

December 9, 2016

You can excuse any and all of the members who walked into the country club meeting space and thought to themselves, “Am I in the right place?” Things were decidedly catawampus last Friday. The food was where our badge table normally sits. The drinks and desserts took center stage at the front of the room. And the microphone was shoehorned over onto the right side by the window. Being creatures of habit, we simply did not know how to deal with all of this change!



But then, mercifully, things got back to normal as right around 12:30 pm (.... Actually 12:32 pm, if you’re keeping score), our President **RENEE RICHARDSON**’s reassuring voice came over the microphone, saying, “Welcome to Oceanside Rotary!”, to which a grand total of one person responded with, “Thank you!”

The Inspirational Moment once again was offered by the President, in the form of a wish that had been composed by D.M. Dellinger:

“This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holiday.”

I’d say that about covers it!

Our world traveler **JIM SCHRODER** was invited to lead us in the Pledge, which he did



most gladly, confessing, “It is a great pleasure to be back in the United States... And to see a toilet... And to have internet again!”

For the moment, we skipped over songs, knowing that plenty of tunes were on deck later in the meeting, and so it was time for Club Updates. President **RENEE** scanned the room once more in vain and asked, “Has anybody heard from **CHUCK WARD**?” Assorted hecklers gave their opinions as to why our President Elect was absent from this Update duty: “He probably thought that you would do it all anyway!” and, “I’ll bet he can’t find a parking place!” Regardless of the reason, **CHUCK** was in fact absent, and so **RENEE** gamely started to shuffle her papers around to prepare to present the announcements to us. Since the room rearrangement meant she did not have a podium to place all of her stuff, her hands were overfilled with clipboards and notes and all, so she called out to **PP TERRI HALL**, “**TERRI**, do you want to hold my gavel for me?” Well you’d better believe



that our notorious recurring Gavel Grabber eagerly answered, “SURE!” and would have jumped on that opportunity to get her mitts on the mallet. But alas, **RENEE** was only joking. She shifted her papers and was quite capable of proceeding AND holding the gavel, too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This coming Friday, December 16th, we will be DARK at lunch so we all can head over to the Hall’s house at 6 pm for our annual Christmas Party. (4285 Sunnyhill Drive, Carlsbad) Bring a heavy appetizer or side dish to share and BYOB. (Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.) Children and Guests are welcome!
- Be sure to block off the following two Fridays on your calendars, because we will be DARK on both December 23 and December 30. But you are probably busy during these holiday times, anyway. The next regular meeting will be on Friday, January 6th, and it will be a Club Assembly meeting.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Who came to join us at our last regular meeting in 2016? Well, I will tell you who!



ANCHISA FARRANT was seated with her sweetie, **RON MARBEN**, who also happens to be a “special guest” of the club. Also at that table



was **PETER VELTHUIS**, our frequent visitor of late who also was announced to be a “special guest.”



JIM SCHRODER let us know that Dr. **TOM CURTIN** from the Carlsbad club had joined us again. And at the front table, **GORDY WITZ**



pointed out another familiar face **A.J. MAZZARELLA** from BergElectric who **GORDY** introduced as “a potential Rotarian”, which is another way to say “special guest.” I guess that **GORDY** didn’t get the memo about that phraseology.



And I guess that he also wasn’t ready to multitask on the introductions, because it took the prompting of several curious members asking, “Anybody else?” before **GORDY** recalled that he was seated next to another guest ... “My beautiful wife of 59 years, **B.J.**”

The Welcome Song was led by our Head Mischievous Elf **TOM BRAULT**, who agreed to lead the singing, but only if everyone would sing in a high falsetto range like the kids would sound when they came in to perform later. And lo, the membership did sing like Chipmunks.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After that bit of **TOMfoolery** (... Get it?? Hee hee), we moved on to the very serious and important task of electing our slate of officers and directors for the 2017-18 Rotary year, which will commence in July. (Maybe **THAT** is

why **CHUCK** chose not to show up today – In hopes that his absence might take him out of consideration for the post of President.... No such luck, **CHUCK!!**)

The full list of folks who are lined up for leadership was read to the members:

President: **CHUCK WARD**

President Elect (2018-19): ???

President Elect Elect (2019-20): ???

Secretary: **RENEE RICHARDSON**

Treasurer: **LES NEWQUIST**

Sgt. At Arms: **DAVE NYDEGGER**

And for Board Members: **JOHN HARTMAN, PAM MYERS, ANCHISA FARRANT, DALE MAAS, LOLA SHERMAN, MELISSA RODRIGUEZ, ERNIE MASCITTI, and MIKE CURTIN**



Our current President was a bit chagrined to note that not only are there two open spots on the Board of Directors, we also do not have anyone lined up yet to serve as President Elect or President Elect-Elect for the years after **CHUCK WARD**. **RENEE** asked if there were any nominations from the floor. **JANET BLEDSOE LACY**, as a point of clarification, asked, “Are you asking for someone to officially nominate **CHUCK** now?” But no, the question was whether there were any other names that members would like to put into consideration for any of the positions. This seemed like a great opportunity for several members to chime in with, “I nominate **JANET**!” and, over **Ms. BLEDSOE LACY**’s repeated denials of “Nope! Nope! Nope!” our President followed parliamentary procedure and announced, “We have a motion and a second to appoint **JANET** to the board. All those in favor?” ... **JANET**’s “NOPE!” got even louder, and she seemed to be starting to MOPE instead, but then **RENEE** reassured her, “I was just joking, **JANET**. We would never do that without talking with her about it first.” The slate of candidates, despite its gaps and openings, was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

But seriously, if you are at all interested in stepping up your service in Rotary, joining the Board or putting your name in for consideration for President in the years to follow would be a great and noble thing for you to consider. By all means, talk to **RENEE** about the logistics of leadership.

HAPPY DOLLARS



Happy Dollars were kicked off by **TOM BRAULT** who actually started out on a sad note, informing the club, if they hadn't heard, that our former member and **TOM's** mentor and prior dental practice owner **JOHN SAFARIK** had passed away recently. On a happier note, **TOM** was glowing in his report of what a fabulous time his family had on their vacation in Walt Disney World, highlighted by being lucky enough to see celebrities like Neil Patrick Harris (and his family) and Cobie Smulders (another star from "How I Met Your Mother") and her husband Taran Killam (formerly from "Saturday Night Live") in several happenstance overlaps at several of the parks over the time they were there, even getting the chance to speak with NPH briefly. "It was almost like we were stalking them, but we weren't." For all of that, **TOM** declined to state how much he would give in Happy Dollars, telling us he would have to wait to see how good (... or bad) the upcoming holiday gift season goes for him.

And before we sign off from the **TOM BRAULT** tales, may we remind you that you can see **TOM** onstage at the Sunshine Brooks Theatre in Oceanside December 16-18, starring as Kris Kringle in a radio drama format version of "Miracle on 34th Street."



JIM SCHRODER, happy to be back home, gave not only \$20, but also a brief(ish) recap of his most recent adventure, which he labeled "an interesting trip." And what a set of experiences he had! His laptop was compromised in Khartoum. In northern Sudan, they were turned back when they became aware that they were just 60 miles from a suspected ISIS training camp. There was a state of emergency in Sudan during their visit, and several journalists were arrested. The word they heard most often was, "No!" ... As in "No" you can't take pictures here. "No" you are not allowed to see that. "No" you cannot send that out by email. On the plus side, the people were nice, the food was interesting, but the accommodations were a bit "iffy." **JIM** also was surprised to find that the election of our dear friend **GARY ERNST** despite his having died before the voting made the news all the way over in Sudan!

GORDY WITZ, (perhaps to try to make up for almost forgetting his bride during introductions), gave \$29 for having met his beloved B.J. back in 1958 in Guadalajara, of all places.

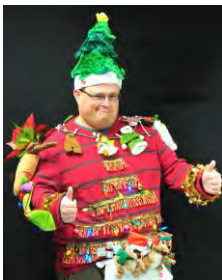


PP TERRI HALL tried to get her hubby some extra strokes by hinting, “Someone had a November birthday that never got celebrated here.” Well, **RENEE** was not prepared with the customary sleeve of candies to hand him, but she did ask Songmeister **TOM BRAULT** to lead a rendition of “Happy



Birthday” to **DAVE**. In recognition of **DAVE**’s solo the previous week with the choral group, **TOM** asked everybody to sing the Birthday Song in the style of Elvis Presley. And lo, the membership did croon like the King! **PP DAVE** allowed as how that performance warranted \$20 happy dollars!

TERRI wasn’t done with her remarks yet, as she announced that at next week’s Christmas Party, there will be a string quintet from the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts which will include their granddaughter **AVA** on upright bass. Yet another reason to join in the celebration this Friday evening!



Speaking about the Christmas Party, **JAY CRAWFORD** asked, “Is it coat and tie? Or Ugly Sweater?” The answer given was, you can wear “Whatever!”

STALLING FOR TIME

President **RENEE** had us give our thanks to everyone who brought in toys to the meeting, as well as to **MIKE WESELOH** for collecting those toys so they could be deposited into the Toys 4 Tots campaign



And then, with nothing else left on her agenda before the program, we were invited “to gab and to gobble while we wait for our performers to arrive and get set up.”



PROGRAM

After they came and were ready, **TERRI HALL** confessed that she had ulterior motives to picking the month of December to be the coordinator of programs: 1) She knew there would only be two meetings in the month; and 2) “It’s Christmas! And what better way to bring in the season than with music!” She then introduced **SANDRA KOPITZKE**, the Associate Producer and Music Director of the Star Theatre Company Academy.



Our first group was the Star Kids, who meet for two hours once a week for 11 weeks and then bring a program of song and dance to various community groups like ours. Most of the kids singing for us today are also in the production of “Annie” that opens at the Star Theatre in downtown Oceanside.



Normally the group has 24 kids, but being a school day, **SANDRA** was grateful to the parents who were able to make the arrangements to bring the 13 performers of the Star Kids here today. The kids all had poodle skirts and huge smiles as they presented their “Holiday Rock and Roll” set, starting with “Frosty the Snowman” with choreography and delightful harmonies.



Their next number was “Have a Holly Jolly Christmas”, which included an instrumental verse with kazoos. How fun! And they wrapped up their set with a Springsteen-esque version of “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town.”



Next up was the TNT (“Totally In Tune”) acapella group, singing a bouncy Andrews Sisters arrangement of “Jing, Jing a Ling”, with thrilling three part harmony and jingling bells.

And then we heard from the Star Theatre Academy Glee Club, which usually has 20 members, 9 of which were able to join us. SANDRA had a bit of a challenge getting things set for their number, as she explained, “I don’t have my roadie today – My husband!” But soon everything was in place and the gals and guys treated us to renditions of “You’re All I Need (Under the Tree)” and “Fa La La La La, It’s Christmastime.”



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING:

Are you ready for this? ... For the second week in a row the winning ticket was held by **TERRI HALL**! Well, actually for the second week in a row somebody else held **TERRI**’s winning ticket – this week it was **ERNIE MASCITTI**, who had more than a little trouble attracting **TERRI**’s attention as she was passing out candy canes to the departing Star Theater kids. But we finally tore her away from that delightful duty to come up and pick...once again, the wrong card! But this week, when presented



with the \$10 consolation prize, she said, “I think I’m going to keep it!” (... Maybe to buy an extra little something for **DAVE**’s Christmas stocking!)

CLOSING:

PRES RENEE closed the meeting a few minutes late, but it was worth it to hear the wonderful program the kids put on. With a clang of the bell from the gavel that President **RENEE** somehow successfully juggled through the whole meeting, we were adjourned for the day / the week / the month of December / and the year 2016. Remember, next week there is NO MEETING so we can all show up at **DAVE and TERRI HALL**’s house that evening to trash the place, as we notoriously serious Party Animal Oceanside Rotarians are wont to do.



ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

So, earlier in this newsletter, in Happy Dollars you heard some of the highlights (??) of **JIM SCHRODER**’s recent trip to the other side of the world. Do you want to see some pictures? I thought you would!



JIM sent so many great shots from his adventures that we will be splitting them up into several batches. Here is the first set, from the country of Djibouti, along with his descriptions.

01 – Downtown Tadjourah, close by where we stayed.



02 – A mosque in the middle of nowhere.



03 - A typical house in the region.



04 – Actually, this is one of the better living conditions we have seen so far.



05 – Seriously, this is someone's home. (**JIM** said in his Happy Dollars that the “accommodations were iffy!”)



06 - Sunset at the Inn we are staying Les Sables Blanc. Believe me it was nothing fancy at all. We had to double up in the few rooms they had... they did not have enough rooms to stay in. *{EDITOR'S NOTE: At least they didn't make you stay in a stable with the donkeys and the sheep. I hear that happened to a young couple that was traveling near that part of the world a couple thousand years ago, and the woman was 9 months pregnant at the time!}*



07 - View leaving the Les Sables Blanc.



08 - Locals at 8 a.m. in Tadjourah.



09 - Local kids in the town of Dikhill.. . Yep, you heard it right. The sign was just a few feet from them.



10 - Off to explore lava tubes at the juncture of three techtonic plates. I climbed inside a volcano tube where lava had flowed.



11 - An impossible escape from the lava tube.



12 - Flying on top of the volcano in the wind.



COMING UP AT OCEANSIDE ROTARY

December 16 – **DARK for ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

6 to 9 pm at the Hall's home. BYOB and bring heavy hors d'oeuvre to share.

Regular lunch meeting will be Dark for the evening social.



December 23 – **DARK for CHRISTMAS**

December 30 – **DARK for NEW YEAR'S**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! (... Hiccup!)



January 6 – CLUB ASSEMBLY

Reporter: JIM SCHRODER

January 13 – ERIC LOVETT, Urban Street Angels

Reporter: LOLA SHERMAN

January 20 – NICOLE MILLER, Principal of Mission Vista High School

Reporter: DAVE SHORE

January 27 – BILL PROTZMAN, Power of Music

Reporter: TOM BRAULT