



**ROTARY CLUB OF  
OCEANSIDE**

**SHORELINES**

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**CO-PRESIDENTS  
AJ Mazzarella &  
Renee Richardson**

*August 12, 2022*

Co-Prezes RENEE RICHARDSON and A. J. MAZARELLA opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. on the dot.

**PLEDGE:** RENEE said she hadn't asked anyone in advance to lead the pledge of allegiance, but she immediately recruited BOB PICKREL, who led the standing Rotarians.



**WHY ROTARY?** It was NANCY RUSSIAN's turn to tell us why she became a Rotarian in the first place and why she's stayed with the organization.



Her story began in 1987 when a man named Les Tarr was her customer at the bank where she worked as a VP and manager. Every week, he would sit at her desk and ask her to make 75 copies of a manually typed newsletter for his El Camino Rotary Club of Oceanside.

He was the consummate Rotarian – 50 years of perfect attendance. “He lived and breathed Rotary.”

I didn't see how I could leave the bank for two hours at lunchtime, “but Les didn't give up. He extolled the virtues of Rotary every week, and, finally, I succumbed.”

There was a head table in those days and guess where Les had me sit? I was 33 and by far the youngest person in the room then.

Everyone was welcoming and friendly – well, almost everyone. There were a few members who still didn't think women belonged in Rotary. Where's JANET?

The first meeting I attended I was blown away when 60 people – almost all men – stood up and belted out “God Bless America” and “Smile.” Then, there was the Welcome Song.

It didn't take long before I was “sold” and inducted into the club.

The red badge, the fireside chats, district council dinners. Greeter. I was soon asked to take over producing the newsletter. Even my staff was involved. And for the next three years, one of my staff typed, photocopied, folded, ran the newsletter through our office postage meter and mailed the newsletter every week.

Some trivia: the job was assigned to a young woman in my office named Wendy Curtis. She later became Wendy Sullivan, and it just so happens she is the niece by marriage of RENEE RICHARDSON. Small world it is in Oceanside.

Soon, I was the weekly program chair, the club PR director and on the club RYLA committee. I had the honor of serving on the board and then was elected the first woman president of the club and attended PETS.

Unfortunately, I was transferred to La Jolla and unable to fulfill my year as president.

Why Rotary?

I believe that Rotary is something different for everyone. For me, it's all that Rotary stands for, for all the community, youth and world service. It's Service Above Self. It's all the projects and all the people whom I've met and worked side by side with. In 2002, I served as the first woman president of the Torrey Pines La Jolla Club.

It's weekly meetings, weekly programs, monthly district council dinners. district assemblies, PETS, international sister clubs across borders, district conferences from Tijuana to the Imperial Valley, it's the fellowship, it's international conventions and demotion dinners, Rotarians at Work Day, GSE, RYLA, Rotary exchange students – my son was an exchange student in Germany when he was 16. It's fresh water wells in Africa and Thousand Smiles in Mexico - and let's not forget Polio Plus and the Paul Harris Foundation. Maybe even Valentine's Day programs. It's the T. G. Vallases, Lee Russells, Knox Williamses, Herb Meyerses, the Steve Browns, Philippe Lamoises and the Les Tarrs.

I've been a member of four different clubs – each with its own personality. Some sing, some don't. Some fine you, and some share Happy Dollars. Some steal the gavel every year, and some freeze the bell every year for the new president – it won't ring if it's frozen. I'm proud to be a member of this – my - Rotary Club of Oceanside. Each of you inspires me in your own way, and I thank you. And while it's not a complete list by far, that's WHY ROTARY.

NANCY then passed around a book version of her Rotary Club Directory from the pre-Club Runner days.

**CLUB UPDATES:** RENEE told us that there will be a Zoom board meeting at noon Aug. 19, a visit from the district governor at noon Aug. 26 with the board meeting with the governor at 11:30 that day, a social at the Moonlight Amphitheatre to see “Ragtime” that evening; a regular meeting on Sept. 9 at noon; and a social and bingo night Saturday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. with \$25 pizza and dessert, BYOB, at DAVE and TERRI HALL's home, 4285 Sunnyhill Drive, Carlsbad. And a separate Chili Cookoff and Bingo Social with the Odd Fellows and Moose Lodge is scheduled for Saturday, October 8th at 5:30 - More details to follow!



RENEE said the health fair in downtown Oceanside on August 11 was well-attended and that SHOR DENNY did not let anyone pass up the Rotary table. She also thanked BILL DERN, ANCHISA FARRANT and ERNIE MASCITTI for showing up and helping out. (See RENEE's report on this project with photos at the end of the newsletter.)



A J. asked for **INTRODUCTIONS** of visitors:

BRAD FISHER, BOB REINSETH, SARAH ROURKE, speaker CHRIS NODINE and soon-to-be-member SEAN LOWE. And, of course, our perennial visitor, RUDY VAN HUNNICK, Arriving later was RAFAELLA ANGELIDOU.

RENEE asked TERRI to lead the WELCOME SONG since TERRI had felt left out of the shortlist of songmeisters called upon at the previous meeting.

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION;** RENEE conducted the ceremonies for SEAN LOWE. He was \$20 happy to be a new member of Rotary.



**BIRTHDAYS:** TOMMY THOMPSON and new member DARREL LARSON were not present. VICKIE PROSSER's b'day was Aug. 2, and she gave \$200 to the club foundation. (Included into that \$200 check was her anniversary and her Happy Dollars for a wonderful trip to Boise, ID, Jackson, WY and Cody, WY to see her son and his family as well as see Yellowstone and attend the Yellowstone Beer Fest!) TERRI HALL gave an IOU for \$50 for her birthday to the foundation and another \$20 to Polio Plus. BILL DERN led a Happy Birthday song to the Rotarians.



**ANNIVERSARIES** – VICKIE is celebrating 55 years of married life and JANET BLEDSOE LACY, 48 years.

**ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES:** TOM BRAULT, 32 years; BILL DERN, 24 years.



**HAPPY DOLLARS:**

NANCY RUSSIAN, \$10, her granddaughter Sophia's birthday.



BILL DERN, \$20 “happy and sad”- he was in Seattle for his oldest son's belated 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration, but several members of the family (two sons and daughters-in-law) came down with COVID. Baby Brooke, 12 weeks old, had a fever and a rash. TOM BRAULT and wife, LINDA, were having fun in Vermont, Montreal, Quebec City and Portland, but a ski-lift apparatus in Vermont caused Linda to tumble halfway over the front of the seat, making a trip to the ER necessary. (*See the shocking photo in our “Out and About” section below.*)





ERNIE MASCITTI was \$20 happy to the club and \$80 happy to its foundation.



TINA ORTIZ said RENEE has her club anniversary wrong, but it's two years in Oceanside Rotary and 23 years in the San Luis Rey Club for a total of 25, so she donated \$25 for our club foundation.



SHOR DENNY gave \$20 for Rotary's peacemaker role and also to mention that our newest member SEAN LOWE had been helpful to her with some financial matters. (SHOR said that she knew that she could trust him because his eyes seemed so honest.)

TERRI HALL gave \$10 happy dollars because three Rotarians came to the recent bingo fundraiser at her house to support scholarships: ED PARISH, ANNE SPERAW, and LYN CORDER. LYN won and donated some of her winnings back. TERRI encouraged everyone to join the upcoming Rotary Bingo Social for pizza and prizes on Saturday, September 10.



RUDY VAN HUNNICK gave \$100 because the Chevy dealership formerly owned by Rotarian MIKE WESELOH's family was keeping his HUMMER humming.



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$5 happy that ERNIE MASCITTI allowed her free reign to pluck figs off of his tree “before the blackbirds eat them.” (So far, she has taken about 100 of them, with more to come in future pickings.)

**PROGRAM** – ROGER VANDERWERKEN introduced our speaker, CHRIS NODINE, a nuclear engineer. ROGER said when he was a senior at the U. S. Naval Academy his own interview for the then-new Navy nuclear program headed by Adm. Hyman Rickover lasted about three seconds and he felt clearly underqualified, but NODINE succeeded and served in the program.



He served aboard such ships as the USS Nimitz, Ronald Reagan, and Harry S. Truman and was executive officer on the USS Dubuque. Now retired from the Navy after 25 years of service, he works with General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems as a manufacturing engineering manager.



Cmdr. NODINE called this his “first Rotary bit” and said he Googled the organization and found he agrees with its mission of service to others and advancing toward world understanding, goodwill and peace through fellowship and its vision of a world where people unite to create lasting change.

He started college at New Mexico State University on an Air Force ROTC scholarship but after two years the guy who grew up in the desert nearly 800 miles from the nearest ocean found himself in front of a Navy officer recruiter thinking, “Hey, nuclear power seems really interesting.”.

He became a “Nuke” on March 19, 1993.

“Even more unlikely,” NODINE said, was that he showed up in San Diego in 2005 as a supposed short detour from his career on the East Coast for a 14-month tour and is still here 17 years later and with a wonderful wife, Jennipher (a veterinarian) and two amazing kids, Harrison, 8, and Chase 6.

He really did “Join the Navy and See the World”, including seven ships, 70 port visits, 30 different countries, crossing the Equator 10 times and seeing the Rock of Gibraltar 25 times.

NODINE has witnessed nuclear power from the Enterprise to the disaster at Fukushima to the Nevada National Security Site - a crater that has experienced 800 nuclear explosions.

NODINE listed many of his various jobs in the Navy and said he was surprised to visit the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum (he asked how many of us had – and quite a few hands shot up) and watched a video which seemed familiar to him, then realized that as Officer of the Deck on the USS Enterprise, he had been standing behind the film crew when the video was shot.

He has witnessed the transition from T-square rulers to computer-aided design and observed the first inclusion of women in naval nuclear power. He's watched the transition from analog to digital and all the shifts in technology – e-mail in the middle of the ocean around the world instead of teletype.

But, he said, “technology only makes our lives better if it's well thought-out, applied correctly, and its influence on people thoughtfully managed.”

NODINE told of the efforts necessary by Secretary of the Navy John Lehman in 1981 to remove Rickover – his achievements having been in the past by then – from the top rung. “I had sought the job,” Lehman said, “because I believed the Navy had deteriorated to the point where its weakness seriously threatened our future security.”

NODINE drew knowing responses from his audience when he asked how many remembered phone books, Thomas guides, ignition keys or calling the movie theater to see what's playing,

“Do you remember when cash was the preferred currency?” he asked.

“Technology changes, and we learn and adapt,” NODINE said. But “we can't, however, let technology substitute and replace what we value most about humanity.”

The key to thriving in a world of advanced technology, he said, is to ensure that our future leaders – and ultimately – our children – have a broad base of education and experience in the widest array of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines. And “that's my challenge to you as a means to” (quoting the Rotary mission statement again) “provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.”.

NODINE was presented a succulent arrangement made by ANCHISA.





**OPPORTUNITY DRAWING:** TERRI HALL had the winning ticket but did not find the joker in the deck and donated the \$10 consolation prize back to the club.



**ADJOURNMENT:** At 1:36 p. m.

**NORTH COUNTY HEALTH FAIR PROJECT** as reported by **RENEE RICHARDSON**

Oceanside Rotary and Community Now participated in the North County Health Fair in downtown Oceanside on Thursday, August 11th. BILL DERN, ERNIE MASCITTI, ANCHISA FARRANT, SHOR DENNY, and RENEE RICHARDSON represented Rotary at the event. We “planted a garden” - asking participants to choose a paper flower cutout and to write one kind thing they were going to do for someone. As you can see, we planted a great kindness garden!

Our booth also represented Rotary's efforts in fighting Polio throughout the world! We passed out a number of invitations for interested community members to visit and learn more about Rotary! It was a delightful day and so rewarding getting feedback from community members, thanking us for our efforts in the community.





## ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

In our last edition, BILL DERN had shared a few photos from the beginning of his family's gathering up in Seattle to celebrate the 21st anniversary (actually the 20th anniversary celebration, delayed for a year due to Covid) of his oldest son CHRIS and wife AMBER. As that gathering gathered steam, more family members arrived to share in the celebration. In this next batch of photos, we see BILL holding his precious newest grandchild BROOKE, then "horsing around" with grandson IAN.



Smiles all around as BILL, KATHY and the anniversary couple CHRIS and AMBER posed during the official celebration party, and then all of the DERN clan who were able to attend took time out from the dancing, food, and fun for a group photo.



TOM and LINDA BRAULT shared a few photos from their recent jaunt around the Northeast. Here is their report: “Let’s focus on the positive parts of this trip first: The beautiful Vermont scenery. Hiking a part of the Appalachian Trail with a beautiful Green Mountain view from the top. TOM visiting the Calvin Coolidge Homestead and then panning for gold on historic Buffalo Brook. Getting up close and personal with a cow at Billings Farm and LINDA getting ready to tour the Rockefeller mansion.





Then it was across the Canadian border to Montreal where we were wowed by the spectacular AURA light show at the Notre Dame Basilica. Took a bus tour around the city. Explored the environmental exhibits at the Biosphere. And sampled the quintessential Montreal meal – smoked meat sandwiches and poutine from the restaurant co-owned by Celine Dion. Then in our day and a half in Quebec City, we had arranged for a special guided tour of the Chateau Frontenac, popping into rooms the general public generally doesn't get to venture into. Enjoyed another city bus tour. And marveled at the dinner and the view from the rooftop rotating Ciel Bistro restaurant, including a spectacular sunset.

Back to the U.S.A. to visit friends in Portland Maine for great meals, views of the waterfront there, and yet another bus tour – this one with a stop at their iconic lighthouse.

Now for the not so positive parts: On the final leg of the road trip, we had the added excitement of a blowout on our rental car's tire on a New Hampshire freeway with a frustrating 90-minute wait for AAA roadside assistance when we just wanted to get to the hotel. But the major negative of the whole Northeastern adventure came on Day 2 when we checked out the attractions at the Killington Ski Resort's summertime Adventure Center. TOM had an exhilarating trip or two down The Beast alpine coaster. But LINDA's experience there was shocking, painful, and affected the rest of our trip. On the "Soaring Eagle" attraction (which is like a ski lift on steroids), when the chair came to an abrupt stop at the end of the ride, due to the forward momentum and the fact that there were no shoulder restraints nor even anything to grab onto to brace oneself, Linda's body just kept moving forward and downward until she was left to dangle underneath the seat, suspended upside down with the lap belt actually holding tight ... to ankle and her knee. She wrenched her right knee and ankle badly, had multiple scrapes and cuts, and a gash on her index finger that needed a trip to the emergency room at the nearest hospital to get x-rays, 6 stitches, and crutches. Of course, this affected her mobility and explains why we took so many bus tours the rest of the time. And she simply had to skip a few of our planned activities. Her recovery has been slow and we cross our fingers that there will be no lasting problems with her knee and ankle which have improved, but remain tender 3-1/2 weeks after the accident. Yikes!"

## COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

August 26 – Regular meeting – Annual District Governor’s visit. Board will meet with the D.G. at 11:30 am

Friday night, August 26 – Rotary Night at the Moonlight Amphitheatre to enjoy the musical *Ragtime* – 8 pm. (6 pm Dinner at Belching Beaver Brewery before the show. Potluck desserts shared at intermission.)

September 9 – Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Bingo Social at DAVE and TERRI HALL’s house (4285 Sunnyhill Drive, Carlsbad) at 6 p.m. – \$25 per person for pizza, dessert, and your first bingo card.

September 23 – Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

September 30 – Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – Rotary, Odd Fellows, Moose Lodge Chili Cookoff, and Bingo Fundraiser, starting at 5:30 pm – Details to Follow