



July 26, 2024

Reporter's Note: Wow, did this Shorelines reporter learn a good lesson at the meeting today! Never ever ever bring a bunch of guests and things to share on the same day you're assigned Shorelines duty! Not only did I have five guests that I wanted to talk to and introduce to everyone, I also had a few items on the agenda that I was responsible for, all while trying to capture what a bunch of very fast talking people were saying. And if that wasn't enough on the plate of this one ball juggler, my Afghan interpreter, who is like a son to me, decided to move his family of nine to San Diego from Seattle a week earlier than planned and showed up late Thursday night! Yikes! At any rate, the point of all this ranting is to say that I hope I accurately captured the essence of another great club meeting and will apologize up front if I left someone or something out. I humbly beg your indulgence for my poor reporting this week. Thanks, and let's get to it!

At precisely 12:30 pm, club Co-President **PAUL WENDEE** shook everyone out of enjoying their delicious lunch and pleasant conversation by loudly and aggressively ringing (some might say overly so) the bell. It certainly got everyone's attention! I don't know if **PAUL** was having a bad day, or if the former Army officer was frustrated by having to take orders from "**THE GUNNY**", or if there are some tensions between **PAUL** and fellow Co-President **JANET BLEDSOE LACY**, but I do know that it is fun to spread salacious rumors and potentially start a little trouble! Maybe try breaking a few boards or bricks to relieve your stress before leading your next meeting, **PAUL**. We would all certainly appreciate it!



PLEDGE: **PAUL** asked for volunteers to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After a few moments of awkward silence, **DAN WILSON** foolishly jumped into the breach to take on the task and performed admirably until he forgot to say the word "Indivisible." That was immediately noticed and pointed out by one of our esteemed



guests who was sitting next to **DAN** (OHS soon to be senior **ALEKSEI MERITT POWELL**). **DAN** was later overheard telling **ALEKSEI** (jokingly?) that if he saw a scholarship application next spring with **ALEKSEI'S** name on it, it wasn't looking good for him already!

FOUR WAY TEST: **PAUL** then asked **TERRI HALL** to lead the club in reciting the Rotary Four Way Test, which she did flawlessly. Thanks for getting us back on the right path, **TERRI!**

CLUB UPDATES: **PAUL** asked Secretary **RENEE RICHARDSON** to give club updates. **RENEE** made the awesome announcement that the board has approved two new members of our club, **SHERRI SINGLETON** and **RICHARD JENNINGS** who will be inducted on August 23rd. Other updates included:



RENEE also announced that the Co-Presidents for the 2025-26 Rotary Year will be (drumroll please) **PAUL WENDEE** and **ROGER VANDERWERKEN**. There is hope for the world if we can get the Army and Navy to work together! Completely unbiased polling seems to think that **PAUL** will have to carry most of the weight in this cross-service partnership.☺ Congratulations and thanks for your willingness to serve, **PAUL** and **ROGER!**

RENEE pointed out all the backpacks on one of the tables that had been collected by our members for local school kids and thanked all those who participated. The backpacks were to be delivered the next day to our Oceanside partners in service, the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who gave so generously!



Friday, August 9th – Regular club meeting. Speaker will be **JASON VENTETUOLO** from Solutions for Change

Friday, August 16th- Club board meeting via Zoom.

Friday, August 16th – Moonlight Theater Social and Dinner. The show will be *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and **TOM BRAULT** promised that “the evening will be beautiful” or your money back! How can you lose? (*The Fine Print: “Or your money back” was simply a rhetorical device. No refunds are actually on the table. But there do happen to be two extra tickets in our group block of seats for the show that night which can be yours for a great price. If you*

*are interested in joining in and/or adding another couple to your earlier order, contact our Treasurer **LES NEWQUIST.**)*

Friday, August 23rd – Regular club meeting and new District Governor welcome. The new DG, **DIANE CRAWFORD**, would like to meet with our club board before the regular meeting, so **RENEE** asked everyone who is on the board to arrive before 11:30.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS: **DAN WILSON** led off by introducing several people from our Oceanside High School family. They included the previously mentioned **ALEKSEI MERITT POWELL** who attended RYLA in April as one of our sponsored students. He and fellow guest and OHS student **ZITTLALIE MORALES** are part of a group of kids that want to start an Interact Club at OHS. The proposal has been submitted to the Oceanside Unified School District and is just awaiting board approval. Also in attendance was our 2024 OHS Rotary Scholarship award winner, **YASMIN GUERRERO** and her father, **JOSE**. **YASMIN** will start her collegiate studies at CSU San Marcos in the fall and has asked several questions about Interact and its collegiate equivalent, Rotaract, so we may have planted some seeds that grow future Rotarians! And last but certainly not least, **DAN** introduced one of the superstar teachers at OHS, **CATRINA STONE**, who is **DAN'S** go to person at the school. **CATRINA** is well familiar with the benefits of Rotary, as both her parents are long time members of the Petaluma Club, and she has graciously offered to take on another responsibility at OHS by serving as the Interact faculty advisor at the school.



ED PARISH asked us to welcome back his frequent meeting date, **ANNE SPERAW**, and introduced tablemate and visiting Rotarian **ANA FERNANDEZ** from Club Tijuana. **TERRI HALL** then led the club in a rousing rendition of our Welcome Song that never fails to bring a smile to the faces of our visitors.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Co-Presidents **PAUL** and **JANET**, along with **DAN**, presented **YASMIN GUERRERO** with her scholarship award check. **PAUL** then recognized guest **ALEKSEI**, who spoke very eloquently of how unsure he had been of what he should expect from attending RYLA, but then told the club of the positive impact it had not only on him, but all the other attendees he talked to as well. It's just another concrete example of the impact that Rotarians have on our communities.



PAUL then took the mic for a bit to talk about our club's Launch Oceanside initiative, which is designed to encourage entrepreneurship in our community. **PAUL** shared some details and fielded lots of questions about the program and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming orientation on Wednesday, July 31st on Zoom. Since this issue won't be published until after this orientation occurs, we will make sure to record the meeting so those interested can watch later.

HAPPY DOLLARS: **RENEE** and **PAUL** recently attended a conference in Boston and while there visited the 7th oldest Rotary Club in the United States. **RENEE** described a very interesting (sort of "barebones") experience that was much different from our own meetings, but she was \$20 happy to meet some awesome fellow Rotarians from another area.



TINA ORTIZ was \$5 happy to share info about the free concerts happening at El Corazon Park this summer. **TINA** said there's always lots of fun stuff to do in addition to great music and recommended everyone take a flyer off of the table and check them out at www.friendsofelcorazon.org.

(Flyers were also on our tables promoting the "Grow a Brighter Future" Event – an October 12th fundraiser to be held at the lovely home of **JANET BLEDSOE LACY**, with food, wine, drinks, a live auction, and vacation packages. Contact **RENEE** for more info on this event.)

JAY CRAWFORD was \$20 happy after returning from a trip to Montana where he said the weather was way too hot and the fish weren't biting, and to top it off they returned to home to a water



leak. What's there to be happy about in all that, you might ask? Well, **JAY** was very happy that **ANITA** didn't leave him after all that!



JANET BLEDSOE LACY was \$1 happy for several things but was talking so fast I couldn't keep up. I was able to catch that she was very appreciative of **THOMASINA JACKSON**, who although she can't be as visible in the club as she used to be, is still making great contributions. She paused for a while before she continued on to a few other things until **TOM BRAULT** wryly commented, "That's an awful lot of time for just one dollar!" Come on, **JANET**, you're a Shorelines reporter. You know how hard this is!



ED PARISH was \$5 happy to have his "sweetheart" **ANNE SPERAW** at his side at the meeting.



BILL DERN was \$10 happy to be able to make the trip to Colorado and pin on his brother's Rotary pin as he was inducted into the Longmont Rotary Club. A family of Rotarians! That's awesome, **BILL!**



TOM BRAULT gave \$25 dollars of happiness to the Rotary International Foundation after returning home from a wonderful visit for most of the month of July to Wisconsin to spend time with his 93 year old mom. While there he also managed to win a horseshoe tournament, and then turning to look at **JAY**, bragged that the fish where he was were practically jumping into the boat. Sounds like a great trip, **TOM!**

ERNIE MASCITTI was \$100 happy to see all of our student guests. For those of you who may not know, **ERNIE** led our club's Youth Programs Committee for a long time, and planted most of the seeds of success that we enjoy today. Your hard work and dedication have made a difference and is appreciated, **ERNIE!**



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$5 happy because, well, she's just always happy! She also gifted our Co-Presidents **JANET** with a beautiful scarf and **PAUL** with a nice wallet.

DAN WILSON was \$45 happy to the Rotary International Foundation for an awesome experience at his daughter's recent wedding here in San Diego, and also paid a \$5 fine to RI for messing up the Pledge of Allegiance.



In the “Glutton for Punishment for a Good Cause” department, **DANA ALBERT** was \$10 happy for recently raising over \$38k for junior golfers by playing six consecutive rounds of golf (walking!) on the longest day of the year. That is quite a feat, **DANA!** (But we have to ask him, “How are your feet feeling after that feat?”)



Finally, **PAUL WENDEE** was \$20 happy. A single dollar of that amount was for figuring out how to use the microphone (thanks, **RENEE!**) and **BILL DERN** could now hear him, and the other \$19 was for the birth of a new grandson who is now seven weeks old. Congratulations!

PROGRAM: **PAUL** introduced our guest speaker via Zoom, **DAVID CASH**. **DAVID** does a lot of work in international projects for Club Tijuana, who has become great friends and partners on some of our work in Baja California. **DAVID** was hoping to come present in person with **ANA FERNANDEZ** but he suffered a recent knee injury which has severely limited his mobility.

DAVID began by saying that talking about our problems is one of our greatest addictions, and that we all need to spend more time talking about our greatest joys. He said that being a Rotarian makes that easy, and he hoped to describe some of the joy he has gets every day by being a member of Club Tijuana. **DAVID** shared that Club Tijuana would celebrate its 93rd anniversary in October, which is just a few years younger than our own club, and invited us all down for the party and promised to share the details on the upcoming celebration in the near future.



DAVID also mentioned Club Tijuana's Three Kings event, which takes place in January. The Three Kings celebration is a Hispanic tradition that takes place after Christmas. Club Tijuana's event routinely helps over 300 children and families by providing gifts, food and drink, the traditional King cake, and has numerous activities for the kids and their families such as a petting zoo, animation, and a magic show. Past events have seen fourteen different Rotary clubs in four different districts participate, and we're all invited to the next one. Keep your eye on your Clubrunner emails for more information, and if you haven't set up your Clubrunner account yet, what are you waiting for? You're going to miss out!

DAVID listed off an impressive record of his club's service and contributions to improving the lives in their communities. These accomplishments included: Providing wheelchairs to people of all ages who can't afford their own. Purchasing hearing aids for children. **DAVID** said one of the most rewarding things he's ever seen was being there when a child was able to hear its mother's voice for the first time.

An extensive effort to provide water sanitation to communities in and around Tijuana. **DAVID** took time to recognize our own **DARREL LARSON** for his invaluable participation and assistance in these efforts. **DAVID** mentioned that the average income of many residents of Tijuana is about \$500 a month, and prior to receiving these filters, families had been forced to spend \$50-\$60 of that per month just to buy clean water, and more than 1/3 of people would get sick from drinking unclean water, forcing them to spend more of their limited funds on medical care for their families.

A focus on basic education and literacy that is truly amazing. Club Tijuana partners with their associated Interact and Rotaract clubs, as well as a local university to provide backpacks for local school kids. They have also done extensive work to improve the learning environment at local schools. What started out as simple improvements quickly evolved into major refurbishment when they saw that many schools didn't have adequate roofing or walls in the classrooms. To date, they have repaired and refurbished six schools and are working on refurbishing a community center. They even have a school named after Rotary! One of their clubs most impressive accomplishments is the John Vaughn Scholarship Lab. There, cohorts of 30 students each agree to spend six years of Saturdays devoting themselves to improving their chances of getting a good start at life. Each child receives a Chromebook computer and gets other training and resources to help them succeed, such as participation in a Toastmasters program. Over 90% of their attendees go on to attend university, and the program has

produced many skilled professionals, many of whom are now coming back to serve as mentors to the next generations.

As if all that weren't enough, the Tijuana club is also helping to fund a cancer treatment center where the cure rate is over 80%, is working on an app to help caregivers working with autistic children in Spanish speaking areas, and even built a planetarium! This Rotarian was simply blown away by all that Club Tijuana does and has done, and it has only motivated me to try and increase my own impact. What an inspiration! Thank you for that, **DAVID!**

PAUL thanked **DAVID** for a great presentation and reinforced our club's desire to grow our friendship with the Tijuana Rotarians. **PAUL** mentioned that he could also provide a tip for getting your SENTRI card, which makes coming back across the border much quicker, in as little as one day. As our partnership with Club Tijuana grows, keep your ears open for more information!

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: **BOB REINSETH** was the lucky winner of the opportunity drawing but to his dismay drew what looked like the ten of diamonds, so the pot continues to be out there for some lucky future winner! **BOB** generously donated his \$10 consolation prize back to the club.



There was also a second opportunity to get lucky (oh, stop it!) at Friday's meeting. Up for grabs were two tickets to a Willie Nelson tribute (or was it really going to be Willie himself?) concert at Oceanside Theatre Company. The lucky winner was none other than our OHS Scholarship award, **YASMIN GUERRERO**.

Much to the dismay of everyone in the room, **YASMIN** politely asked as she received her tickets, "Who is Willie Nelson?" **DAN** is currently researching whether we can revoke her scholarship award...

ADJOURNMENT: **PAUL** adjourned the meeting one minute late at 1:31 pm, but after such a great meeting it didn't appear that anyone really minded. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, Aug 9th - Regular meeting with **JASON VENTETUOLO** from Solutions for Change

Friday, Aug 16th - Board Meeting via Zoom

Friday, Aug 16th - Club social...Night at the Moonlight Amphitheater to see "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical." A couple of tickets are available if you would like to attend. Contact **RENEE** or **LES** if you would like to join fellow members in a delightful evening of music and fellowship. And, if you are not up for the theater that night, you could still consider joining the gang at their pre-show dinner at Chin's Szechwan in Vista. Contact **TOM BRAULT** if interested in the dining opportunity.

Friday, Aug 23rd - Regular meeting with our visit from our new District Governor **DIANE CRAWFORD**