

*April 12, 2024*

Co-President Elect **PAUL WENDEE** entered our meeting room with about 10 minutes to spare after flying in from Chicago to San Diego Friday morning after a business trip. Accordingly, he attributed any errors uttered to a case of “jet lag!”



He then called up our Madam Secretary Extra-Ordinaire Past President Countless Times **RENEÉ RICHARDSON** to provide us with the Club Updates, which included the following announcements:

### **CLUB UPDATES**

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Board Reminder – Retreat tomorrow 9:45 to noon – Originally intended to be held on an Oceanside Harbor Boat Ride!** This fun idea ended with a fizzle when our Madam Secretary changed the venue to her place in Vista due to the threat of rain on Saturday, as well as really cold weather (for us spoiled Californians). We pledged to reschedule the boat ride for another day.

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Oceanside Rotary’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! Heritage Park 220 Peyri Drive, Oceanside. Set up starts at 9:00 am. Please call, text, or email Renee with your availability to volunteer (760)518-5076, [rotaryrenee@cox.net](mailto:rotaryrenee@cox.net). Volunteers are still needed!**

Events and opportunities between 11:00 AM to 2:00 include the following: FOOD! Gabby's Food truck on site for food purchases; Handel’s Homemade Ice Cream (and more!!) will be on-site, and the first 100 people who arrive will get a free scoop of Handel’s ice cream. Oceanside Rotary will give away Rotary backpacks to the first 100 people who arrive. Music

will be provided by the live band Soul Seekers. Dance troupes who will perform include Tau'tiare Polynesian and Ballet Folklorico Tapatio. Jiu-Jitsu will be an ongoing demonstration. There will be a Children's Activity Area. There will be an On-Site Vaccine Clinic. Rotary 5340 will provide an International Exchange Scholarship Booth. Other participants will be Lifeline, Brother Benno's, Breakwater Church, Ivey Ranch, and the Women's Resource Center. At 1:15, the following presentations and commendations will occur: Oceanside Major Esther Sanchez; Fernando Hernandez - District Rep. from Senator Catherine Blackespear's Office from District 38; and Don Fipps, the Rotary District Governor 5340. WOW!

### **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> -**

**Regular meeting at the El Camino Country Club: Program will be President of the Army Navy Academy – Peggy Combs.**

**District 5340 District Conference Cruise.** The **2024 Rotary** District 5340 Conference will be held on a 3-night **cruise** April 26 to 29, 2024 aboard Royal Caribbean to Ensenada! We have a casual, fun, educational, relaxing, and affordable weekend planned on the Navigator of the Seas - an award winning, newly amped Royal Caribbean ship. It is 138,000 tons, has 14 decks, and holds 3,386 passengers. In addition to our Rotary events, you can enjoy activities such as laser tag, an escape room, the flowrider, or the longest waterslide at sea. Entertainment includes ice skating shows, Broadway style productions, pub performances, a casino, and fitness classes!

### **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Goat for Joe Golf Tournament and Mental Health Fair –DANA ALBERT**



shared the details of this event which has been supported by him and his wife **ANDREA**, and hosted by the San Marcos Rotary Club Foundation, at the Oceanside Goat Hill Golf Course, 2323 Goat Hill Drive. This event is far more than an opportunity to play golf! There will be a North County Mental Health Resource Fair from 10:00 - 1:00 with at least 15 different mental health providers onsite at the golf course. Family and children's activities during the Health Fair include a petting zoo, games and playground access at Goat Hill. There is a **PLAYGROUND CHALLENGE!** Come Early to play in 4-Person Team Aggregate Score on the 3-Hole Playground Course. The



playground opens at 10:30 AM, with a Maximum Score of 4 per player to speed up play for the Challenge.

There is an Individual Putting Contest, and a Shotgun Start this year at 1:00 PM. Dinner and Awards gathering with Entertainment will take place from 6:00-8:00 PM.

This event was created in memory of Joseph Aaron Nunez, Andrea's brother, who passed away by suicide in March 2017. There are several families in North County San Diego that may have a "Joe" in their lives that is struggling with mental illness such as suicidal behavior, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or some other debilitating mental disability. The primary beneficiary of the funds raised at this event will be True Care Behavioral Health Division. To register and/or purchase tickets for the various events see <https://birdease.com/goatforjoe>.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

**DAN QUISENBERRY** of the **CARLSBAD HIGH NOON ROTARY CLUB**, as he was introduced, announced that his club will be hosting a raffle drawing **APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>** to support scholarships for students who want to attend college or a trade/technical school. If you want to support this Scholarship Raffle, tickets are available this week at \$20 for one ticket; 6 tickets for \$100. Checks to CHNR Club Foundation, PO Box 130175, Carlsbad 92013 OR a HI-Noon Rotarian. (Tickets may NOT be sold online via State regulations.) First prize is \$5,000; 2nd prize is \$1,500; 3rd prize is a gift basket with a value of at least \$1,000. **DRAWING** on Monday, April 22 at the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary meeting at the Westin, Carlsbad at 1pm.



**ED PARISH** introduced his loving partner sweet **ANNE SPERAW**. **DALE MAAS** introduced **ADRIANNA FURTADO**, of **OPERATION HOPE OF NORTH COUNTY**. **DAN WILSON** identified our speaker

**JOE FITZGERALD** of **VETERANS FOR ALL VOTERS**, as well as he introduced **REESE HARRIS**, a member of **RANKED CHOICE VOTING**.



**TOM BRAULT** was generously volunteered by others to lead us in singing the **WELCOME SONG**.

Madam Secretary Extra-Ordinaire Past President Countless Times **RENEÉ RICHARDSON** then announced **ROTARIAN HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**, bringing up **BOB PICKREL** who was \$94 Happy; **ERNIE MASCITTI**, who was \$80 Happy, and **ANCHISA FARRANT**, who was \$68 Happy.



Thereafter, **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**, were announced, including **PAUL WENDEE** and **RENEÉ RICHARDSON** who were celebrating 7 years of marriage, and **BOB PICKREL**, with 73 years of wedded bliss with his beautiful bride, **DARLENE**.



## **OCEANSIDE ROTARY GIVES TO THE COMMUNITY**

Co – President Elect **PAUL WENDEE** called up **ADRIANNA FURTADO**, who is the **DIRECTOR of RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT for OPERATION HOPE – NORTH COUNTY**, to present her with a \$1,500 check. **ADRIANNA** then shared with us that **OPERATION HOPE** has extended support to over 1,800 individuals, half of whom are children, who are facing the rising cost of housing and living, who may be facing homelessness for the first time in their lives. Many of these parents and their children are escaping situations of domestic violence. **OPERATION HOPE** can provide temporary housing, and can stabilize the family with a case manager; educate the parent/s to improve their own self-sufficiency; take action to arm them with the skills needed to secure employment and build their independence.



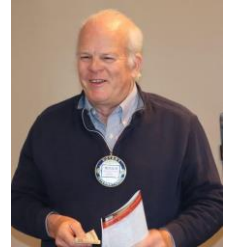
## **HAPPY DOLLARS:**

**DAN WILSON** was **\$5 HAPPY** to announce that the **OCEANSIDE HIGH SCHOOL ROTARY ROBOTICS TEAM** had risen to compete in the World Championship in



Texas! The team will be part of 200 regional robotics competitors, and the club needs funds to help pay for the trip. So if you are interested in helping this worthy cause, make checks payable to Oceanside High School PTSO (a designated 501(c)3 - EIN 77-0684642), and add “Wild Raccoons #8891” to the memo. Mailing address is David Fogliatti, Attn. OHS PTSO – Robotics Fundraiser, 1 Pirates Cove, Oceanside, Ca. 92054. To pay online, use PayPal.

**ROGER VANDERWERKEN** was **\$10 HAPPY** to share that he had attended the musical *Crazy For You* at Palomar College and saw a magnificent performance by **TOM BRAULT** who played one of the lead characters.



**LES NEWQUIST** shared that (in a turn of events which seemed incredible to him) his second son was turning 40 years old...He remembered when this son had just gotten his driver’s license and asked to borrow the car to drive from Carlsbad to Escondido to visit a friend. As time passed on, **LES** received a phone call from his son, who confessed that he was lost. When **LES** inquired of his son, “Well, where are you?” his son responded, “The Coronado Bridge...” Remember – this was a trip from Carlsbad to Escondido and back! **LES** was **\$20 HAPPY**.

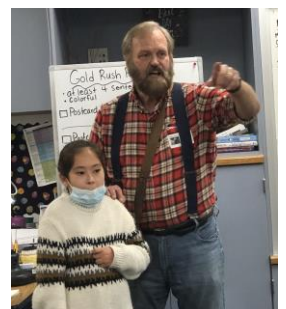


**DAN QUISENBERRY** of the **CARLSBAD HIGH NOON ROTARY CLUB** was **\$5 HAPPY** to share that the California Surf Museum of Oceanside, 312 Pier View Way, Oceanside (760)721-6876, is now exhibiting The Science of Surfing which is a first-class exhibit on the history of surfing and so much more!



**BOB PICKREL** was **\$46 HAPPY** for his 46 years in Rotary. (April is always an expensive month for **BOB**, needing to open his checkbook to cover his birthday, wedding anniversary, and club anniversary all in the same month!)

**TOM BRAULT** was **\$25 HAPPY** to the Rotary International Foundation to announce that he had just finished the first of this spring’s presentations doing something that he loves, and that is dressing up as a California gold rush 49’er and giving a history lesson on that experience to various school classes for kids. He



was especially pleased that he was able to get through the entire hour and 45 minute one man show without any lapses in memory.

**DARREL LARSON** was **\$10 HAPPY** to announce that his company, **SAWYER PRODUCTS**, which provides (amongst other things) clean water filtering systems to impoverished countries around the world, had just been awarded the **4 STAR CHARITY NAVIGATOR AWARD**. **HOORAY DARREL** for all that you do for so many!



Our perennial guest **RUDY VAN HUNNICK** was **\$40 HAPPY** to be at our Rotary club meeting.



## **SPEAKER**



**DAN WILSON** introduced our speaker, but started first by saying that “Something has to be really important for me to bring yet another Navy person to this club!” **DAN** shared that he had served 26 years in the Army, and that he has a passion for the topic of providing access to voting for all military members of our community, as does our speaker, Navy man **JOE FITZGERALD**. **DAN** shared that **JOE** attended the Naval Academy and has served 11 years in the Navy flying Black Hawk helicopters. **JOE** has continued his public service by currently serving in the Navy Reserves. **JOE** has 2 children under the age of 3, and is busy supporting our country and our democracy by trying to improve and reform our election system by working with **VETERANS FOR ALL VOTERS**, as described hereafter.

**DAN** and **JOE** stated that they believe that approximately half of all veterans are registered as Independents (a non-partisan politician or person not affiliated with any political party or bureaucratic association), which can eliminate them from voting in many Primary Elections. The United States is well-known for its polarized political system. Every year, it feels like the gap between Democrats and Republicans grows. The two major parties may dominate in elections, but they aren’t the only parties you can choose to affiliate yourself with. According to a Gallup survey conducted in January 2024, 45% of Americans identify as an independent voter, 25% identify as Republican, and 27% align with the Democratic Party. Independent Voting, a national communication and organizing center for independents, says

people often become independents when they grow weary of the two-party system, and no longer identify with the strategies or policies of the dominant parties. You are not required to state your political party when you register to vote. Even if you do, you have the freedom to vote outside of your party affiliation in general elections, such as presidential and congressional elections. For example, even if you are registered with another party or as an Independent, in the general election you can still vote for a Democratic candidate. Many independents lean towards one party and end up voting for a candidate from that party, although they may still not agree with the party in general. This offers Independents the opportunity to influence the agendas of the dominant parties.

Political parties use primaries, such as presidential primaries, to choose the candidate who will run on behalf of the party in the general election. Some states (including Florida, Delaware, New Jersey, Oregon, and more) hold closed primary elections. This means that if you are not registered with a party which is represented on the ballot, likely Democrat or Republican, you may not get to vote in the primary and have a say over who moves on to the general election. The good news for Independents is that in some states, the Democratic Party has opened up their primary ballot to Independents.

**VETERANS FOR ALL VOTERS** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to build and mobilize a community of military veterans to advocate for election innovations that unlock competition, make our politics less polarizing and our government more effective. They say that “We are focused on implementing specific election innovations across the country.” The members of **VETERANS FOR ALL VOTERS** believe that our current political environment too often is toxic and focused on extreme partisan rhetoric. The members state that they simply do not engage in this behavior.

“We do not demonize, dehumanize or disown anyone because of their political (or any other) beliefs. We are laser-focused on the three innovations we champion: open primaries, voting innovations and Final-Five Voting.” Their mission statement indicates that “We act with urgency because our mission is critical and we say no to everything else. There are no silver bullets or political saviors to quickly fix our dysfunctional, toxic political system. Implementing our targeted election innovations will take time, wisdom and true cross-partisan coalition building. Banding together, from across the

country and across the political spectrum, we do our duty as we understand it.

Having fun while working hard to implement powerful systematic innovations that fundamentally change the incentives in our anti-competitive two-party ‘duopoly.’

All while pursuing with the ambitious goal of saving American democracy from the two-party doom loop: partisan extremism, gridlock and dangerous division.”

With so many “safe” districts, in 75% of elections, the outcome is determined in the first round of voting—the primary. This means 75% of elected officials in this country are winning office without having to communicate with voters outside their own party. Despite a record turnout in the 2020 election cycle, only 10% of eligible Americans nationwide cast ballots in the primary elections that effectively decided the winners in a supermajority (83%) of Congressional seats.

Final Five Voting describes a new election system consisting of an open primary election to narrow the field down to five candidates for each office followed by a ranked choice runoff general election to determine the majority winner. The first step of this system is to eliminate party primaries. Instead, there is a single preliminary election open to all candidates and all voters regardless of party. Secondly, we would eliminate plurality voting. In the November general election, we can use instant runoffs to sequentially eliminate the lower vote-getters until you get down to the final two candidates, at which point majority wins. To determine the winner, after the ballots are counted:

1. The first-choice votes are tallied. If a candidate has 50% or more of the vote at this point, they are named the winner.
2. If no candidate has 50% support, the process of instant runoffs begins wherein the candidate who was in last place is eliminated.
3. Voters who had ranked the eliminated candidate first in their ranked choice list now have their single vote automatically transferred to their next choice of the remaining candidates.



4. The votes are tallied again. And this runoff process continues until one candidate hits the 50% threshold and is named the winner with a true majority.

Co-President Elect **PAUL WENDEE** thanked **JOE FITZGERALD** for his presentation and indicated that the Rotary Club would be donating a book to the Oceanside Library in his name in thanks for his presentation to our Club.

### **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A GUEST IN OUR DRAWING**

Our Co-President of the Day had to be reminded of how our Opportunity Drawing works. As it turned out, after a seemingly interminable delay as no one seemed to be in possession of the chosen numbered ticket, guest **DAN QUISENBERRY** of the **CARLSBAD HIGH NOON ROTARY CLUB** eventually realized that he was the holder of the winning Opportunity Drawing ticket, but, alas, he did not pick the winning card! This leaves the money pot full for our next meeting!



With the club business completed, Co-President Elect **PAUL** retrieved his gavel from his pocket to bang the bell to close our meeting.

### **DO YOU HAVE AN OCEANSIDE ROTARY MEMORY TO SHARE?**

As part of our end of the year dinner on June 28, at which will share some highlights of our club from its first 100 years, we plan to have a few members share a favorite memory of theirs about Oceanside Rotary. Do YOU have a story to tell? ... It could be about a special service project, a moving interaction with a student or community member we helped, or even just a funny episode that will tickle our collective funny bones. Please email your ideas for a short and sweet (no more than 2 minute) story to our dinner skit mastermind **TOM BRAULT** by Friday, May 10. We will choose a few memories to be an integral part of our year end celebration.

### **IRONMAN 70.3 OCEANSIDE 2024 VOLUNTEERS**

A small but determined group of Rotarians trudged through the rain to make it to the Junior Seau Community Center for a day of volunteering, signing in

3,500 triathletes and teams from around the world.

Many participants were weary from having to haul their bikes in the rain (and at times, the HAIL!), but their positive and eager attitude was contagious, giving all of us thanks for our time we spent helping them get ready for the daunting athletic journey which laid ahead for them the next day.

("70.3" is the combined distance, in miles, of the competition: 1.2 mile swim in Oceanside Harbor, 56 mile bike ride around Camp Pendleton, and capped by a 13.1 mile run along the coast and even onto the Pier. I'm exhausted just *thinking* about this challenge!)



Fellow Oceanside Rotarians CARRIE CHACON and BRIAN LONG head this event up each year and work countless hours themselves helping make this event something that Oceanside can be proud of!

Volunteering this year were: Co-Presidents Elect, JANET BLEDSOE LACY and PAUL WENDEE (more on him later) , DARREL LARSON, ANCHISA FARRANT, RENEE RICHARDSON, ROGER VANDERWERKEN, JIM SCHRODER, THOMASINA JACKSON, WENDY VASQUEZANZUA, BILL DERN, TOM BRAULT, and SEAN LOWE. We were so busily and diligently taking care of our duties that we weren't able to get a picture of everyone who volunteered, but thanks all around!

Our team arrived at 11:30 am and we just rolled through without breaks because the droves of participants never stopped filing in. Our Co-President Elect PAUL arrived at 3:15 exactly and proceeded to sit down and have lunch, much to the astonishment of members of his club who hadn't had a break! Is this a sign of things to come?

## **ROUTE 78 ROTARY PRESENTS MARIACHI FESTIVAL**

Route 78 Rotary was formed in March of 2013. They serve the greater North County of San Diego, specifically cities along the Route 78 corridor. While this club has Latino affinity, ALL are welcome to join. Their main goal is to serve diverse communities, particularly children and youth in North County.

Co-President Elect PAUL WENDEE and Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON attended that club's signature Mariachi Festival years ago, and then again this year. It is an amazing event and we want to put it on our club's calendar as a Rotary Social next year!



## ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

*(JIM SCHRODER forwarded the following photos and captions which he had received from MIKE WESELOH as he described his experience on a tour of various military historic sites.)*

01 View of landing beach in Guam. (Guam was also ridges, valleys, hills and humid, wet tropical climate.) Once the Marines were secured, the Seabees built air bases to allow the forces to reach the Japan mainland.

02 Saipan invasion beach. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Divisions

03 Some of the cliffs many Saipan Japanese citizens jumped from to their death to avoid capture by American troops

04 The famous Tinian runway which the B29 aircraft took off in atomic bomb missions to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Tinian – a very flat island - was taken in 8 days without many casualties. Guam was a different type of battle (more like Saipan) with hills, ridges. Guam would be the first island where the Americans would be faced with civilians. Many native Guam people would be casualties of this operation.

05 The battle for Guam was brutal. Japanese were dug in these caves, and ground troops had to take them out one at a time. It took 20 days to secure the island.

06 Imagine the damage a Japanese machine gun could do from this position. Peleliu would be an island that did not need to be invaded, but proved to be a brutal and bloody battle.

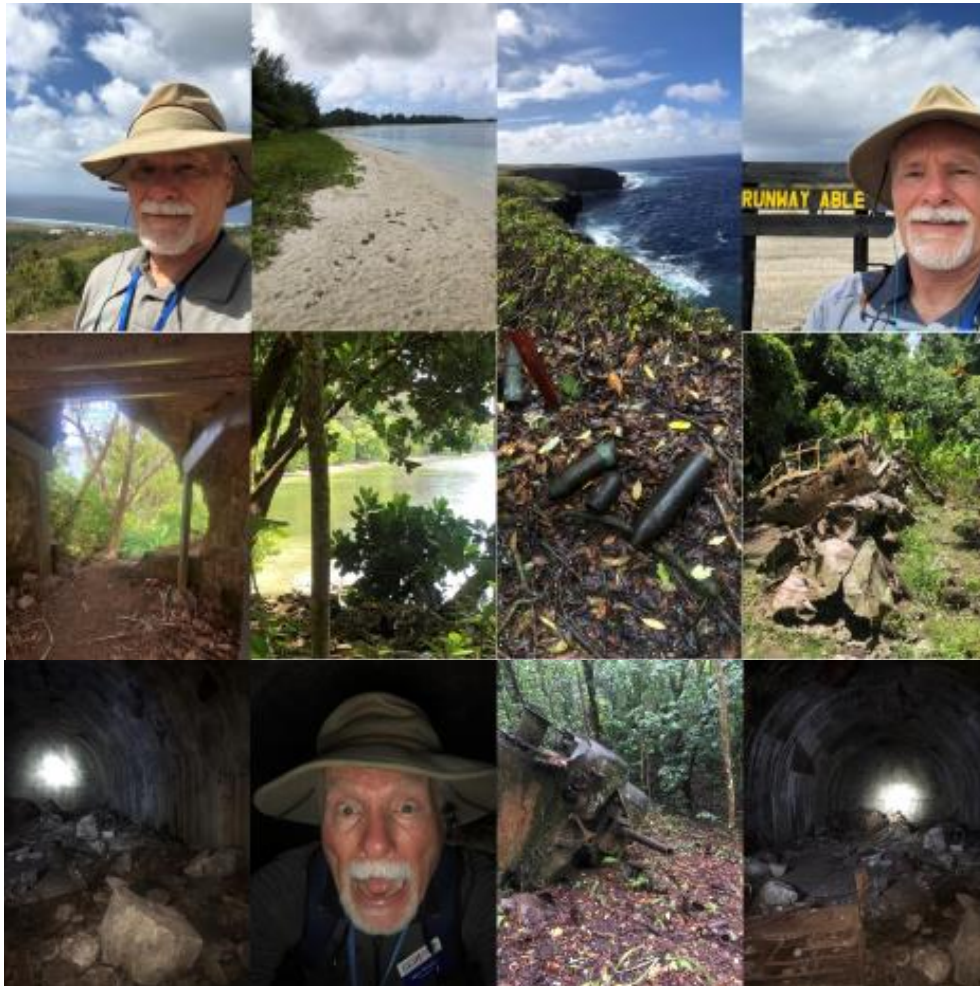
07 Peleliu has artifacts everywhere you go on the island from the battle.

08 Caves all over the island. The Japanese soldiers knew that they would die on Peleliu.

09 YIKES!!

10 Sherman tank that drove over a land mine, instantly killing three Marines and a Captain riding on the back of the tank.

11 Massive Japanese ammunition cave.



**COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY**

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>: Oceanside Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Celebration. Heritage Park (220 Peyri Drive). 11 am to 2 pm.

Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>: Regular meeting, Noon, El Camino Country Club

April 26 – 29: District 5340 Conference Cruise

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>: Regular meeting, Noon, El Camino Country Club

Friday, May 31: Regular meeting, Noon, El Camino Country Club

Friday evening, June 28: Annual Year End Dinner – Celebrating 100 Years of Oceanside Rotary and Presentation of Club Awards