed at a local level, and the transportation budgets are all in the red. He has asked the Legislative Analyst’s Office to frame the issues.

Steve does not plan to run for reelection as he would then be in his 80’s so he feels he is able to take risks and take on the bullies in state government. He wants to take on the “sacred cows” of state government which are:

Sacred cow #1: Ground water – overdrafting of sources. We have 44 water basins in California. Half of critical basins did not have sufficient supplies. Canadian pension funds have bought land in Central California, pulled out olive trees, and put in almond trees which use more water.

Sacred cow #2: Carbon to carbonless economy. Battery technology is important and should have to compete with hydrogen. Hydrogen could be used for ships and heavy trucks.

Sacred cow #3: Transparency in government. Steve wants a culture of making decisions to create good government.

Sacred cow #4: Housing. Growing income inequality is destroying society and hollowing out the middle class. There is no shortage of housing, but not enough housing people can afford. Until we address it at the federal level, it will be a patchwork solution. He wants to reign in abuse from local developers. He would like school districts and corporations to build their own affordable housing for their workforce. Short term rentals should be limited because they convert available housing into tourist stays and prohibit workers from living in the neighborhoods where they work.

Steve serves on the following Assembly Standing Committees:

- Budget
- Elections

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**ASSEMBLYMEMBER STEVE BENNETT, *continued***

- Privacy and Consumer Protection. This committee spans a wide range of technology-related issues, and includes matters affecting consumer protection in both the digital and analog worlds. It has jurisdiction over the protection of digital information and other personal information, the security of data, and information technology, as well as false advertising, charitable solicitations, weights and measures, and consumer protection generally. It is also responsible for oversight of the Department of Technology within the State’s Government Operations Agency.
- Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee: Jurisdiction includes water resources, flood management, fish and game, parks and recreation, and wildlife.

Steve serves on these Subcommittees:

- Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation.
- Member, Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Budget Process, Oversight and Program Evaluation.

Select Committees: Nonprofit Sector; Offshore Wind Energy in California; Sea Level Rise and the California Economy.

Joint Committees: Fisheries and Aquaculture; Legislative Budget.

*Thanks to Sandy Lassila for reporting and photographing this event.*



*Who says you can't wear white after Labor Day?*



*Crista Hermance visited the Rotary Club of Guam in September*



*District Governor Marta Golding Brown at the Rotary Club of Ventura*

**MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2023**

**Attendance:** 31 members and guests.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious lunch of ham, roasted potatoes, green beans and carrots, baked apples, fruit, green salad, and chocolate brownies for dessert.



**Introductions/Flag salute/Inspirational message: Dan Holmes.** “I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive. I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger. I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess. I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.”

**Song:** Bev, Jessica and RoseAnn led us in singing “You Are My Sunshine.” We attempted to do it as a round, but it fell apart by group two, so instead we enjoyed all singing together.

**Announcements**

**Neal Lassila:** We will be conducting a **post-event review of the Beachside Bash**. He drew a parallel to the quote from JFK: “We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

**Jessica Brandon:** Join us at the Sock Hop Tuesday evening, October 24, as a fundraiser for Polio Plus. (See attached flier.)

**Madhu Bajaj: (1)** Thanks to all who assisted with and attended the event for **Steve Bennett** and the reception for **District Governor Marta Golding Brown**.

**(2)** We will be assembling a group of volunteers to spend a day in Pasadena preparing the Rotary International float for the **Rose Parade**.

**(3)** Auditioning for host of the **Price Is Right—Rotary Edition** program December 20. If interested, send Madhu a 30-60 second clip.

**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining:** **Bev Ward** quizzed us about Oktoberfest.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!**  
**Debby Millais**  
**October 3**

**CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

<b>Lary Rasmussen</b> 57 years	<b>Hutch Hutchinson</b> 25 years	<b>Danny Quintana</b> 3 years
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Oct. 10: Pacific High School Interact**, 9:45 - 11:00 a.m., at the school. Students will tell us about their club and school and we will have small group discussions about leadership, service, and life. Bagels and donuts will be served. Contact Madhu with questions or to RSVP.

**Oct. 11 lunch meeting: Jamar Grooms: Diversity Equity, and Inclusion.** Jamar Grooms is a highly accomplished and sought after Business Consultant, Executive Coach, Corporate Trainer, Author, and Public Speaker based out of Woodland Hills, CA. He is the founder and CEO of Chariot Consulting, where he and his team work diligently to help organizations achieve their goals as it pertains to maximizing their workforce and realizing profitability. He specializes in Organizational Development and Risk Management. He and his team provide quality training and consultative services to both growing and established organizations by leading with experience, direction, encouragement, and vision.

He is a graduate of Murray State University, where he earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. He earned a PHR certification in Human Resources and has almost two decades of experience in consulting. He has worked with a variety of organizations, from some of the top performing companies in the United States to small local businesses. He is an expert problem solver and has a knack for finding creative solutions to complex problems. Jamar's training focuses on the areas of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Harassment & Discrimination Prevention, Communication Skills Development, Conflict Resolution, and Leadership Development. He is also an experienced executive coach, helping executives and business owners further develop their leadership and communication skills.

In his free time, he is a highly active participant in the non-profit space. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the West Valley where he implemented a program called "Passionate Work," The program helps students find their passions early in life and connect them to viable career options. He also serves on the Board of Directors for El Centro de Amistad, an organization that provides mental health services to underserved communities in the San Fernando Valley and throughout greater Los Angeles. He is a life-long member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, an organization that has been serving local communities since 1911. When he is not serving, he can be found exploring the world, taking a hot yoga class, writing, creating course content, & publishing inspirational children's books.

**Oct. 18 lunch meeting: Jeff Lambert, CEO, City of San Buenaventura Housing Authority.**

**Oct. 20-21: District Conference**, Bakersfield Double Tree Hotel, 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct., Bakersfield. For details, go to [rotarydistrict5240.org](http://rotarydistrict5240.org).

**Oct. 24: Sock Hop for World Polio Day**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

**Oct. 25 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace and outside speaker on peace.**

**Nov. 1 lunch meeting: Autism Society Ventura County.**

**Nov. 8 lunch meeting: Veterans Day program.**

# Shake Rattle & Roll

## World Polio Day Sock Hop

### **SAVE THE DATE**

October 24th | 6pm - 9pm

\$40 per person | \$70 per couple

Crown Plaza Hotel Ventura Beach

450 Harbor Blvd

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### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### **\$1,000 - Blue Suede Shoes Event Sponsor**

Admission for 6 with 6 drink tickets, VIP Swag, reserved seating, recognition on all marketing materials and event signage.

#### **\$500 - Rock n' Roll Bar Sponsor**

Admission for 4 with 4 drink tickets, recognition on marketing materials and at the Bar.

#### **\$250 - Soda Shop**

Admission for 2 with 2 drink tickets, recognition on marketing materials and the classic soda station.

#### **\$100 - Sugar time**

Admission for 1 with 1 drink tickets, recognition on marketing materials and the classic sweets station.