



September 22, 2017

It was the first day of fall and our PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL WARD, like a chill in the fall air, observed that we have accomplished many things, many trips afar and our Rotary is the most prestigious in the world. And with modesty (and with our president speaking of himself in the third person), it was observed that CHUCK WARD will be your president for this afternoon. Your reporter would have been more impressed if PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL knew where his gavel was.



KIM HELM, former Oceanside Rotary member and current member of the Albuquerque Del Norte club, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

With a Moment of Inspiration, LARRY HATTER talked about some of the great history of Rotary and was influenced by those that served in Rotary before us.



SONG:

JAY CRAWFORD apparently wrote the first song and then complained that it was in the wrong key. Even though the key was too high for JAY, we humored him and sang "Oceanside, my Oceanside." This was followed by "Smile."



Was he playing politics? ... PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL acknowledged KIM, JAY and LARRY as three great Rotary members and led us in a round of applause. (Your reporter, however, was thinking about taking a knee as a silent protest.)

CLUB UPDATES:

This coming Friday, September 29, our district governor SCOTT CARR will be visiting our club. Our board and committee chairs will meet with SCOTT at 11 AM, prior to the regular meeting.

Heritage Park is looking for a few Rotary volunteers to man the Blade building on the weekend of September 30 and October 1 during a special event. Please let Secretary RENEE WENDEE know as soon as possible if you can help out.

Our next away meeting will be Friday, October 6 at the Stone Brewery (310 N. Tremont in Oceanside) from 6 PM until 7:30 PM. This will be promoted as an opportunity for young professional networking, so invite prospective new members to check out our club! The cost will be just \$10 a head (so, compared to our regular meeting prices, you will come out ahead).

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS:



JULIAN DUVAL, speaker

JORDY SPARKS

RUDY VAN HUNNICK. Continuing a new Oceanside tradition, BOB PICKREL (after standing to introduce Dr. TOM CURTIN as “DON”) forgot to introduce RUDY, who was seated right next to him.

KIM HELM, Albuquerque Del Norte club and former member of our club

PRESIDENT'S STUFF:

He may not have his own official gavel to enforce it, but PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL was interrupted by a cell phone as soon as he began his updates. Let the fines begin!

The club had a great time at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant, which included a lot of wine; in fact, the wine consumption that evening exceeded the budgeted amount. Therefore, additional donations were sought by PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL, who actively encouraged members to offer "W(h)iner Dollars" during "Happy Dollars" time.



DAVID NYDEGGER figured in media coverage this past week, running the Harbor Days Nail and Sail competition which was covered extensively by the press. DAVID said that in 17 years he had never sunk or sailed a boat in the Nail and Sail. Apparently thinking this meant that he was also up on his local trivia knowledge, he offered to go "double or nothing" on his \$25 Nail and Sail Notoriety fine and challenged PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL to see if he could name today's speaker's multiple pets. CHUCK took note of one dog, two cats, and a Madagascar Gecko, which was the correct answer, and DAVE was now out \$50.



Continuing with a "fine" tradition, our wayward secretary RENEE WENDEE was back home after not attending two of our Rotary meetings and paid out \$25. (This is nothing ... Your reporter can miss lots more than two meetings without even taking a breath!) RENEE did show off some club banners from the four clubs she made up at during her travels, including a club which was 50 years old and only last year inducted their first woman. She also thanked ANCHISA FARRANT for making arrangements with the Thailand Rotary.



LES NEWQUIST and his ringing cell phone were fined \$5. LES inadvertently called PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL “ma’am “and his fine was doubled to \$10. Just because PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL is without his gavel is no reason to call him ma’am (although your reporter did

find the president to be a little overly sensitive in this age of gender bending).

HAPPY DOLLARS:

The following members were happy to make a payment into the wine fund:



BOB PICKREL \$10



RON MARBEN \$10



DAVE HALL \$10



VICKIE PROSSER \$20, both the for wines and for her upcoming trip to visit her wonderful grandchildren in Boise, Idaho.



PAM MEYERS \$5 doesn't drink but was happy to contribute
KIM HELM \$10 happy to be with us once again.



DR. BILL DERN was \$5 happy about getting to see his grandchildren.



ERNIE MASCITTI was \$17, having found an anniversary celebration check that he had written back then, but did not bring to the meeting.



JIM SCHRODER was \$5 excited to be going with the group to the Moonlight Amphitheatre (and dinner at Chin's) that night.







RUDY VAN HUNNICK gave \$20, remembering his time at the San Diego Foundation and his love of the San Diego Botanic Garden.



TOM BRAULT let us know that his part in the musical “Billy Elliot” (playing at San Diego Musical Theatre thru October 8 – Selected by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle as a “Must See”) is so energetic and intense and he offered one happy dollar for every pound he had lost during rehearsals over the past week, which was 8 pounds, meaning \$8.



NANCY RUSSIAN gave \$20 with happiness for a friend turning age 99, and asking for prayers as her sister undergoes medical treatment.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING:



JIM SCHRODER AND ANCHISA FARRANT pulled the winning tickets and competed with each other in the Bean Bag Toss. ANCHISA kicked some serious butt and JIM was sent whimpering back to his table.



Then without flinching an eyebrow, and with stunning poise, ANCHISA drew the Joker and won \$1000, becoming your reporter's new best friend! ANCHISA fell to the ground in celebration kicking her feet and arms into the air; then jumped up and ran from table to table yelling in Siamese (Central Thai) "IN YOUR FACE"!!!



Okay, maybe your reporter exaggerated the last part just a little bit, but the celebration and excitement was real!

PROGRAM:

JULIAN DUVAL is the president/CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden, located in Encinitas. JULIAN came on board in 1995 when the Garden had estimated only about two years' worth of funding left to carry on, and yet, 22 years later, the Garden has expanded staff and volunteers, modified its footprint and entered into mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring organizations.



The Garden was originally a 32 acre ranch purchased by Charles and Ruth Larabee in 1917. After living at the ranch by herself for some time, Ruth deeded the property to the County of San Diego. The story that had made the rounds was that Charles was lost at sea in

1950. JULIAN related this story at one of his prior speaking engagements, and was corrected by a lady who said that story is not true. Actually, the truth was that “a hussy took him away.”

Ruth donated the land to San Diego County in 1957. The 700 foot square-foot house onsite has an ocean view, and JULIAN showed us a 1943 photo of the Encinitas Rotary, of which Charles was a member.

In 1951, ground was broken on what would eventually be known as Quail Gardens. In 1971 the Ecke family donated 4.2 additional acres. In October 1993, financial problems for San Diego County were so severe that the gardens were placed under a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Sally Sandler eventually wrote a book on the Larrabee’s. They hailed from Kansas and never had children of their own. But they were involved in much volunteer work for the children in San Diego.

The mission statement of the gardens today is “To inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature.” Currently, annual attendance is 250,000.



Among the unique features of the garden is Sam - a Galápagos tortoise weighing 568 pounds. JULIAN related the history that, while he was growing up in Chicago, his family received this turtle in 1966. As the turtle grew larger and larger, his mother eventually decided that it was no longer fit for their residence, and Sam was shipped off to a suitable new home in California in 1969. In an odd quirk of fate, eight years ago JULIAN discovered that Sam was living in Fallbrook. The lady that had him knew that the tortoise had a much longer lifespan and she wanted to make sure that it would be cared for. Now Sam and JULIAN are reunited at the gardens. The tale of Sam’s being lost and found again was written up by JULIAN’s wife LESLIE DUVAL in the award-winning children’s book entitled “Too Big to Lose.” JULIAN reported that



Sam is very friendly and will respond if his name is called. Children and others with special needs are often brought out to meet Sam, and he is used extensively as a therapy animal.



A unique and noteworthy plant at the garden is the corpse flower, which smells like a dead animal when it blooms. Ironically, there are some people who have complained that “it doesn’t smell that bad”, despite its name and the hype.

The San Diego Botanic Garden is a place to connect with nature. The garden has a bamboo garden, subtropical fruit garden, African garden, tropical rain forests and Mexican garden. Other gardens that can be found on site include the South African desert garden, New Zealand garden, Austrian garden, the Hamilton Children’s Garden, and of course California garden landscapes.

Part of the mission for the garden is to provide access to the underserved. The Blue Star Museum program allows military members and their families to attend the garden without charge during the summer months. As JULIAN noted, many military families scrape to survive and this is an opportunity to provide entertainment and education for the children of military families.

Part of the master plan for the garden is a 7400 sq. ft. glass conservatory as part of the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. It will feature a multi-purpose main hall with tropical plant chandeliers, elegant glass and metal designs, and state-of-the-art lighting and audio/video system. Also planned is a kitchen for cooking classes, farm to table events, and catering needs, and an outdoor amphitheater with stage, lighting and seating for 265 patrons.



PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL gifted our speaker with the traditional TERI, Inc decorative box filled with an arrangement of plants, which pleased JULIAN greatly.



Speaking of boxes, TOM BRAULT sauntered up to the front of the room to give PRESIDENT CHUCK SANS GAVEL yet another chance to choose one of three boxes in the hope of retrieving the lost official gavel. CHUCK asked the lucky lady of the day ANCHISA to pick the number and, lo

and behold, Box number 2 did indeed contain the prized piece of wood. And so our President then energetically clanged the bell to end the meeting. He immediately apologized for ringing the bell so loudly, but heck, he was just so excited to get his gavel back! (... Now we will have to wait and see just how long he will be able to keep it in his possession. However, the fact that he had turned his back and walked away from the podium again today with RENEE's stunt gavel sitting there ripe for the taking, giving any potential gavel grabbers in the group yet another chance to pull off another heist, is not a good sign. TOM should probably keep those boxes in reserve – We will probably need to use them again!)



ROTARIAN OUT AND ABOUT ... IN COSTUMES!

In Happy Dollars, TOM BRAULT mentioned the play he is in: "Billy Elliot." A couple of Rotarians have already seen the production and have given two thumbs up apiece. In this show, TOM plays a boxing coach, a coal miner, Santa Claus and 1980's British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. If you don't believe me about that last one, check out this sneak preview of his costume at the top of Act Two in the number "Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher."



And check out the costumes that TOM and his fellow Disney Geek daughter GERILYN wore to "Mickey's Halloween Party" at Disneyland on Monday. They could tell who the true Disney Nerd / Fans were at the Party because they were the ones who recognized their characters: Figment and the Dreamfinder from EPCOT Center's original "Journey Into Imagination" attraction.

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

September 29 – SCOTT CARR, Official District Governor visit
Reporter: TOM BRAULT

October 6 – **DARK for Evening Social at Stone Brewery**
310 N. Tremont in Oceanside from 6 to 7:30 pm (*Will there be another Pictionary Challenge??? Inquiring minds want to know.*)

October 13 – JIM O'MEARA, South Africa Rotary Global Grant
Reporter: DAVE HALL

October 20 – SCOTT McDONALD (Del Mar Rotary), McDonald Foundation
Reporter: JANET BLEDSOE LACY

October 27 – KIM GIBBENS, San Diego Center for the Blind
Reporter: BILL DER