

February 26, 2016

Showing us how it should be done, PP, Club Secretary and Acting Prez for the Day RENEE RICHARDSON started the meeting at EXACTLY 12:30.



JAMES HUBER offered us a Rotary Moment:

“Being that RENEE is acting as interim president, and will be our next president, and that this week marked the 111th year since Rotary was founded by Paul Harris, Rotary’s first president, and who was also a lawyer from Vermont....” At this point numerous voices were heard mumbling (and eventually shouting), “What?”, “What?” “Did RENEE agree to be President-Elect?” To which JAMES said he hadn’t been aware that it was a big secret, and he’d have to invoke attorney-client privilege! What does this mean? Perhaps we’ll hear more later...



Recovering his aplomb, JAMES continued by saying, “I’d like to share a couple quotes from Mr. Harris:

‘Some folks go to the mountains for inspiration. Learned men write of them; poets sing of them; artists paint them. The boy takes them in his stride. High though they may be, his spirit is still higher. They are his to triumph over. The boy is king of all creation, but boys must grow to be men. It is sometimes said that the boy is father to man; he leads the man along pathways which his feet have trod. The Man can never get far away from the boy.’



In 1915, he wrote, ‘We are passing our tenth milestone now. May our happiness increase with our usefulness. What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine. There is nothing impossible to Rotary now.’

It's inspirational to me that Paul was thinking 100 years out, while admitting that the child in us greatly drives our future. Paul's foresight might have been a bit overzealous, but I find it particularly inspirational that Mr. Harris was forecasting 100 years into the future, full well knowing that his past was a strong driving force. As we turn pages to a new president serving her 2nd term, I agree with my fellow Vermonter and Attorney that we can all find inspiration in looking at how our past has shaped our club, and how we can help our president plan for the future."

RENEE then called on DAVID MICKELSON to lead us in the pledge of allegiance to our flag.



DALE MAAS then led us in one of his old favorites (a really old favorite from when he was a boy): "Old MacDonald Had a Farm". It started off OK, but somehow deteriorated into a cacophony that can only be described as really sounding like a barnyard, with PP TOM BRAULT playing the loudest animal on the farm! After the tune was finally butchered (... so to speak), our visiting Rotarian BILL ASHLEY, who has been with us for several weeks had to admit that, "I'm glad I'm going home!"



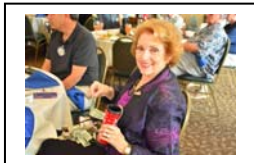
Since she was running the meeting, PP RENEE introduced herself to give us some Club Updates:

- a. The tables were decorated with birthday party regalia (and a cupcake for everyone) to celebrate Rotary's 111th birthday this week.
- b. Friday, March 4th, our regular Friday meeting will be held at *Mission San Luis Rey*. We will meet in the dining room – go thru the gate next to the Visitor's center (the Visitor's Center is to the left as you face the Mission) – We'll have a tour of the renovated museum and the renovated gardens. Please plan to arrive between 12:00 and 12:15 to have time for lunch before the tour. The cost for lunch will be the usual \$20.
- c. Saturday, March 12th – Rotarians at Work Project- Heritage Park
- d. March 18th: Military Appreciation Program (Joint meeting with Fallbrook Rotary) at El Camino CC (usual time and place): come out to honor and recognize our Military awardees!
- e. District Training Assembly – Highly recommended for all Board Members, Committee Chairs and New Members, Saturday, March 19th. San Diego 8:00 AM to Noon. See RENEE for more information or for help registering. We also need at least one other person to stay a little bit later that day (from noon to 2 pm) to attend the Matching Grants seminar so our club will be eligible to apply for this type of funding.

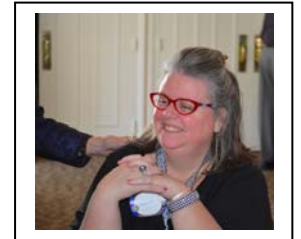
- f. There will be a New Member Mixer Wednesday, March 23rd, 5:00 to 7:00 at Stone Brewery, 310 N. Freemont St Oceanside. There will be catered food plus beer & wine – plan to attend, and especially to bring potential members as guests!
- g. RYLA Facilitators are still needed for the Camp in Idyllwild April 15-17. See RENEE to volunteer.
- h. RENEE had helpfully brought along hard copies of the Oceanside Rotary calendar for March for any member having trouble accessing it through the club website.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS:

PP VICKIE PROSSER introduced visiting Rotarian BILL ASHLEY from Port Angeles, Washington. This is his last week here, since he's heading home before next week's meeting.



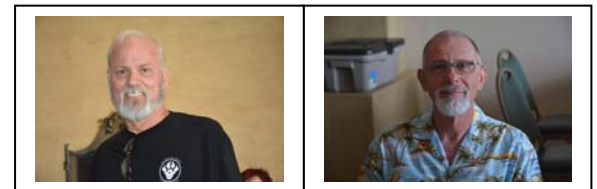
PP TERRI HALL introduced our speaker, KATHLEEN HIGGINS.



PP JIM SCHRODER introduced his friend of 50 years, JIM SMALL and added an interesting bit of trivia that the head chef at El Camino CC is JIM (Small's) cousin, so they were able to have a mini-reunion!

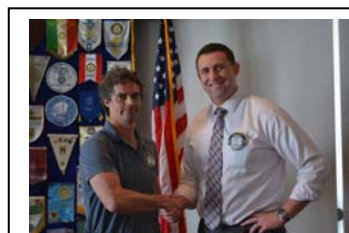
PP RENEE welcomed back DAVID MICKELSON.

With a little trepidation after the earlier Barnyard Ballad, RENEE asked DALE MAAS to lead us in the Welcome Song: it went just fine! I think we've found another Songmeister!



PRESIDENT'S STUFF

RENEE called up DALE MAAS and JAMES HUBER to the podium, saying these new members have been shining stars for Oceanside Rotary Club, and presented both of them with their Blue Badges. When several members called out, "How Happy Are You?" RENEE asked if they wanted to handle that now or wait till Happy Dollars. JAMES said they might as well face the music right away, and they each were \$5 happy to replace their red badges.





RENEE then gave us an overview of her recent experiences at PETS, starting off with a video about a polio survivor from India that had a profound impact on the audience. RAMESH FERRIS had crawled to the stage to tell his story; then he put his braces on and walked out! He told of how his birth mother gave him up for adoption, knowing that there was no way she could have cared for his medical needs. He was adopted by a Canadian couple, and he still lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. He has shared Rotary's End Polio message with heads of state all over the world, and has spoken at the United Nations. In the video he said that he has met many polio survivors in India who have to crawl everywhere they go, because they never got the kind of help he did. Only Pakistan has polio now, and there have been no cases reported so far this year. But we need to continue the program so that it never breaks out again. It's only the cost of one Coke to vaccinate a child. YTD our club has only donated \$40 to Polio Plus – we have a goal of \$180 – so RENEE passed around a donation Coke can to see how much we could add to that: \$165 was added to that \$40 as the can passed around during the meeting, so we more than met our goal right then and there!

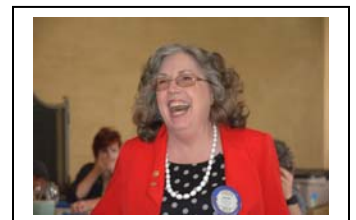
Other items of interest from PETS:

- Dwindling membership is a common problem among clubs – RI and the District are very flexible now for attendance, meetings, etc. We can meet other places and other times to get people interested. Most important: let's have fun! And think outside the box about how to attract new members.
- Rotaract clubs are picking up and becoming more active. We might try to restart one at MiraCosta, possibly teaming up with the Carlsbad Evening club.
- Shopping at PETS: there were many, many vendors of Rotary paraphernalia selling just about anything you could imagine emblazoned with the Rotary wheel. RENEE remembered TOM BRAULT wearing "Rotary Boxers"! At this point someone shouted out, "How would you know?" (It turns out said shorts were shown off by TOM at SUSAN ASATO's demotion dinner, so RENEE is excused.) Car sunscreens were a big item: they say Rotary.org across your windshield when open.
- We have a new Motto: What is Rotary? RENEE warned us to memorize this new sign (like you would memorize the 4-way test) so we don't get fined for not knowing it!



FINES AND HAPPY DOLLARS:

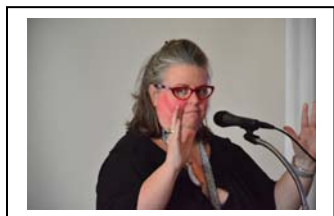
JANET LACY was \$5 happy to talk about something political – she was glad that Carlsbad's Measure A looks like it's going to be defeated. DAVE SHORE asked, "You're not going to say you're glad Trump is winning?"



After some commotion about Measure A and DAVE's question finally died down, TOM BRAULT was \$2 happy that his daughter GERILYN came to town for open auditions at the Moonlight, and she got to go to the next level of auditions for both shows she tried out for! Not to be outdone, TOM added that he had 2 MORE dollars because he also auditioned for two shows and got called back for both of them as well! Great job making it that far! Maybe this Moonlight season will be a BRAULT family affair!



PROGRAM



KATHLEEN HIGGINS is the Executive Director of Operation HOPE in Vista. She brings more than two decades of non-profit social service leadership experience to Operation HOPE. Ten of those years were spent serving clients in shelter settings. KATHLEEN has extensive travel experience, including having lived in Mexico. These experiences have significantly contributed to her knowledge and leadership in the areas of delivering culturally competent social service. She was a top 10 finalist in the 2013 National Women Making a Difference Awards, and considers herself lucky to be part of the Operation HOPE team.

KATHLEEN started by projecting the number 9 onto the screen and asked if we knew what that number means in the world of homelessness. Some guesses were “9 reasons for homelessness”, “most are 9 years on the street”, but they were all wrong. She said that for the last 6 years the average age of a homeless person is 9 years old.

Homelessness challenges in North County San Diego include: we're a suburban area, we have low housing vacancy rates, expensive housing (low affordability), and mental health issues. The infrastructure and services for the homeless are still trying to catch up with the growth of the population.

There are just under 1800 homeless in N. County, but we only have 168 available beds for the homeless. The largest concern is that there are no mental health or detox beds in N. County. But none of the shelters will take anyone who isn't clean – therefore there's no place to go and get clean if you're on drugs or alcoholic. Most adult homeless have drug or mental health issues.

Operation HOPE serves families. Their current location used to be Vista Community Clinic, and they've been in that location since 2013. It's not an open dorm environment – each family has their own room with a door and a window. For a lot of them it's the first good night's sleep they've gotten in a long time. Since North County vacancy rates are very low, there's little or no available housing for any of the people they help. As an example of the challenge in finding housing, she mentioned two single parents who decided to rent a house together – they put in 18 applications, which cost them \$30 or so per application, They

finally did get into a house but it was a very expensive and time-consuming process, even if they could afford it once they got it.

More than half of Operation HOPE's clients are working class or middle class. KATHLEEN gave examples of a nurse, a teacher, an accountant. They have 45 beds including 11 family rooms and one 6-bed dorm for single women. Their clients are working on benchmarks while there, working with a case manager, and attending mandatory classes- they have tutoring for the children and child care. They served 108 clients last year. They don't accept single men. Right now there only 3 men in residence, but they are rare – they have mostly moms and kids.

Their funding includes \$50K thru a CDBG grant and the rest comes from private funding (\$350K total annually). Volunteers built Operation HOPE – they have 100 active volunteers each week. They can't have a kitchen due to financial issues, so dinner must be prepared elsewhere by volunteers who bring it in every night. There were a total of about 5000 volunteer hours last year.

DAVE SHORE said he also deals with the homeless, and he asked, "What is the age range of the women who come in, how old are the kids, and what is the situation with the fathers?" KATHLEEN said they get all ages for women, from teens thru 80's. Average age of mothers is around 32. There are far more kids on any given day than adults. Operation HOPE is part of a collaborative so they are able to hone in on their key competencies. (They focus only on families – other homeless needs are served by other organizations.) Are there mental health issues that stand out? This season they haven't seen anyone with mental health issues – about 45% are working but still can't afford a home. A number of clients lost everything due to a catastrophic illness. Anyone with serious mental illness or on drugs would be shown a different program.

TOM BRAULT asked how long the average stay is and what steps are in place to help participants to be able to transition out of the program. KATHLEEN said the average stay is about 49-50 days. Some clients come in and are in process of getting a place to live so they just come for a short while till they can move. She mentioned an unusual case of a Polish woman who was brought to North County for a job that went away, and now she can't get home and has no work permit, but has 4 kids – so she may be there for a while.

LES NEWQUIST asked if there are limitations on clients returning. KATHLEEN said that they have very few returning clients: they've only had 3 families return since 2003, so they don't have a policy for that because it comes up so rarely. She described their typical clients as the "low hanging fruit" of the homeless: they just need a little help to get back on their feet.

VICKIE PROSSER asked how Operation HOPE is different from Solutions for Change. KATHLEEN said that Solutions is a 2 year program – usually for people with drug or alcohol problems – and their services are primarily directed to keeping them clean. Solutions

clients also come more from profound poverty. Operation HOPE serves families and aims to provide people access to the tools to become independent. VICKIE asked if they provide job training, and KATHLEEN said that they do connect their clients to these resources.

RENEE presented KATHLEEN with a Certificate providing a donation to BROTHER BENNO'S in her name, and a pin with this year's theme.



Someone pointed out RENEE's unusual system for storing her Gavel: BOB PICKREL said it's unfortunate that poor Jay doesn't have a place like that to keep his gavel – if he did he'd probably still have it!

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

There was \$339 in the pot, and VICKIE PROSSER had the winning ticket. As she prepared to pick an Ace, VICKIE said, "I need to channel JACK FELLER" and his historic good luck in this drawing. Unfortunately for VICKIE (but fortunately for perhaps another member at a future meeting) VICKIE picked the Jack of Hearts (That's what she gets for thinking about "Jack" too fervently) and took home the \$10 consolation prize.



RENEE then adjourned the meeting EXACTLY at 1:30 p.m. – match that, JAY!

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

Seems like BILL DERN is getting "out and about" quite often lately. Good for him! The latest photo was taken during a visit with son SHAUN and his family at a restaurant near Napa Valley – Mankas Steakhouse in Suisin Valley. (*Pictured, L to R: wife KATHY, an anonymous metal chef guy, daughter-in-law KARA (a dentist in the USAF), granddaughter ALYSSA and son SHAUN... Oh, and BILL is hiding in the background behind ALYSSA.*)



**Remember that we have an Away Meeting next week (March 4th) at
Mission San Luis Rey!**

**Arrive between noon and 12:15 to make sure you have time for
lunch!**

Enter through the gate next to the Visitor's Center.

COMING UP AT OCEANSIDE ROTARY

March 4 – AWAY MEETING at Mission San Luis Rey for Tour

We need a head count in advance, so sign up right away for this meeting with CHUCK WARD

Reporter: VICKIE PROSSER

March 11 – MARK POWER, Big Brothers Big Sisters of SD County

Reporter: JIM SCHRODER

March 18 – Annual Military Awards meeting with Fallbrook Rotary

Reporter: LOLA SHERMAN

March 25 – DARK for Good Friday