

	<b>ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</b>			
	<b>SHORELINES</b>			
2019-2020	Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer	Tom Brault Reporter	<b>PRESIDENT</b> Terri Hall

*June 26, 2020*  
**DEMOTION SPECIAL EDITION**



After 12 months of service as Oceanside Rotary President for the second time, the day that TERRI HALL has been eagerly anticipating finally arrived. On June 26, 2020 she would be released from the prison of presidential duties and placed on parole as a “regular member” once again! But first, she had to sit through the annual ritual of having the rowdy gang of “Rotary Not Ready for Prime Time Players” rib and roast her, finding as many ways as possible to make light of her year in charge of our club. And to make the experience even MORE excruciating for her, this year, with our meetings being held by Zoom online, TERRI had to sit in front of her computer’s camera and try to smile gamely through it all, because she never knew when our screens would be filled by her face so we could gauge her reaction to the proceedings. Luckily, the teasing apparently wasn’t too merciless, and she either never got upset with the jokes being made at her expense – or maybe she is just a better actor than we ever suspected! Whenever I caught a glimpse of her either full screen or in one of the smaller windows on the Zoom gallery, she genuinely seemed to be enjoying herself!



It is quite possible that the Master of Ceremonies and Author of the demotion script TOM BRAULT was more nervous throughout this evening than TERRI was.



Normally at our demotions, the crowd will be laughing and smiling throughout, and TOM can be sure that the skit is being well-received. But on Zoom, with almost everybody’s microphones set on mute, the normal audience feedback got lost and his jokes would be greeted by.... dead silence. (*Insert sound of crickets here.*) TOM at times felt like a stand-up comic who was absolutely bombing on the stage. (On the bright side, at least there were no active hecklers or drunks to deal with!) And, as it turns out, the feedback that he received after it was all over showed that the skit actually was enjoyed by the audience much more than you could tell in those moments of Zoom room silence. Whew!

A huge “Thank You” goes out to TOM’s wife LINDA, who had the unenviable (and at times rather tricky) challenge of trying to scan through the constantly shuffling list of participants’ names and faces in order to choose the one face to go full screen for the viewers to put the “spotlight” on the individual who was either actively speaking or being spoken about. Considering the quirks of the Zoom system, (and not counting the occasional times when she would flash the wrong “David” onto the screen), LINDA performed this task remarkably well. (Do we have an extra one of those “Service Star” pins we could toss in her direction?)



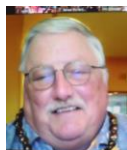
We were joined online by guests from far and wide. And I do mean far! Watching all the way from Argentina (where it was already late at night) was NADIA NAVARETTE, the outgoing president from the Parana Rotary Club. Witnessing her Mom’s disgrace ... I mean, demotion ... for a somewhat shorter distance was TERRI and DAVE’s daughter JULIE. And from even closer to home, our frequent guest RUDY VAN HUNNICK. Add in a few members’ spouses who were watching as well, and we had quite a gathering!

After TOM set the ground rules for the audience about proper Zoom settings and with a stern warning that, if they were not on Mute and noise on their end messed with the skit, they could be hit with a \$50 fine, the shenanigans ensued.

A rotating set of M.C.’s took their turns focusing on various aspects of the year we just experienced in Oceanside Rotary. What follows is a “Cliff Notes” version of what was covered in the skit. Of course, to really appreciate it and get all of the jokes, you really should have been there!



JIM SCHRODER kicked it off by noting that this year felt like we were living through the movie “Groundhog Day”, with TERRI exhibiting some of the same traits, behaviors, and foibles as she did in her previous stint as president in 2009-10. VICKIE PROSSER dredged up memories of TERRI’s inconsistent fines and continued struggles with holding on to her danged gavel.



BILL DERN wondered how our two incoming presidents would be able to handle gavel security between them. And we all tried to make DALE MAAS and MELISSA RODRIGUEZ feel a little better about missing

out on the canceled Rotary International Convention that they were supposed to have attended in Hawaii. We put on Hawaiian shirts and leis and did our best hula dances to this version of “Blue Hawaii”, crooned by TOM.

*Missing you .... In blue Hawaii*

*The nights are heavenly... But there's no Rotary*

*Where are you? ... Not in Hawaii*

*We hope to see you soon ... Beneath the island moon*



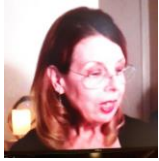
But missing their “Aloha” to kick off their year at the convention hasn’t seemed to diminish their excitement for their year of leadership ahead, as they both seem fired up for their plans for the club!

VICKIE PROSSER made the surprising announcement that in this past year, the “A.O.R.C.M.S.O.V.B.R.C.” – the “*Annual Oceanside Rotary Club Members Semi-Official Vacation Bragging Rights Contest*” was NOT won by our world class world traveler JIM SCHRODER. So many of his planned trips were canceled due to the Covid 19 shutdown that both BILL DERN and NANCY RUSSIAN beat him out for numbers of trips, with NANCY nabbing the title in a tie-breaker, based on her comparatively more exotic locations. (Face it, BILL – Bordeaux, France and Bilbao, Spain beats Phoenix, Arizona hands down!)



BILL then reviewed some of the interesting information we learned through TERRI’s decision to give a fair number of our programs at the meetings over to extended 25-minute versions of “Who Am I” presentations. We were reminded of some of the more unusual insights we learned about BOB PICKREL, JIM SCHRODER, and TOM BRAULT in their autobiographical reports to the club. Then TOM BRAULT took the screen over to show us all, through a PowerPoint presentation, what a “Who Am I” from TERRI HALL might have looked / sounded like, full of photos which had been surreptitiously fed to him by hubby DAVE.





VICKIE’s next turn focused on how so many of our club presidents through the years have brought their own personal and/or professional strengths with them to use to their advantage during their time at the podium. But did TERRI HALL show us through her presidency that she comes from a background of being a “professional organizer”? RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE begged to differ, and she griped about how TERRI would so often and so consciously go “off the agenda” at our meetings. As a comeback for that faux pas, the whole audience was asked to stand up on screen and take a copy of one of TERRI’s actual agendas (which had been emailed to them in advance) and dramatically rip it up, just like Nancy Pelosi had done to Mr. Trump’s speech at the State of the Union address. This was followed by TOM leading us all in a sarcastic Nancy Pelosi clap. And as a parting presidential gift, RENEE displayed a huge bottle of vodka that had TERRI’s name on it (in recognition of all the times when our frustrated president would hint during this year that she needed a drink!)



TOM then (sort of) apologized to RENEE for not writing a whole demotion skit for her last June at the end of her THIRD year as our president. But he did bring back a song that he had sung for her way back in 1997. (...Have I been writing these dangd demotions that long?!?! Good Lord!) At that time, he was all dressed up as Elvis, but this time he accompanied himself on the guitar as he sang (to the tune of Elvis’s “Suspicious Minds”):

*I’m caught in this job I can’t get out*

*‘Cause no one wants to be secretary*

*Why can’t it be Anybody but me?*

*I don’t believe I’ll last another day*

*..... (More verses that I won’t bore you with here)*



JANET BLEDSOE LACY then noted that TERRI’s patient and devoted husband DAVE had to wear so many hats in support of his wife’s presidency. And JANET whipped through an incredible assortment of hats from her collection, showcasing each of the tasks that DAVE was forced to take on through this year, including



(amongst many others): A jester hat (*for joke telling*), a king's crown (*as Co-Leader of a meeting*), a hard hat (*for setting up tables and chairs*), a cowboy hat (*corralling members back from the bar*), a sailor hat (*honoring visiting service members*), a Native American headdress (*for being "Chief, cook, and bottlewasher"*), etc. etc. etc. TOM BRAULT summed it up with, "Dave was asked to be every single one of the Village People, and then some!", and we sang a snippet of "Y.M.C.A." to honor multi-tasker DAVE.

JIM then started our discussion of how the Covid 19 shut down impacted our Rotary Club and its members. He and VICKIE and BILL all talked about some of the more unusual "hobbies" that our members have taken up during the shutdown. (Some were gospel truth; others were complete B.S.)

JAY CRAWFORD was then given the spotlight to sing a song of tribute to TERRI (to the tune of John Denver's "Darcy Farrow"):



*They sing about our Terri where the Truckee runs through  
They sing about her parties down in Carlsbad Village, too  
While visiting her grandkids she really gets around  
And finds that she is welcome in every city and every town*

*She presided over Rotary not once, my friends, but twice  
And as our humble leader, she has always been quite nice  
At Lincoln School, they know her for the projects that we do  
And Oceanside's a better place for dreams she's helped come true*

RENEE came back to go through a long list of all of the positive "good stuff" that happened in TERRI's year of leadership of the Oceanside Rotary Club – The resurgence of the Club Foundation / Library books donated to school libraries / Random Rotary Acts of Kindness / the Crown Height mentor program / Keeping the club going and growing through the challenges of the pandemic.

TOM seconded that sentiment, noting the skill and focus that TERRI showed in managing the club through the shutdown, especially in how well she handled Zoom meetings. We were given a photo reminder of some of the members' pets that we had met online, sitting with their masters at our online meetings. As a last (and unexpected and most memorable) moment of the skit, TOM caught TERRI's husband and Past President himself DAVE HALL committing the classic cliché of not wearing pants to a Zoom meeting. And yes, DAVE did



stand up to proudly show off the boxer shorts emblazoned with the Rotary logo that he had worn for this special evening.

But the last words of the skit were actually given to our incoming presidents, starting with MELISSA who recited the poem that she had read as a “Rotary Moment” in December about how important it is to just “Start.” Then DALE followed that full poem up by simply removing the word “Start” each time it was written and replacing it with the word “LEAVE”. And so, this was the final poem read for our outgoing president TERRI HALL:



*“Leave. Leave now. Leave where you are.  
Leave with fear. Leave with pain.  
Leave with doubt. Leave with hands shaking.  
Leave with voice trembling, but leave.  
Leave and don’t stop. Leave where you are, with what you have.  
Just... (For God’s sake, Terri) ... Just .... Leave.”*



## **AWARDS TIME**



A special note of thanks to BILL DERN, who had spent a good part of Friday driving all over the map to deliver the boxes with our awards so the recipients would be able to actually see them at the demotion. Our Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE went down the line and announced the following award winners:

The *Marty Schroder Award* for exemplary service to the community was bestowed upon BILL DERN, who seemed very touched and humbled by the honor.



Ditto on the “touched and humbled” part when it came to giving the *New Member Award* to ROGER VANDERWERKEN.



We don’t know how the recipient of the *President’s Award* will react to the honor, because the announcement of that award has been tabled until our next meeting on July 10.



The last award of the night went to TOM BRAULT, who went beyond being “touched and humbled” all the way to being “aggressively excited” as he screamed out, “YESSSS!!!” at the top of his lungs when he was announced to be the winner of the *El Toro Award* for the third

(or maybe even for the fourth time?) for bringing humor to the club.

## **PASSING OF THE GAVEL**

Just imagine the logistical nightmare of doing our traditional passing of the gavel down the line of Past Presidents in attendance – It is hard enough to manage live and in person, but it gets exponentially more difficult in an ONLINE virtual setting. Hoo boy! Somehow, though, we pulled it off fairly well.



Each Past President's name and year of service was announced. Their face was seen full screen by the audience as they each took their official gavel from their Rotary year (or at least SOME gavel that they could lay their hands on in their house) and moved it across the screen from their right to their left.



And so on, in sequence. And so, it at least LOOKED LIKE we were passing the gavel down the line. The trickiest "handoff" was when RENEE RICHARDSON (2016-17) had to pass to RENEE

RICHARDSON WENDEE (2018-19). And then some magic happened when our current president TERRI HALL mysteriously ended up with TWO gavels in her hand, in order to be able to "pass" them off to both MELISSA and DALE. Tradition maintained – by hook or by crook!



## **REMARKS FROM OUR PAST AND FUTURE LEADERS**

Then our outgoing and incoming presidents each were given the chance to give us some final thoughts to wrap up the evening.

Now (for the second time) Past President TERRI HALL reminisced about visiting then President (for the third time) RENEE at the Bistro and volunteered that she would be willing to serve as President in 2019-20. Apparently, a relieved RENEE jumped up and hugged TERRI in gratitude for stepping up!



What really made it a great year, TERRI expressed, was all of the wonderful help from each Rotarian, showing up to meetings, doing their part for fellowship and supporting each other, from RENEE and LES, handling all of the legal and national requirements to JANET volunteering to do all the programs for the year, to TOM, doing the awesome Shorelines as well as coming up with the Who the Heck is That? game, to all the Board members, always willing to do anything they were



asked to do and volunteering to do more. To BILL, volunteering to lead the Club Foundation Board and get that up and running again, to CHUCK ANDREAN, buying Rotary emblems and donating them so we can have one on our car, to ROGER helping to make the fundraiser work and to all the members willing to think outside the box. Everyone was skeptical but willing to try the socials and have 3 meetings per month and one evening social.



TERRI wrapped up her comments by showing us a motto that she has hanging on the wall in her office which inspired her this year: "I get up, I walk, I fall down. Meanwhile, I keep dancing." Let's just keep dancing, Rotarians!

Next, M.C. TOM recognized DALE MAAS (who alphabetically is our first Co-President for 2020-21), but DALE immediately punted the speaking dibs to his partner in presidency MELISSA who thanked everyone for sharing their time and insights during the member interviews that they had done by phone. Both she and DALE learned a ton about our club and community history in the process. "We very much appreciated people sharing so freely and offering their support so generously." She reminded us all that, "We will be having our Club Assembly on Friday, July 11th" ... and then immediately was corrected on the date: July 10th. (Get used to being corrected and to hearing comments and comebacks from the floor, MELISSA. We are an unruly bunch!) "We look forward to sharing with the club our vision for the coming year."

Last up, the Big Guy – "Jeff" to MELISSA's "Mutt" – DALE MAAS had just a few things to add. The main message that came through loud and clear was his confidence that "Co-leading" with his fellow president is going to work out well this year. The deft handoffs between the two of them which we witnessed during this demotion are indeed a good sign. But the best sign of all is their obvious enthusiasm for their year ahead and for all of the good that can be done through Oceanside Rotary. We look forward to watching (and joining forces with) our new leaders as they jump in feet first to work toward their ambitious goals.

And with that, we officially ended the demotion proceedings, switched to folks turning on their microphones to chat, and to congratulate the presidents (new and old), to thank the folks involved in the skit, and to just generally make for a cacophony of conversation amongst our little boxes on the Zoom screen. Then, one by one, we clicked off and bid adieu until our next meeting on July 10. See you then!



## **RRAK – RANDOM ROTARY ACTS OF KINDNESS**



Our trusty RRAK delivery man BILL DERN is seen here, rushing some “essential supplies” to A.J. MAZZARELLA on June 25. Then, with the Belching Beavers in hand, A.J. has a big decision to make. “Which can should I drain first?” After much deliberation, a decision was made ... and it was good.

We don’t have any photos to prove it, but we can also report that BILL earned an extra “merit badge” for RRAK duty above and beyond on our Demotion day on June 26, when he chased around town delivering the club awards, all covered up with a plain brown paper wrapper to keep the award a surprise to the recipients. This service was done under time pressure that day, with a narrow window of opportunity between the award being finished at the print shop and the 6:30 gathering time for the demotion. Well done, RRAK Man!

## **COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY**

Friday, July 3 – Regular meeting is DARK for 4th of July holiday

Friday July 10 – CLUB ASSEMBLY Zoom meeting

DALE MAAS and MELISSA RODRIGUEZ take the reins.

Wednesday, July 15 – Zoom Evening Social @ 5:30 pm

Friday, July 24 - Regular Zoom meeting

Friday, August 7 – Regular Zoom meeting

Wednesday, August 19 – Zoom Evening Social @ 5:30 pm

Friday, August 28 - Regular Zoom meeting

