



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

September 18, 2022

ARE YOU WEARING YOUR ROTARY PIN?



KING CHARLES IS WEARING HIS!

King Charles III is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Banchory-Ternan, Scotland. He is shown here on August 5, 2017, at the Mey Highland Games.

MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Attendance—I forgot to count, but there were about 40 plus three via Zoom and George Poulakos on an audio feed from Florida.

Lunch—We had huge grilled chicken breasts, mashed potatoes, vegetables, fruit salad, green salad, rolls, and a fruit medley for dessert.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Mary Saputo.**

Songleaders—**Jessica Brandon** and **Beverly Ward**—“America the Beautiful”

Announcements:

Margi Wray—The Ventura Downtown Lions Club Golf Tournament is October 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information is on their web site.

Anne King—Anne was unable to attend last week’s meeting in the aftermath of an active shooter alert. Although the alert was made in error, over 100 first responders were on scene, and the incident was traumatic for those involved. She thanked the JGMRF for the \$10,000 grant to the **Ventura College Foundation**, which will be used for the Veteran’s Library, textbook lending library, and to make a difference in the community.

Madhu Bajaj—**(1) Book Club** will meet at Judy Moore’s home Sept. 22 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss *An Elephant in My Kitchen*. Please RSVP.

(2) Pacific High School Interact Club had its kick-off meeting with enthusiastic students planning for the school year.

Meaghan Smith—**Ventura High School Interact’s Student Essentials Basic Needs Pantry** needs donations of school supplies, hygiene products, and ready-to-go snacks.

Kristin Taylor—**Coats for Kids** has two new sponsors: Doug Halter and Randy Encinas. Kellye Patterson and Ellyn Dembowski are long-term sponsors. The demand is growing. We distributed 350 coats and jackets last year and expect demand for 500 coats and jackets this year. Southern California Gas Company gave a \$5,000 grant we would like to stretch as far as we can—does anyone have a contact for a wholesaler?

George Poulakos—An **international project** in the northwest part of **Guatemala** is being planned—volunteers will help teach 700 boys and girls skills including Spanish language, health, and computing. More information soon...

Awards:

Rob van Nieuwburg received the 2021-2022 **Gold Club** award on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ventura from Assistant District Director **Margarida Eidson**.

Kristin Taylor received the **Major Donor Award** from **Hutch Hutchinson**.

Hutch Hutchinson received his **Paul Harris Plus 7** award (2 rubies). Hutch is a past president, a collaborator, and an innovator. His accomplishments include establishing the assistant director mentoring system to give continuity to our Avenues of Service.

We sang **Happy Birthday** to **Indy Batra** for his 70th birthday.

Fining—**Jeff Lambert** quizzed our members on the State of Maine.



DR. ANTONIO CASTRO

Antonio Castro, Ed.D., gave a presentation at our meeting September 14, 2022. Dr. Castro was appointed Superintendent of Ventura Unified School District last month. He has an extensive background in education, from special education teacher to a variety of teaching and management positions in several area school districts. He is also Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Moorpark and has been active in community organizations including AYSO, United Way, and Moorpark College Foundation.

Safety is a priority, including campus safety and emotional safety. Students must be seen, heard, and provided for. Additional social workers and counseling services are being offered to help recover from the disruptions caused by COVID. One initiative will offer flexible school hours to keep students active and learning. Other priorities are recruiting and retaining quality staff, and forging and strengthening relationships.

Declining enrollment is a major challenge. Ventura County is second only to Los Angeles County in terms of declining enrollment, caused by changing demographics including a higher cost of living and fewer families with school-age children.

School Board President Sabrena Rodriguez was also on hand and discussed Measure E on the November ballot. It is a \$434.5 million general obligation bond measure to renovate and upgrade schools.

Newsletter editor: Mike Schwartz
Royal news tipster: Jorge Arman



Kristin Taylor, Major Donor Award



Hutch Hutchinson, Paul Harris +7

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September 21 lunch meeting: Presentation by Obi Achinivu, The Food Bank/Nigeria.

September 22: Book Club 5:00 p.m. at home of Judy Moore. Discussion of *An Elephant In My Kitchen*, by Francoise Malby Anthony. All members welcome.

September 28 lunch meeting: Program to be announced.

October 5 lunch meeting: Presentation by Maria Ventura, Southern California Gas Company.

October 12 lunch meeting: Presentation by Brian Benel, Ojai Storytellers Festival.



“I’ve got 10 Happy Pounds because I’m King of England!”