



**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES

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**PRESIDENT
Shor Denny**

2023-2024

August 11, 2023

As a dedicated Shorelines reporter, and with recording punctuality for posterity being one of my main duties, I was seated at the head table with our club President, SHOR DENNY, and our District Governor and guest speaker DONN FIPPS and his wife, DONNA, when I noticed SHOR engaged in deep conversation (some might call it sucking up) with DON and rather oblivious to the quickly approaching 12:30 pm start time for our club meeting. Sure enough, suddenly she realized her pending puncture of protocol and jumped up from the table and ran to the bell to chime in our gathering at precisely 12:30 pm...AND 47 SECONDS. Sorry, SHOR, close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades! A source later told me that they heard RENEE RICHARDSON muttering that she was going to take back over the President position next year to, quote - “get this club back under control” - unquote.



FOUR WAY TEST: SHOR asked THOMASINA JACKSON to lead the club in reciting the Rotary Four Way Test, and as this has been the first meeting that I have been able to attend since the regime changeover, I have to say that I really like the fact that we reinforce our values every time we meet. Great idea, SHOR!



PLEDGE: SHOR asked yours truly to lead the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.



CLUB UPDATES: SHOR asked RENEE to give club updates. RENEE first asked the club to join her in a toast to Rotary and all it stands for, and to partake (if they already had not) of the Rotary Kool-Aid – labeled pouches of which had been strategically placed on all the tables. “Oh, yeah!” Very clever! Other updates included:

RENEE reminded the club that we will be having a joint away meeting in conjunction with the El Camino Rotary Club on Tuesday, August 15th at the Oceanside Broiler from 12:15-1:30 pm. There will be a special guest speaker from Ukraine who will talk about the conflict going on in her country and the hardships the Ukrainians are enduring.

Friday, August 18th – Board Meeting via Zoom at 12:00 pm.

Friday, August 25th – Regular meeting at El Camino CC

Friday, August 25th (evening) - Moonlight Amphitheatre Social and Dinner at Chin's. While it is too late to get tickets to the show, if you'd still like to enjoy dinner with your fellow club members at Chin's, please let Event Chair TOM BRAULT know no later than August 17th so he can give the restaurant an accurate head count for the reservation.

SHOR finished up the club updates by thanking everyone who came out to support the recent health fair, saying that it was an amazing event and there was lots of interest in Rotary by people who visited our booth.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS: THOMASINA introduced repeat visitor BRANDON GARCIA. Welcome back BRANDON, and we hope to see a new member announcement soon! We also welcomed back our Guest Emeritus, RUDY VAN HUNNICK, and it is always so nice to see him doing well. RENEE introduced a new friend of the club, SOTARU YAMASAKI who is originally from Japan but is now enrolled at Palomar College and hoped to transfer into the UC system to study computer design. SOTARU was a Rotary Exchange Student in Ohio a few years ago and was so impressed with what Rotary is all about that he wants to get involved here. In addition to attending our meeting, he has been participating in the San Marcos Rotary Club. So glad to have you here, SOTARU! Last, but certainly not least, SHOR introduced our guests of honor, DISTRICT GOVERNOR DON FIPSS and his wife, DONNA. Sadly missing, for us dog lovers, was their Companion Dog in Training, ROSEBUD, who unfortunately had another commitment. More on that later. DAVE HALL then led the club in a rousing rendition of the Welcome Song, and sitting across from our D.G. I could tell he was impressed. I think we're coming out of our COVID Zoom singing funk nicely!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: SHOR highlighted the club's efforts to provide hygiene items to organizations providing support to the homeless and pointed out the large pile of items that members had brought to the meeting. She mentioned

several organizations that we would be supporting, including North County Lifeline and Together We Rise, and that we would be doing more drives in the future. Our next phase of this event will be at our club meeting on August 25th when we will package up and then deliver the materials we collect.



BIRTHDAYS: TERRI HALL and VICKIE PROSSER were honored on the occasion of their birthday month. TERRI donated \$100 towards her next Paul Harris level contribution, while VICKIE was \$133 happy to be celebrating both a birthday and an anniversary this month. Discretion being the better part of valor, your erstwhile Shorelines reporter decided not to try to clarify the exact details of any of the noted celebrations.

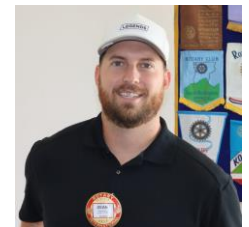


ANNIVERSARIES: I will admit that this is where everything got a little chaotic, and I dare say even a little controversial, and I had a hard time keeping up with the notes.

Congratulations to SEAN LOWE, JANET BLEDSOE LACY, and VICKIE PROSSER for their wedding anniversaries this month. SEAN was \$20 happy, but I couldn't hear if that was for twenty years, or the wedded bliss was worth rounding up. JANET mentioned something about over 100 years of combined anniversaries, but I couldn't tell which ones she was talking about. I did hear VICKIE say that she has been married for 56 years this month.



For club anniversaries, SEAN LOWE is celebrating his one-year mark in the club. Thanks for joining, SEAN. You represent the future of this club. (At this point, from the back of the room, RENEE RICHARDSON took partial credit for SEAN's contributions to the club, noting that "He had the *BEST* Rotary mentor!" ... meaning



herself.) And based on PRESIDENT SHOR'S question, someone who may be representing the past is TOM BRAULT, who has hit 33 years of amazing service to the Oceanside Rotary Club, although he did say (with his tongue firmly planted in his cheek) that only five of those years have been "really good." SHOR then surprised TOM by asking, "Why are you still here?" TOM smiled and with a twinkle in his eye, sheepishly said, "I'm not sure how to take that." SHOR reassured him that she just meant to discern what it is about Oceanside Rotary has made him want to be a member for so long. TOM mentioned

three simple reasons - an awesome club, lifelong friends, and amazing service to our community. TOM concluded his remarks by teasing “Best Rotary Mentor” RENEE, “wishing that she would be more humble.” I heard D.G. DON FIPPS, whisper to his wife, DONNA, “What is going on here?!” Just your typical Oceanside Rotary craziness! All in good fun!

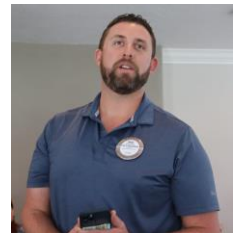
HAPPY DOLLARS: After the previous mayhem, a visibly rattled SHOR tried to regain control, but almost forgot Happy Dollars until prompted by a good citizen sitting nearby and we were able to get back on track. THOMASINA was \$10 happy that her great-granddaughter just turned two years old, and she was another \$10 happy for the great health fair and all the interest in Rotary. She singled out NANCY RUSSIAN and LOLA SHERMAN in particular for their help in making it such a great event.



ERNIE MASCITTI was \$50 happy to the Rotary Foundation just to be alive.



DALE MAAS, who recently returned from a family trip to Scotland where they came across a Rotary Garden by a train station celebrating the local club’s 50 years of service, gave \$20 in happiness for being able to see the worldwide impact of Rotary across the globe. *(See photos and descriptions from this trip in “Rotarians Out and About.”)*



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$20 happy to show off her new red, white, and blue jacket so she will be able to match JANET on patriotic holidays, and for an awesome gift of some sauce pots she received from NANCY RUSSIAN. If you didn’t know, ANCHISA is an amazing chef and is always sharing her delicious dishes with her friends.



And finally, RUDY VAN HUNICK started off by noting that he is traditionally happy for the same amount of the club meeting lunch, which is \$35. He then doubled that for the warm welcome he received, but then wasn’t done there. He noted that in a few days he would be turning 93 (which he also doubled), and when all the RUDY math was done, he gave the club \$256 in Happy Dollars. Thanks so much for your continued generosity, RUDY!

PROGRAM: SHOR introduced our honored guest speaker and District Governor, DON FIPPS, by saying that he is someone who has given his life in service. DON thanked SHOR for her kind words, and then began his remarks by giving a brief history on the tradition of military challenge coins. Sometimes given out when someone is newly assigned to a unit, or often presented by leaders to individuals for their outstanding achievement, the key detail about them is if you have one, you must always carry it with you because if someone challenges you (thus the term challenge coin) to show your coin and you don't have it, you have to buy a round of beverages for everyone present. DON then presented both SHOR and RUDY with his special Rotary challenge coins for their outstanding contributions to Rotary. (Or he could be just spreading his coins around the district so that he can drink for free wherever he goes!)



Don Fipps
Rotary District
5340
District Governor
(2023-24)



DON finished his opening remarks by presenting the club with a framed certificate from Rotary International in recognition of our upcoming 100-year anniversary, and hinted strongly that he hoped he would be invited back next April for the big shindig. Like I said, if you get a coin from DON, you better have it on you. I smell an ambush!

DON then introduced us via Powerpoint to Rosebud, a nine-month-old yellow lab puppy that he and DONNA are raising and training to be a service dog. As a dog lover and the owner of my own yellow lab that has stolen a piece of my heart, DON immediately addressed the question that was foremost in my mind, "How do you let go of a dog like that and give it



to someone else?" In response to that question, DON then told the story of the first dog they raised back in 2010, a black Lab named Daphne. He said, while it was hard letting her go, as soon as they saw pictures of Daphne comforting her new companion, who was a teenage boy with Spina Bifida, it made their hearts fill with joy for the part they had been able to play in making that happen. DON then showed pictures of several other dogs they have raised for the organization Canine Companions and remarked how every one of them had gone on to make a difference in someone's life.

Jumping way back in time, DON then told us about growing up in Delano, CA and attending Delano High School. Fun fact that I did not know: Delano is just north of Bakersfield. Anyway, DON told us that he was at a senior assembly one night, not paying much attention to what was going on, when he heard his name called to come forward and be recognized. When he got to the podium, a man from the local

Rotary Club presented him with a scholarship check for \$500, which in today's dollars would equal close to \$3000! Using that money, DON enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he then enrolled in ROTC as the start of a great career in the Army. Also at Cal Poly he participated in the Rose Parade Float Committee where he met his future bride to be, DONNA. The moral of the story? DON said that none of that would have happened without Rotary! Now that's impact!

After retiring from the Army, DON's first civilian job was working for the American Red Cross in Wilkes Barre, PA. DON remembered his leadership asking employees to get involved in local service organizations as a way to increase blood donations, so DON immediately thought of Rotary and joined a local club only to find out that almost every single member of the club was already a blood donor! DON stayed anyway, and like what happens in most Rotary Clubs, he soon made some dear friends and did a lot of cool activities. When the club President left the area, DON was the President Elect and started preparing to assume his duties as President, but before he could, the Red Cross terminated his position and he and DONNA were forced to relocate.

Their next home was in West Sacramento working for a company NOT called the American Red Cross. DON and DONNA soon joined the local Rotary Club, which coincidentally met on Friday afternoons, so DON used the Rotary meetings as a good excuse to not go back to work and thereby start his weekend early! Wow, sounds familiar! DON soon found himself as the editor in chief of the club's weekly newsletter, The Buzzsaw, and did that job faithfully for four years and was in line to be the next President of that club when his employer terminated his position again! Gee, DON, I'm not a smart man, but could it have been all those missed Friday afternoon workdays?

So, fate, or DON's Rotary-enabled habitual long weekend work performance, brought them to San Diego where they have happily resided ever since. After joining the Del Mar club, DON was quickly ratted out by a "friend" about his experience putting together club newsletters, so for another four years he ran the club newsletter for Del Mar. DON soon found himself in line to be President of the club, but not wanting to tempt fate for the third time waited for a few years to fully retire and ensure they weren't going to have to pick up stakes and move again when his club would be counting on him to lead.

Since becoming District Governor, DON has started a committee in the district focused on helping military families, as San Diego County has the largest number of active-duty military members in the country and one of the largest populations

of veterans in California. Knowing our club has several veterans on its rolls, DON mentioned that if anyone would like to get involved in the committee, they could get in touch with him. DON mentioned several organizations which are doing amazing work helping military and veteran families, including Canine Companions, the same organization they are training dogs for, as well as Warrior Warehouse on Camp Pendleton which has helped over 48,000 military families with gently used household goods and other necessities; Workshops for Warriors that provides trade training and certification to veterans; and the Fisher House, which is the military equivalent to Ronald McDonald House.

DON finished his outstanding presentation by announcing an awesome upcoming event, the 2024 District Conference Cruise which will set sail from Los Angeles from 26-29 April 2024. The itinerary will take attendees to Ensenada and back aboard Royal Caribbean's Navigator of the Seas. On this trip, you can have the opportunity to check out the Thousand Smiles Rotary-sponsored dental clinic, or participate in Rotarians at Work projects in Ensenada, or just explore Ensenada on your own, or stay onboard the ship and relax. For more details, or to register, you can go this link: <https://form.jotform.com/231616906722052>.



The club gave DON a standing ovation, and SHOR and RENEE presented DON with a nice card, and a “doggie” bag full of wine and other treats along with a food bowl labeled especially for Rosebud.



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: Your “trusty” reporter was so busy looking at his tickets in the vain hope that he might finally win - and then sinking into the depths of despair when he did not - that he forgot to note who actually won the drawing this week. Thanks to Editor in Chief TOM for reminding me that JANET BLEDSOE LACY held the winning ticket, although I can remember seeing through my burning tears of defeat that the Joker remains up for grabs, so there's still a chance for the rest of us at the big bucks!



ADJOURNMENT: SHOR adjourned the meeting at 1:29 pm. (Sorry, SHOR, no making up for lack of punctuality on the back end!)

VOTE EARLY AND VOTE OFTEN!

As described in the message which RENEE forwarded to us, Oceanside Rotary has been named a finalist in the San Diego Reader's listing for the "Best Local Charity" in the county. Now it is up to us and our family and friends and strangers who can be bought off at reasonable bribe levels to stuff the ballot box. Go to <https://vote.sandiegobestof.com/attractions-life-and-people/best-local-charity> and sign in to cast your vote for your favorite club. According to the rules, each registered email address can vote daily in this contest from now until September 6. So, as the headline here says, "VOTE EARLY AND VOTE OFTEN!"

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

As mentioned in Happy Dollars, DALE MAAS took his family for their first trip to Europe and had some great times in Scotland.

- 01 - Moments after we survived 15 hours of travel and a little sleep.
- 02 - View of the Edinburgh Castle from our Hotel
- 03 - First evening welcome dinner, you can tell we were ready for bed with the time change and overnight flight.
- 04 - Swilcan Bridge, along the 18th fairway at The Old Course, maybe the most famous golf course in the world.
- 05 - Cuteness
- 06 - Us touring Stirling Castle
- 07 - Feeling Noble
- 08, 09, 10 - Seeing the impact of Rotary 6,000 miles away. Rotary Club of North Berwick celebrating 50 years of service with a community garden near the train station.
- 11 - Most spectacular round of golf I have experienced, in a little village 45 min from Edinburgh, North Berwick.
- 12 - Making the best of a day and a half in London. A bridge over the Thames.
- 13 - A spin on the London Eye
- 14 - Parliament building
- 15 - Buckingham Palace.

Cheerio, mates!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, August 18th, Board Meeting via Zoom @noon



Friday, August 25th, Regular Meeting El Camino Country club @noon. Speaker: MAX DISPOSTI – LGBTQ + Community Resource Center

Friday, August 25th, Rotary Social at Moonlight Amphitheatre. Showtime 8 pm. Dinner at 6 pm at Chin’s Szechwan on Vista Way for those interested in dining together before the show. (NOTE: You can join us for the dinner, even if you do NOT have a ticket with us to see the show, but you have to get your name in to Event Chair TOM BRAULT by Thursday August 17 to get included in this reservation. Tick, Tock!!)

Friday, September 8th, Regular Meeting El Camino Country club @noon.

Friday, September 22nd, Regular Meeting El Camino Country club @noon.
Speaker: DARREL LAWSON – Sawyer Clean Water

Friday, September 29th, Regular Meeting El Camino Country club @noon.
Speaker: NORTH COUNTY LIFELINE