

	<p>ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</p>		
<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p>Anchisa Farrant Photographer</p>	<p>Tom Brault Reporter</p>
			<p>CO-PRESIDENTS Janet Bledsoe Lacy Paul Wendee</p>

June 27, 2025
Special Demotion Edition

With the relatively lighter attendance at this year's demotion compared to previous years, the country club staff was able to optimize the audience's view of the proceedings by setting up all of the chairs on one side of each table so no one would need to turn their chairs around to see the show. Nice touch!

Members and friends started trickling in at about 5:30 pm for cocktails and convivial chatting which built in volume and intensity all the way up to the 6:30 dinner time. But before the buffet line was opened up, BILL DERN shared the sad news that our dear Co-President JANET BLEDSOE LACY would not be able to join in the fun. However, we had arranged a "stunt double" (LESLY ADAMS) to take JANET's place when required. This of course elicited some snide comments, such as, "My, JANET! You have grown since we last saw you!" Both our "JANET" and her Co-President PAUL WENDEE were called forward to be recognized ... and to be introduced to each other, since the two of them were hardly ever at any meetings together and therefore probably would not recognize their colleague in leadership.



We were introduced to another a surprise guest for the evening – "The greatest magical wizard Rotary has ever known" named "The Amazing O.R.C." (puppeteered by TOM BRAULT lying on the ground behind the front table). BILL DERN helped our wizard out with an impressive trick, as we watched the elusive Joker magically rise all on its own out of the deck of opportunity drawing cards. (Since it had stayed hidden all year long, protecting our jackpot, we frankly had our doubts about whether the Joker was ever actually in the deck!)

Dinner was a fiesta of fine and festive foods, featuring salad, pollo asado, carnitas, refried beans, chips and salsa, etc. with a dessert of churros con crema batida

(whipped cream). Keeping with the theme, more than a few members were spotted enjoying a frosty margarita along with their meal.

With the dinner done, it was time for our legendary demotion skit. This year, our Rotary Players expanded their ranks and included (in alphabetical order): TOM BRAULT, BILL DERN, ANCHISA FARRANT, TERRI and DAVE HALL, ERNIE MASCITTI, TINA ORTIZ, VICKIE PROSSER, RENEE RICHARDSON, NANCY RUSSIAN (... and, for that one brief, shining moment, LESLY ADAMS as "JANET")

As BILL is fond of saying in every edition of Shorelines that he has ever written, "To fully appreciate the program, you really do need to attend the meeting and experience it in person." This certainly holds especially true for our demotion skits. The best that we can do in this writeup is to provide a list of the plot points that you missed. You really have to believe that there were enough jokes and funny slides included in these proceedings that the night was often filled with smiles and laughter.

We poked fun at PAUL's tendency toward tardiness.

We documented how our Co-Presidents divided up their turns leading our meetings so evenly between them ... at least until JANET faced her medical challenges in December and PAUL just went M.I.A., forcing RENEE to step up and lead so many meetings in a row that, by the end of April, she and JANET and PAUL were literally tied for the number of times at the podium. BILL sang a song to lament "Where Have All Our Presidents Gone?"

We named RENEE our "Co-Co-President" for 2024-25, noted that at this point, she has been our president for a total of precisely "3 and 5/6th years." ... Yes, we showed our math on that calculation, and we wondered why we shouldn't just name her our "President for Life," showing off her punch card for the unbelievable number of times she has already attended Rotary's President Elects Training Seminars.

We marveled at how efficient JANET was when she was in the lead, and suggested that she is so well connected around town that she should run for Mayor of Oceanside. She certainly is known to dress for success, and we had a slide full of photos of her in varying degrees of "bling" and/or costumes at our meetings.

PAUL, on the other hand, we thought of more as a “Nutty Professor”, and we documented so many of the times when he would bumble and stumble his way through the meetings, at times prompting RENEE to literally come up to point out where he should be on his agenda.

We sang a song about PAUL’s unfocused nature: “Everyone Knows It’s WENDEE” (to the tune of “Windy” by the Association).

We remembered the many times that RENEE would get so frustrated with PAUL, but then described how PAUL’s resemblance to Rotary founder Paul Harris might have contributed to why they ended up together.

Odd occurrences with our Opportunity Drawings came to light.

A tribute in song to JANET was shared. (Unfortunately for wordsmith TOM, it seems as if very, very few folks in attendance were familiar with the tune his parody was based upon – Stevie Nicks’ “Leather and Lace.”)

A rare meeting when JANET was just as clueless as our “Nutty Professor” was recalled. And we marveled at the fact that this was the first year in recent memory that there never was a gavel grabbing.

We tried to decide whether ROGER VANDERWERKEN’s profession as a pastor worked against him in playing the “Two Truths and a Lie” game in January.

We shone the spotlight on our “Resident Rotary Recruiter Renee”, including a dramatic reenactment of her approach to a prospect that resembled the “Rowan and Martin’s Laugh In” bit about their dirty old man character sidling up to a woman on a park bench to extend a saucy invitation. (“Wanna bite of my Walnetto?” became “Wanna join Oceanside Rotary??”)

Our brief consideration of a merger with the Vista Rotary Club was staged via a scene straight out of Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” (“To merge, or not to merge ... That is the question!”)

The tail end of our skit moved on to a chronological encapsulation of all of the service projects undertaken by Oceanside Rotary in this past year, including a scene depicting two high school students considering joining the Interact club.

We applauded and welcomed our new members this year and described the various social events we enjoyed together outside of our meetings. And we speculated that all of the trips that PAUL and RENEE have been leading down to the numerous events and projects in Mexico might be related to their using some of our Happy Dollars as a down payment on an adobe house south of the border to serve as a seaside getaway in their retirement. (Kidding, of course Or are we???)

Members who received special commendations outside of Rotary were congratulated: RENEE RICHARDSON (named as one of Assemblywoman Davies' "Women of the Year"), DARREL LARSON (selected to the Oceanside High Hall of Fame), and MIKE CURTIN (inducted into a different Hall of Fame – at Señor Grubby's – for allegedly finishing a massive burrito in just 47 seconds.) But seriously, we DID congratulate MIKE for his outstanding service in tirelessly taking care of our meeting setup and cleanups. And for good measure, we thanked ANCHISA FARRANT for letting her lunch get cold at the table every week as she took photos and/or collected Happy Dollars.

The last poke in our production teased Co-President PAUL for his tendency to anoint himself as "Supervisor" at any and all of our club's service events, instead of actually rolling up his sleeves to perform any real live service himself. And we wrapped up the skit by wishing PAUL and ROGER our best wishes for a "productive and memorable year ahead."

With the teasing and tomfoolery out of the way, RENEE was called up to commence with the awards and presentations part of the party. This was kicked off with the distribution of some brand new (and in at least one case, a surprise) Paul Harris Fellows pins. We used some of our accumulated R.I. Foundation points to put DANA ALBERT over the top for his "Paul Harris plus One" recognition, and an inaugural Paul Harris pin was bestowed by RENEE upon her hubby PAUL because "I couldn't face another year of our President not being a Paul Harris Fellow!"



The award for superlative service by a New Member went (with absolutely no argument) to MICHAEL JENKINS ... But don't tell him yet. He wasn't at the demotion and will receive his prize at a later date.

The next award was lugged up front in a very hefty box, so heavy that we thought it must have been filled with lead. But it actually contained a very large and very classy crystal



plaque naming BILL DERN our El Toro Award winner this year for all of his verbal “bull” that brought laughter to our meetings.



And the prestigious Marty Schroder Award, given to the member who does the most to make our community a better place through his or her activities outside of Rotary went to DANA ALBERT.

PAUL then took over the microphone to present a very special “Avenues of Service” award for which one of our members had been nominated and recognized by Rotary International itself for outstanding Club Service – A well deserved award for RENEE RICHARDSON. CONGRATULATIONS!



With the awards all handed out, it was now finally time to officially induct our incoming Co-Presidents: PAUL WENDEE and ROGER VANDERWERKEN. They both were instructed by RENEE to raise their right hands and solemnly swear to the following promises:



“Do you swear that you will serve as our Co-President of Oceanside Rotary?”

“And do you swear to assist your Club Secretary to the best of your ability?”

“And that you will attend MOST of the meetings this year?”

“Do you swear not to cause as much chaos?”

“And do you swear to not make my life any worse??”

It was evident to everyone in the room that, although both of our new Presidents swore to these uphold each of these standards, almost all of these requests (especially the last few) were pointedly directed at PAUL, who sheepishly nodded along.

There remained but one last time-honored tradition to complete the demotion proceedings: The lineup of Past Presidents for the ceremonial passing of the gavel. Given the light attendance this evening (as well as the passage of years), TOM BRAULT was a bit chagrined to note that he was the second most senior on our lineup of leaders, with only RENEE’s first term in 1994 being an earlier year of service. As the gavels (... plural, because there were two of them – one for each Co-President) moved down the line, each past president announced the year that

they were in charge, and RENEE and TERRI got their steps in and demonstrated their dance moves by weaving in and out of the line so they could be in position for each of their repeating roles as our leader.



So, the evening ended, but not before someone wondered out loud: “Who gets to ring the bell to end this meeting?” Without any hesitation at all, RENEE grabbed a gavel and proclaimed, “I DO! I may not have been president, but they were riding my coattails!” And thus, we closed our gathering with one more hearty laugh from the crowd.



ROTARIANS SUPPORT THE OCEANSIDE INDEPENDENCE PARADE

Saturday, June 28th, after a night of celebrating the end of the Rotary year and promoting our new Presidents, a resilient group of 5 members of the club gathered to decorate our Rotary Float!

Paul, Renee, Janet, Anchisa, and Mike C. arrived sharply at 9:00 AM. As tradition has it, Janet arrived with donuts from Hill St. Donuts, hoping to instill a little sugar high after the partying the night before!

Lucky for us we were joined by 3 members of the Interact Club as well as Rotarians from the Eco Club in Encinitas and members from the El Camino Rotary Club.

Past President Dean Anderson and wife Carol along with two of their friends also joined in the fun!

After the parade we all headed to Best Pizza and enjoyed a hour of Fellowship. Renee as usual was in her membership mode....We will see what may come of that!

A special thank you to NK Towing for donating the use of their truck! Our driver was terrific!





A FEW PHOTOS FROM FATHERS' (AND MOTHERS') DAY

Here are a few photos from Fathers' (and Mothers') Day sent in from a couple of our members.

First up, from TERRI and DAVE HALL:



"We spent Mother's Day with our daughter Julie for the weekend in Carlsbad. We spent Father's Day in Truckee with son Jason, daughter in law Jerusha and grandsons Sebastian and Julian, plus celebrated four of our birthdays! I saw my first and only bear! It was walking through Sebastian's back yard which faces Lake Tahoe. I'm not a camper so I had never seen one. Good times!"



And to complete our collection, from BILL DERN:

"Father's Day with sons Chris and Shaun in Las Vegas."
(There is nothing more of this story to share here, because "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!")



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

NOW – If you have not paid them yet, your annual dues are now OVERDUE

Friday, July 11th - Rotary Social – 6 pm at JIM SCHRODER's House (4020 Wooster St, Oceanside), featuring entertainment by DARREL LARSON. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. Please RSVP to RENEE.

Friday, July 25th - AWAY Meeting at Chateau Lake San Marcos (1560 Circa del Lago, San Marcos on the Trellis Court outdoor patio) – Noon - Program: CARRIE CHACON, Real Hearts Give - Cost just \$25 – Look for details in an email when we get closer to that date

Saturday, July 26th – Celebration of the life of DARLENE PICKREL (BOB's wife) – 2 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church (Corner of Fire Mountain and El Camino)

Friday, August 8th – Regular meeting – Noon – Club Assembly

Friday, August 22nd – Regular meeting – Noon – Program: THERESA BERRY, Meals and Wheels San Diego County