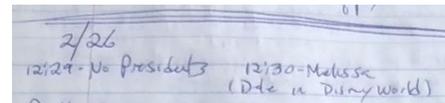


February 26, 2021

The conversations were lively during our gathering period, starting at about noon. But as we approached the official start time for the meeting, we turned our attention to one notable item: It was 12:29 and neither of our Co-Presidents could be seen on our Zoom screens. Rumor had it that DALE MAAS was in Disney World, but where, oh where was MELISSA RODRIGUEZ? And – if she failed to materialize in the next 60 seconds – who would be in charge of the meeting? Right before we collectively hit the Panic Button, MELISSA popped onto to page on the dot of 12:30 pm, with specific verbal instructions to your faithful Shorelines reporter that it should be noted that she was present at the appointed time. Reporter TOM BRAULT held his notes up close to his computer’s camera to prove what he had already inscribed into the official record: “12:29 – No Presidents. 12:30 – Melissa (Dale in Disney World)” So, yeah, MELISSA. Your presence (and almost absence) was in fact duly noted.



The first order of business was our **ROTARY MOMENT** for this week, provided by ANCHISA FARRANT.  She told us of some of her experiences attending the R.I. Convention in Bangkok, Thailand in 2012. Due to her connections in Thailand, the organizing committee had invited her to assist with some of the convention’s logistics through the local Thai club. She worked with the security operation and the Traffic Facilitation Center which was under the local police station. ANCHISA was quite impressed by this organizing committee, especially the team from Rotary International, all of whom were “really professional”, and the programs and facilities during the convention were all top-notch. She was proud to be there to represent our club and to take such an active part in the convention. She urged all of us members to attend the R.I. Convention whenever you can.

Co-Pres MELISSA seconded that suggestion. Attending Rotary’s international convention can be a true eye-opener into the world of Rotary. Because of the pandemic shutdowns, she and DALE missed out on attending last year’s event

which had been planned for Hawaii but was cancelled. This year (for the second year in a row) the convention will be held virtually, so there will be no trips to gather with Rotarians in Taipei. Here's hoping that NEXT year's event will be able to meet, albeit in a slightly less exotic location ... Texas in the good old U.S. of A.

CLUB UPDATES were provided by Co-President Elect A.J. MAZZARELLA and there are LOTS of things to note on your Oceanside Rotary calendar:

- March 1 – Fundraising meeting on Zoom @ 5:30 pm
- March 4 – Golf fundraiser planning session on Zoom @ 3 pm
- March 12 – Our next regular Zoom meeting, gathering @ 12 pm
- March 16 – Deadline for cards for Assisted Living (*See below*)
- March 17 – Rotary Zoom Evening Social @ 5:30 pm
- March 19 – Board Meeting on Zoom @ 12 noon
- March 26 - Regular Zoom meeting, gathering @ 12 pm
- April 9 - Regular Zoom meeting, gathering @ 12 pm

TIME TO CRANK OUT SOME MORE CARDS

TERRI HALL encouraged all of us to pitch in with our ongoing project to show the residents of local assisted living facilities that we care. We will be collecting notes and cards to be distributed as a ray of sunshine to these seniors. Both St. Patrick's Day notes and Birthday cards should be turned in either to RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE by Saturday March 13 or to TERRI HALL by Tuesday March 16 so they can be delivered on time for the lucky day of the wearin' of the green.



WHO CAME TO VISIT?

We were pleased to see MARTI FARRIS with us at this meeting. Many of us know her through her connection to San Luis Rey Rotary Club, and MARTI did comment during the gathering time that she knew a lot of the faces in our club. A new face for us was INEZ WILLIAMS from the Oceanside Housing Commission who would be giving our presentation later in the meeting. Both of our visitors were serenaded with our Welcome Song, led by our Songmeister for the Day TOM BRAULT who pointed out that the sleeping cat which could be seen konked out on the top of the couch behind him was completely oblivious to the melodic noise and must be bored by his singing. (Join the crowd, Kisa!)



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



Co-Pres Elect A.J. MAZZARELLA had the honor of presiding over the official induction of our newest member – TOMMY THOMPSON, who had found our club after searching for a local Rotary on the R.I. website. A.J. pointed out to TOMMY (and to the rest of us) that there are multiple websites with great information on Rotary: the R.I. site (www.rotary.org), the District site (www.rotary5340.org), and our club's own site (www.oceansidecarotary.org). We welcomed TOMMY into our great gang, and MELISSA gave her vote for “Best Zoom Background Ever” to TOMMY for what appeared to be an expansive picture window view of an idyllic beach scene. For his part, TOMMY was \$50 happy to “join Rotary for the first time in my life.”



PAUL HARRIS RECOGNITION FOR THE SECOND TIME

Two of our members have recently earned their coveted sapphire-bearing Paul Harris pins, signifying a second thousand dollars in cumulative contributions to the Rotary International Foundation. PAM MYERS had made a sizable donation in December in memory of her father, and those dollars will do a lot of good around the world in his name. Thank you, PAM, for that generous giving! But RENEE guessed that our second multi Paul Harris award winner might not have even realized that this honor was in the cards. (By automatic giving on a monthly basis, which can be easily set up on the R.I. website, it can be easy to achieve multiple Paul Harris status. Slow and steady contributions add up and before you know it, that \$1,000 threshold can sneak up on you.) So, perhaps as a surprise, JAY CRAWFORD was also congratulated for being a two timer. Both PAM and JAY will be receiving their new pins in the near future. Many thanks to you both!



SIGN UP NOW!

Co-Pres MELISSA urged us all to register now for the virtual District Assembly to be held on Saturday April 10, starting at 8:30 am. This annual district training meeting is “super informative”, and you can learn about fundraising and membership and service projects and so much more! Since this is a virtual event, there is no fee to attend this year, and you can choose three breakout sessions to attend. As MELISSA described it, this Assembly can be a “shot in the arm to get re-inspired about Rotary” and, to make it even more enticing, “You can do it in your pajamas!” Like I said at the top of this paragraph: SIGN UP NOW! (<https://rotary5340.org/Stories/district-training-session-slated-for-april-10>)

CELEBRATIONS

Since our last meeting was so filled with Valentines Trivia, there was no time in the agenda that week for our regular roundup of February celebrators. So, we shifted our recognition to this week instead.

We have one birthday girl in this month. LYN CORDER let us know that she had already contributed \$72 on the R.I. website in honor of her big day, along with increasing her monthly donation by an extra \$5 per month, so she will be building up toward those multiple Paul Harris awards quicker! LYN was treated to a special, alternate birthday song from Songmeister TOM: *“Happy, happy birthday from all of us to you. Happy, happy birthday. May all your dreams come true. HEY!”*



Who celebrated a wedding four years ago on February 19, 2017? ... If you guessed ANCHISA FARRANT and RON MARBEN, you'd be right, and ANCHISA contributed \$40 to honor their big day. (If you are looking for a present for the happy couple, the traditional gift for the fourth anniversary is “Fruit or Flowers”, but since ANCHISA has such a green thumb, she undoubtedly already has that horticultural department well covered, so good luck on your gift search.)

February must be a popular month to join Rotary, because we had a LOT of club anniversaries to note: ED PARISH (1 year), SUSAN BROWN (5 years), VICKIE PROSSER (19 years, for which she donated \$25), and last but not least, JIM SCHRODER takes the Feb Oceanside Rotary longevity prize in his 43rd year in the club, showing off a yellowed, timeworn clipping from the newspaper to prove it entitled “Like Father, Like Sons.” JIM donated \$43 and added, “I hope there’s another 30 years to come!”



(A Gratuitous Side Note about Something Seen in the Background)

Just in case you think that maybe no one is watching you when you are not the main focus of the Rotary Zoom meeting, let the record show that at least one member had his or her Zoom setting on “Gallery View” to see everyone at once, and can report that during the birthday / anniversary time, NANCY RUSSIAN appeared as if she was in some sort of Witness



Protection Program, silhouetted in front of her well-lit window. But the darkened setting did not stop us from seeing her appearing to rock out, swaying in time to some unheard music she must have been playing in the background to keep her entertained. (Just like in the 1981 Hall and Oates song- “Private eyes. They’re watching you. They see your every move!”)



HAPPY DOLLARS



LES NEWQUIST gave \$20 to report on various home improvements, including getting their dining table back after being resurfaced and new carpets and flooring recently installed by L.J. FIMBRES and Oceanside Abbey Carpet and Floor. (We could all see the big smile on L.J.'s face but did not see his hand raised to announce any follow-up happy dollars of his own.) All in all, LES crowed that with his newly spruced up home, it feels like they are “starting out all over again!” MELISSA RODRIGUEZ contributed \$10 because it was “nice to see PAM’s smiling face again!” Plus, she was an additional \$10 sad that the Rotary International Convention got cancelled again for 2021. She and DALE had planned to join A.J. and L.J. in attendance in Taipei. Ah well. Maybe they’ll all get to rendezvous in Texas in 2022.



Yee haw! ... JAY CRAWFORD split his \$50 for two reasons to be happy: 1) Proud to be a multiple Paul Harris Fellow; and 2) Excited about his home improvement project – rearranging their computer room ... JIM SCHRODER added another \$17 to his previous club anniversary happy dollars (for a total of \$60 this week), relieved to have received both Pfizer vaccine shots with no pain. Yay! ... TERRI HALL had \$10 to tell the tale of her granddaughter AVA’s inadvertent travel extension in Chicago. She had gone there to visit her boyfriend but got snowed in and had to stay a few more days (and with an added side adventure for her baggage) before she eventually got back to Michigan ... PAM MYERS was \$100 appreciative of all of the Rotary folks who had dropped off baskets and other fun stuff for her after her recent hospitalization and ongoing recovery as well as all of the messages of good wishes. She is happy to say that she is “getting better”, and we are all happy about that, too!



PROGRAM



JANET BLEDSOE LACY started her program introduction with most sincere thanks for our speaker agreeing to be with us after a last-minute request. It probably didn’t hurt that JANET has known our speaker INEZ WILLIAMS for years as they have worked closely together on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. awards.



INEZ is the Director of Education at Central Texas College, is active in the NAACP, and has served on the Oceanside Housing Commission for years. This Commission (established in 1991 and currently with 11 members) makes recommendations to the City Council on housing and homeless, and the issues they weigh in on impact not only senior citizens, but also youth, disabled, and low-income citizens. They give suggestions on how to

allocate Community Development Grant funds and are also focused on diversity issues in the City.

The Housing Commission strives to keep Oceanside's citizens informed by sending out emails and posting about these issues on the City's website (<https://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/services/comms/hc.asp>)



INEZ touched on several of the City's programs under their watchful eye, including mobile home parks, down payment assistance for homes, a regional task force on homelessness, and the MLK, Jr. community service awards.

Oceanside, she said, is in a continuing housing crisis, with 5000 persons currently on Section 8 (affordable housing) waiting lists, which means there is a 5 to 7 year wait for available units. She recommends that if you feel you might be in need at some point in the future, you should "put your name on the list now."

Examples of the lack of available space in various developments across the City:

- Lil Jackson – 50 affordable units, with 185 on the wait list
- Mission Cove – 138 units, with 2500 on the wait list
- Cape Cod apartments – 36 units, only 2 currently on wait list

Where do the affordable housing units come from? When developers plan a project, they are required by the City to provide for affordable housing in one of two ways - They can either build 1 out of every 10 units as affordable housing, or they can pay the City an "In Lieu" fee, paying money toward other affordable housing in some other project in lieu of building it themselves. Most developers choose these In Lieu fees, possible due to the perceived negative connotation of having affordable units and the clients they draw in their neighborhoods. The City collects these In Lieu fees and, along with federal HUD money, builds up funds until they can afford to build an affordable project. Currently there is \$6 million in the bank, and the City is looking for new projects to plan and build. INEZ will say to developers who complain about these fees: "If you choose this fee over building the units, perhaps our fee is just too low."

Mission Cove is one of the City's most recent affordable projects. Located at 3247 Anchor Way (near La Mision and Marty's Valley Inn), it has a strategically built mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for families and seniors, with some set aside for veterans and foster youth. Needless to say, a lot of planning and input goes into the creation of such a project to ensure it is meeting the needs of the community.

Another key community need in Oceanside is how to support the homeless population. Oceanside currently has no shelter for the homeless. It partners with other organizations like Operation Hope and the temporary shelter at Bread of Life Rescue Mission. The new mayor and City Council are taking a look at the possible purchase of the Ocean Shores High School site from OUSD to convert to a dedicated permanent homeless shelter. Since the City currently has no permanent shelters available, the Police cannot arrest individuals simply for being homeless. They will come out to talk to these individuals and try to support them and/or guide them to needed services. Oceanside's Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) is headed up by Officer Josh Ferry who can be reached at 760-435-4755.

INEZ then opened the presentation up for questions from the members. TOMMY THOMPSON started with some comments. Although he disagrees with some of the things which INEZ had described (such as builder fees), he thanks the Housing Commission for the public service that it provides.

TERRI HALL asked if an individual signs up on one general wait list for housing or are there individual lists for each development. Answer: They all are individual lists, and people choose which one(s) they would prefer to sign up for.

JANET BLEDSOE LACY inquired about the tents and pallets that have sprung up on the dead-end street near the old Social Security building, asking if that was a City homeless project. INEZ was not aware of that. (FYI - *Soon after this meeting, this tent community was featured in an article in the Union Tribune - <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/story/2021-02-28/activist-create-small-tent-city-for-homeless-in-oceanside>)*



ROGER VANDERWERKEN said that his church partners with organizations to help serve homeless individuals and asked which groups the City is affiliated with. Answer: The City works along with both Interfaith Community Services and Solutions for Change, and they have seen some successes in getting homeless off the streets.

VICKIE PROSSER wondered about the suggestion to apply for the housing wait lists in advance. "Don't you have to already be qualified to apply?" Answer: "You never know if you are qualified until you try." Also, you can be on the list in advance of your need for such housing. They do not check qualifications until your name comes up. And not everybody on Section 8 is homeless.



BILL DERN asked if you must be a resident of the City of Oceanside to be on these wait lists. Answer: Oceanside residents are given priority.

With our questions answered and our minds expanded and our time up, JANET exclaimed, “Isn’t she wonderful?” and Co-President MELISSA added that INEZ’s presentation was “informative and enlightening. We appreciate you coming on such short notice.”

One last notice was given of the upcoming meetings:

- 3/12 – Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm
- 3/17 – Rotary Zoom Evening Social @ 5:30pm
- 3/19 – Zoom Board Meeting @ 12:00pm

And then we bid each other adieu until the next time.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM NORTH COUNTY LIFELINE

A nice thank you was received from North County Lifeline for our donation toward \$50 graduation leis to Crown Heights graduates.

On behalf of each youth who will attend Club Crown Heights this year, thank you. North County Lifeline has received your very generous \$750.00 donation that will be used for money leis for the graduating seniors enrolled in Club Crown Heights.

Lifeline's clients have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, making your support even more important right now. Individuals continue to face job loss, food insecurity, and homelessness. At the same time, families are faced with the challenges of social isolation and distance learning.

Faced with these challenges, Club Crown Heights staff have stepped up efforts to support the community. Although on-site after school activities were temporarily disrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Club Crown Heights has now implemented COVID-19 service plans in accordance with health guidelines and is open for afterschool activities - with priority on keeping kids safe and healthy.

Your support makes these programs possible and directly impacts the lives of these amazing kids. In the words of one Club Crown Heights alumni, who just graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz: “Club Crown Heights was my life ...thanks to the leadership training, community service, and undying love, I grew up to be the ‘Angel’ standing before you today.”

Thank you for continuing to support youth and their families in North County.

*Sincerely,
Don Stump
Executive Director
North County Lifeline*

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Thursday March 4 - Golf Fundraising Zoom Meeting @ 3:00pm

Friday March 12 - Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm

Tuesday March 16 – Deadline for getting St. Patrick’s Day cards & goodies for Assisted Living Communities to TERRI HALL

Wednesday March 17 - Rotary Zoom Evening Social @ 5:30pm

Friday March 19 - Zoom Board Meeting @ 12:00pm

Friday March 26 – Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm

Friday April 9 - Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm