

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES

2022-2023

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

February 24, 2023



With the ringing of the bell exactly 2 minutes 13 seconds late, Co-Pres A.J. MAZZARELLA welcomed everyone to Oceanside Rotary and tapped BRAD FISHER to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Co-Pres RENEE RICHARDSON, in her inimitable style, then took over, securing the gavel which had been left exposed on the front table, and shared the History of the Rotary Bell.



“In 1922, U.S. Rotarians organized an attendance contest; the challenge was that the losing clubs would join in giving the winning club a prize. The Rotary Club of New York City was declared the winner and to them was awarded as a prize a bell from a popular patrol boat, which was placed on wood that came from HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson’s vessel at the battle of Trafalgar. Since then, the bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, at which time people present should stand, same as the end, in order to salute the national and Rotary flags.” (Thanks, Pres RENEE, for a bit of Rotary history from Rotary International.)

Pres RENEE then invited new member THOMASINA JACKSON to give her **“WHO AM I.”**



THOMASINA is a mother of 2, grandmother of 5 and great grandmother of 1. She is a practicing Buddhist and a survivor of a sexual assault at a very young age. Her mother was a Jehovah Witness, which limited her exposure to many activities as she grew up with few friends outside her church. THOMASINA married a

wonderful man who shortly thereafter, entered the Army as a medic, serving in Vietnam. When he returned, he suffered what was then called “Shell Shock”, today called PTSD, and was a drug addict. A few years later he died from an overdose.

THOMASINA’s Mom impressed upon her the need for an education, so she put herself through secretarial school and community college, earning an Associates Degree while still working and raising a son. Her first job after school was with the United Way, staying with them for over 12 years. During this time, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Temple University.

With her experience at United Way, she started a rental program with a new university of the arts, helping disadvantaged students with counselling and tutoring. This Act 101 program was extremely rewarding as she watched so many students come into the program and grow and succeed.

Shortly after, THOMASINA’s son, who was married and a MARINE and about to deploy to Kuwait, called her and said “Mom, California is for you. You need to be here.” By this time she had adopted a daughter and was missing her son, so she packed up ala “The Beverly Hillbillies” and drove to Oceanside (not Beverly Hills). Arriving in California, THOMASINA did a lot of temp work until landing a job with the Superior Court, first getting a job in downtown San Diego. Her training was solely in appeals for a couple of years. The ultimate plan of the courts was to send her back to Vista courts to start an appeals section in North County. After overcoming many obstacles and resistance from the North County Court House, which did not want an appeals section in the local courthouse, THOMASINA was successful in starting the appeals section.

While at the courts she volunteered with the Escondido Police Department, serving as an advocate for the victims of domestic violence cases, helping them with advice, paperwork and getting them to a safe house. THOMASINA also worked as a volunteer, helping people who suffered a sudden loss and also manning a suicide hotline.

While at the Superior Court, THOMASINA met the love of her life, becoming domestic partners, since same sex marriage was not a legal option at that time. They had a wonderful time together. Both of them worked in the court system, moving around to different sections over the years, traveling around the world. Sadly her partner developed breast cancer and passed away in 2008 from cancer.

Over her lifetime, THOMASINA has dealt with trauma and loss, understanding both.

After moving around the court's various sections, THOMASINA finally got her "dream" job as Deputy Jury Commissioner, speaking with people about jury duty and the importance of serving.

THOMASINA closed by sharing that the reason she joined our Rotary Club was Pres-elect SHOR DENNY. She works with SHOR in her volunteer organization. THOMASINA stated it is important to give back as much as you can to our community. With her unique life experiences in trauma and loss, she has much to offer.

(THOMASINA, this Rotarian strongly agrees you have so many gifts to share with others and I am excited you are a member of Oceanside Rotary.)

CLUB UPDATES BY PRES RENEE

Fri March 10th Away meeting, Veterans Association of North County, 1617 Mission, park in rear.

Sat March 11th Mentorship Outing with Crown Heights students to see "The Addams Family" at Mira Costa College and tour the campus

Fri March 17th Board meeting via Zoom at noon

Fri March 24th Regular Meeting at El Camino Country Club

Sat March 25th District Training Assembly at Liberty Station – Officers and Board member training; also good for newer members to gain a better understanding of Rotary. Leave about 7:30 AM. Contact RENEE if interested.

Fri March 31st Regular meeting DARK, Club members encouraged to volunteer for Ironman athlete check-in from noon to 5:50 pm. See Pres RENEE to sign up. (From past personal experience, this is a fun way to volunteer and help to earn a donation to our club.)

TOM BRAULT invited members to vote for the Moonlight show they are interested in seeing this summer. Voting is close among three of the shows (42nd Street, Jesus Christ Superstar, Disney's Tarzan). Tickets go on sale in early

March, so get your choice in soon. (TOM did note with a smile on his face that he could be bribed.)



NANCY RUSSIAN wrapped up the Valentines Party held earlier this month. NANCY shared the answers and the results of the Valentines Quiz. The winners were TOM BRAULT's table 10, and NANCY presented each of them with candy for their victory. (Keeping with the Valentines theme, the candy was a small bag of Hershey's

Kisses.) NANCY held a special drawing of a champagne bottle full of truffles for those who could not attend. The winner was DAVID NYDEGGER. A hearty thank you and a big round of applause went to NANCY for organizing this fabulous event.



INTRODUCTION OF VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS



Pres RENEE introduced our usual visitor, RUDY VAN HUNNICK, thanking him for joining us today.

TOM BRAULT then led us in our "Welcome Song", noting first that RUDY could probably sing it himself from memory, since he has been at so many of our meetings over the years.



PRESIDENT RENEE'S STUFF

Asking our club members what was special about February 23rd, and embarrassingly without an appropriate response, Pres RENEE informed us it was World Rotary Day. On that date in 1905, Rotary International was started by Paul Harris. (In jest, Rotarians asked RENEE what the first meeting was like back then...followed by she wasn't allowed in, being a woman...and finally she must have stood outside the meeting and taken notes.) For 118 years, Rotary members have created access to education, empowered communities, pushed polio to the brink of eradication and improved lives around the world.

In April of 2024, the Rotary Club of Oceanside will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. To honor this significant achievement, the club is organizing a committee to plan a very special event. Members are encouraged to sign up with RENEE and help plan this once in a lifetime celebration. If you can't serve on the committee but have unique, outside the box ideas, please share them with RENEE.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating a birthday this month is LYN CORDER. Celebrating club anniversaries this month were SUSAN BROWN (7 YEARS), VICKIE PROSSER (21 YEARS) and JIM SCHRODER (45 YEARS). JIM was present and came prepared with a \$45 check, happy to be in the club for so long. (We are too, JIM.)



In another faux pau, Pres RENEE then started going over March birthdays and anniversaries, when a fellow Rotarian interrupted to inquire, “Do you think it is March already??” With a level of chagrin, RENEE quickly moved on to the next item on her agenda.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The Board approved for membership, CARRIE CHACON, proposed by RENEE RICHARDSON. CARRIE works with BRIAN LONG, has served as the volunteer coordinator for the Ironman Triathlon event, and is active in the community and has her own non-profit. If anyone has a comment about this new member proposal, please contact any Board member within the next 10 days.

HAPPY DOLLARS



TINA ORTIZ was \$5 happy for the wonderful time at the Valentines party at the wine club she belongs to and enjoys.



Co-Pres A.J. MAZZARELLA was \$5 happy to announce he has a new job in charge of recruiting and H. R with Cal Solar. Congratulations AJ.



TOM BRAULT was \$5 happy to say how proud table 10 was to win the Valentine’s Day trivia contest.

With \$30 happy dollars for the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation, TERRI HALL, shared that her college grandson in Santa Cruz recently signed up for a course at a local community college. He signed up for chair yoga. Not until his first class did he learn that most of the participants were seniors. While she already held the floor, TERRI mentioned that she is also on a



foundation board for scholarships for women. They are holding a See's candy fundraiser, inviting Rotarians to purchase some candy for a good cause.



THOMASINA JACKSON was \$5 happy to applaud NANCY RUSSIAN for the wonderful gifts at the Valentines party which were given as door prizes (... even though THOMASINA herself did not win one).

With a smile on his face and \$10 happy dollars, ROGER VANDERWERKEN was proud to be a member of table 10 winning the trivia challenge for Valentines party and to announce that he will soon be a first time grandfather. There was a very cute “reveal” of this news. He was presented with a book of children’s stories as a gift, and on the front page there was an inscription which went something like this: “You read these stories to my Mom when she was young, and I hope that you will read them to me.” And below that inscription was an ultrasound photo of the newest family member to come. Pres RENEE commented you can’t really know how special that is until you have a first grandchild of your own.



ED PARISH was \$5 happy to thank TERRI and DAVID HALL for hosting so many wonderful events over the years.

Last and not least, RUDY VAN HUNNICK was \$100 happy being here. At his age, he noted he has short memory issues, is hard of hearing and has balance problems, but RUDY feels blessed that he can get all kinds of medical help to keep him going and that is why he is so happy. (RUDY, we are happy you are still going too!)



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

ROGER VANDERWERKEN held the winning ticket but failed to find the joker, so the \$1,000 rolls over to our next meeting.

Ringin our bell a few minutes earlier than usual, Pres RENEE closed our meeting and reminded Rotarians that our next meeting is on March 10th and we will be “away” at the Veterans Association of North County – NOT at the country club.



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, March 10th - AWAY Meeting – VANC (Veterans Association of North County) – 1617 Mission Avenue, Oceanside

Fri March 17th - Board meeting via Zoom at noon

Friday, March 24th – Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, March 25th – District Training Assembly at Liberty Station. 8 am to 2 pm. Register at www.rotary5340.org (No fee for attending. Car pool will be available) Let RENEE know if you will be attending, or she will “keep bugging you!”

Friday, March 31st – Volunteer to help registration at Ironman event

Regular meeting canceled for that date

Saturday, April 22nd – Rotarians at Work Day service project