



2024-2025

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ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE **SHORELINES**



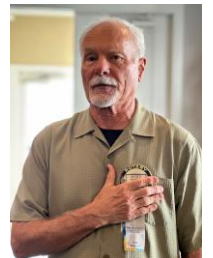
CO-PRESIDENTS
Janet Bledsoe Lacy
Paul Wendee

February 28, 2025

A small but mighty group of Oceanside Rotarians responded to Assistant Governor **RENEE RICHARDSON**'s loud clanging of the bell while she mumbled about needing to guard the gavel. (Spoken like a veteran Gavel Grabber herself!) She was entrusted as the keeper of the gavel due to the absence of our Co-Presidents, **PAUL WENDEE** and **JANET BLED SOE LACY**.



RENEE asked **MIKE WESELOH** to lead us in the Pledge and followed up by asking **JAY CRAWFORD** to lead us in reciting the Four Way Test. **JAY** jumped right in from the back table and we did a speed-reading of this familiar banner.



RENEE then explained to our visitors that we used to be known as a singing club but that sort of went away during the pandemic. As there are a number of great singers in our group, she is bringing the tradition back and asked PP **DAVE HALL** to lead us in songs. **DAVE** provided the lyrics to two songs. He informed us that the first one - "California Here I Come" - is NOT the state song (which is "I Love You, California") but we sang the more familiar tune anyway, followed by "You're a Grand Old Flag."



RENEE then called on Co-President Elect **ROGER VANDERWERKEN** to give the **Club Updates**. **ROGER**, an esteemed member of the clergy, is not only comfortable talking in front of a group but he actually loves it and prefers to be pontificating rather than lurking at a back table trying to get an extra dessert. **ROGER** informed us that:



Friday, March 14th – Regular Meeting - El Camino Country Club – Program:

SAUNDRA CIMA, Foundation for Women Warriors

Saturday, March 15th - Rotary Social – MiraCosta College – "Singin' in the Rain" - 2:00 pm matinee with dinner at a local restaurant after. The sign-up sheet was passed

around. \$18.00 to \$22.00 for the show tickets. **ROGER** indicated that he and his Honey, **JACQUE** would be attending and encouraged us to join them for this fun opportunity.

Friday, March 21st - Board Meeting via Zoom at noon. See **RENEE** for the link to attend

Friday, March 28th Regular Meeting – El Camino Country Club – Program: **GABE FASOLINO** – La Mision Rotary Club, Mexico

Saturday, March 29th – District Training Assembly – 7:45 AM to 12:00 PM – Board Members and new members are strongly encouraged to attend. Register NOW

Friday, April 4th - Iron Man Registration Service Project – 12:00 to 5:00. The sign-up sheet was passed around.



ROGER then asked for the **Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests**. PP and Past AG **TERRI HALL** was seated at the front table, the unofficial guest table, and rose to introduce visiting Rotarian **SALLY GOYA** who is a member of the Calabasas Rotary Club and is in

town visiting her daughter. **TERRI** then introduced our speakers, **MICHELLE PIUS**, Chief Development Officer of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts and **KENDALL JOHNSTON**, Development Associate. **DAVE** then led us in a rousing rendition of “Welcome to Oceanside Rotary” to big smiles from our guests.



RENEE asked Rotarians **LYN CORDER** and **DANA ALBERT** to come forward and share their number of years on the planet. **LYN**’s Birthday was February 13 and at first she was \$10 happy dollars with more promised to come during Happy Dollars time. **DANA** celebrated his special day on February 19 and was \$49 happy.



Happy Dollars:



PP **JIM SCHRODER** gave happy dollars for his Rotary Anniversary. It’s his 47th year in Rotary, so he donated \$47 to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation.

PP **JAY CRAWFORD** celebrated 40 years in Rotary, so he issued an IOU for \$40.



PP **TOM BRAULT** was \$5 happy to report that when his daughter **GERILYN** was much younger, she thought that the lyrics to “You’re A Grand Old Flag” included the line, “You’re a kite-flying flag” ... Yeah, we never get tired of bragging about our cute kids!



ERNIE MASCITTI - \$100 happy: half to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation, and half to the club. He and his wife **NANCY** recently returned from a trip to Puerto Rico, where **NANCY**’s sister-in-law retired as a professor. She took **ERNIE** and **NANCY** all over the island. One thing **ERNIE** said he learned was that everything on Puerto Rico is expensive, because in return for becoming a US Territory, everything imported to the island must come from the United States.

Co-PE **ROGER VANDERWERKEN** was \$5 happy, not that he missed PETS (although he did), but for participating instead in an event for “Send Relief” put on by the Southern Baptist conference where they supported \$200,000 worth of projects. **ROGER** worked directly with Solutions for Change, building fences on their property.



LYN CORDER was \$1 happy for each year she has spent on Earth to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation (\$76 total). She also donated \$5 sad dollars since her younger brother died four weeks ago due to blood issues. She has been to Georgia for his funeral and visited his Rotary Club, who sent their banner for her to present to our club. She noted that the Georgia club is 100% made up of Paul Harris Fellow sustaining members (with over 100 members in the club!)

ANCHISA FARRANT was \$20 happy that she’ll be leaving in March for Thailand to visit her 98-year-old mother. While there she will attend her old Rotary District’s annual conference.



MICHAEL JENKINS was \$10 happy that our club had our previous meeting at his facility, Hacienda San Luis Rey, and he was glad to be a member of our club! **PREZ RENEE** chimed in that the \$20 collected from each attendee at that away meeting (where the Hacienda had provided our lunch gratis) netted an additional \$440 toward our club’s contribution to Polio Plus and we are very close to our annual goal with months left to go.

RENEE then asked **MICHAEL** to come forward to receive his Blue Badge. **RENEE** listed the many ways **MICHAEL** has participated since joining our Club: volunteering to set up, monitoring the “shoe”, volunteering at events, and especially for hosting our Club at the Hacienda San Luis Rey. We even were gifted with a box of Valentine Chocolates then! Congratulations, **MICHAEL**! You demonstrate true Service Above Self.



RENEE then asked **DAVE** and **TERRI HALL** to come forward. She shared that Paul Harris status is an honor and a way to contribute to the endowment which is the backbone of Rotary International donations. **TERRI** chose to donate some of her “extra” points to **DAVE**’s PHF count, thus enabling **RENEE** to present **DAVE** with his PAUL HARRIS plus-five pin! Congratulations, **DAVE**!

RENEE reminded us that two sign-up clipboards were circulating: one to attend the play at MiraCosta on March 15, followed by dinner at a local restaurant and the second to sign up to volunteer to help register participants on Friday, April 4 at the IRON MAN event in Oceanside.

RENEE recapped her weekend at PETS where over 800 Rotarians had gathered. Worldwide, we need new members. District 5340 has developed a Member Guide and Business Networking Directory which is available to all of us. She suggested we develop a list of businesses to contact and either visit or call the business and see if we can get a new member. The first Rotarian to recruit a new member will be rewarded with a PAUL HARRIS FELLOW! Call **RENEE** for more information.



RENEE asked **MICHAEL** and **DANA** to come up to receive gifts from PETS where our esteemed Double (or triple) PP, AG **RENEE** spent a wild weekend schmoozing Rotarians from all over the world. She brought these fine gentlemen a gift, suggesting (or was it arm-twisting) that they should consider serving in a presidential role sometime down the road. This Reporter excitedly looked up to see what jacket, shirt, cap, or whatever form of official Rotary bling she was bestowing but to her dismay, couldn’t see anything. Then she spied **MICHAEL** and **DANA** looking rather quizzically at a tiny, tiny pen in their hands. Oh, goodie ... A Pen! Maybe it was a special pen? Well, sort of. The pens were standard issue from the Marriott hotel, and that was where this year’s PETS training was held.



So, **RENEE** not-so-subtly suggested that they should hold on to these pens to take notes *when* (not if) in the future they attend *their* Rotary President Elect training.

RENEE updated us on some of our fellow Rotarians: **WENDY VAZQUEZANZUA** has been working in San Diego while taking care of her Mom and may have to transfer to a Club in that area; **MIKE CURTIN** had pneumonia and just relapsed so we send get well wishes to him; Co-P **JANET BLEDSOE LACY** continues to recuperate from her heart attack and is doing better; **THOMASINA JACKSON** is still having health issues and hopes to return soon.

At this time, **RENEE** asked our speakers from Fresh Start Surgical Gifts to present our **Program**. Chief Development Officer **MICHELLE PIUS** and Development Associate **KENDALL JOHNSTON** co-presented a very interesting talk about Fresh Start and its focus at this time on a new facet of their program - Unbranded. They shared some amazing but depressing statistics about human trafficking and the reality for the young people abused. Human trafficking is an \$800 million dollar industry in the US - basically, domestic slavery. Their program works with local media, puts up displays, and partners with safehouses and school nurses to spread the word to teens to help rescue them from this horrible reality. Fresh Start partners with Rady Children's Hospital and has assisted with over 9000 children's plastic and reconstructive surgeries.



Many of the young trafficking victims are given tattoos - often large, ugly tattoos on their face. The purpose is to mark these vulnerable young people as slaves or property! To address this problem, this past summer, Unbranded for a Fresh Start <www.unbrandedforafreshstart.org> was launched. The core goal of this new service is to serve children and teens with tattoo removal.

Victims are often tattooed on the face, neck arms, they are constant reminders, impacting survivors' self-worth and mental recovery.

These tattoos make it difficult for survivors to find employment, creating barriers to independence.

Can perpetuate a cycle of trauma, especially for high-risk individuals, increasing vulnerability.

Removing these tattoos can be a powerful step toward reclaiming identity and building a new life free from exploitation.

Since 1991, Fresh Start Surgical Gifts has transformed the lives of disadvantaged children and teens with physical deformities due to birth, accidents, abuse, or disease by providing life-changing reconstructive surgery and healthcare services—all at no cost to patients. World-class doctors and surgeons generously donate their time and expertise to ensure each child receives top-quality care, allowing families to focus on healing without financial burden. Unbranded for a Fresh Start offers survivors of human trafficking confidential care and support through specialized tattoo removal, scar reduction, and related medical services after trauma. Their mission is to create a safe and empowering environment where survivors can reclaim their bodies and rebuild their lives with dignity and empowerment.

San Diego is ranked among the 13 worst human trafficking hotspots in the U.S. Up to 8,000 children fall victim to trafficking in San Diego County each year. **MICHELLE** shared some hand signals which are a way to tell if someone is being trafficked. Fresh Start continues to look for dermatologists, urologists, and gynecologists to partner with to help handle the vast number of victims. Rotarians were encouraged to help recruit health professionals. She shared that there are several Rotary Clubs which support them, there are Trivia Nites which **KENDALL** runs locally, and an upcoming golf tournament and gala to raise dollars and awareness.

Contact Fresh Start to get more info: Michelle Pius - Chief Development Officer & Global Partnerships (Michelle@Freshstart.org 760-707-4375) Jill Granquist R.N., BSN - Medical Program Director San Diego, CA (Jill@Freshstart.org)

MICHELLE and **KENDALL** were thanked and presented with a beautiful succulent plant designed, provided, and potted by **ANCHISA FARRANT**.



RENEE asked Sgt. At Arms **MICHAEL JENKINS** to bring up the winning ticket for the **Opportunity Drawing**. There is a \$1,000.00 prize for drawing the Joker, but alas, PP **TERRI HALL** had the correct number but drew the Queen (which she felt was appropriate, though lacking in funds). She handed her \$10 consolation prize money straight to our guests from Fresh Start Surgical Gifts.

RENEE reminded Rotarians to leave a tip for our excellent server in the provided receptacles on the tables. And with that, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, March 14th – Regular Meeting at El Camino Country Club – Program: Sandra Cima – Foundation for Women Warriors

Saturday, March 15th – Social Event to see “Singin’ in the Rain” at MiraCosta College Theatre for the 2 pm matinee and out to an early dinner afterward. Contact RENEE for info.

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