

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES

Rotary Opens Opportunities
2020-2021

Tom Brault
Editor-in-Chief

Janet Bledsoe Lacy
Photographer

Tom Brault
Reporter

CO-PRESIDENTS
Melissa Rodriguez & Dale Maas

January 29, 2021

The pre-meeting chatter amongst the members who gathered early focused mainly on comparing notes about appointments to get COVID vaccines. We were glad to hear that several of us have already received this protection and those lucky folks shared their experiences in how they were able to successfully work their way through the system. This discussion in fact carried over well past our official meeting start time, and at 12:34 pm Co-President DALE MAAS predicted, “I know I’m going to get reamed for this in Shorelines, but this is an important conversation” and indicated that he had not wanted to squelch the stream of valuable information too quickly. Far from “getting reamed”, Shorelines would actually like to thank DALE for his flexibility and for allowing this extended exchange of information. It was quite helpful to hear!

Then, to kick off this last meeting of January 2021, BILL DERN was called upon to offer our **ROTARY MOMENT**. Tagging right onto our earlier COVID discussion, BILL noted that fighting disease is one of Rotary International’s key Areas of Focus. Around the world, Rotary has found ways to become involved in facing the challenge of the virus. He highlighted a few noteworthy projects: PPE efforts in the Philippines, medical equipment purchased in India, getting hand soap to school children in Mongolia, and providing materials to a health center in Nigeria. “These are just a few of the hundreds of projects through which Rotary clubs around the world are responding to fight the COVID pandemic. We can be proud of Rotary’s involvement” in this critically important cause.



Co-Pres Elect A.J. MAZARELLA was called upon to read the **CLUB UPDATES**. With a twinkle in his eye, A.J. supposed that our current presidents DALE and MELISSA must be ready already to hand off the reins of club leadership, because he told us that there was a line item on the

meeting agenda which prematurely listed “*President A.J.*” (Patience, dear current co-presidents ... There will be a ‘peaceful transition of power’ in due time.)

Friday, February 12 – Special Sweethearts Day meeting, hosted once again by NANCY RUSSIAN. Plan on having YOUR Sweetie join us for this meeting as we Revel in thoughts of Romance!

Wednesday, February 17 – Social meeting on Zoom will kick off at 5:30 pm. Be sure to stock up on your favorite beverage to wet your whistle, and possibly fire up your brain’s neural pathways because the special attraction that night will be a Rotary Trivia Challenge. Test your knowledge about the world’s finest service organization while you learn more about Rotary and have some fun in the process. Plus there are sure to be some prizes up for grabs to REALLY keep the game interesting! Mark your calendar today so you can be sure to be there on February 17!

Friday, February 19 – Board meeting on Zoom at Noon.

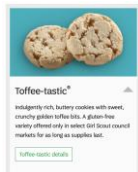
Friday, February 26 – Regular Zoom meeting

With the number of people in attendance at this meeting (and due to the visual limitations of A.J.’s phone’s screen), he was having some difficulty in picking out the various **VISITORS AND GUESTS** from the grid of faces, so Co-President



DALE stepped in to announce the folks who had joined us. This included TOMMY THOMPSON, who is reportedly in search of a Rotary club to call home. (The fact that TOMMY has shown up on our screens for a couple of weeks now is probably a good sign that Oceanside Rotary is in contention for his attention!) ALISON BUSHAN had her daughter BRIONY in tow. We would be hearing from her just a wee bit later in the meeting. And our featured guest speaker for the day TONY BRANDENBURG was also introduced. Then all of our guests were sung to by Songmeister TOM BRAULT. After TOM’s rendition of our Welcome Song, Co-Pres DALE let all of our guests know that, as a club, “We sing ‘happy-go-lucky’ songs every week, and it’s *awesome!*”

MAKING A 'THIN MINT' COOKIE CONNECTION



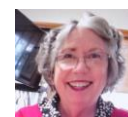
The BUSHAN Brood had reached out to our club, requesting the opportunity to make a pitch for this year's lineup of Girl Scout cookies, now on sale, and now including a gluten free "ToffeeTastics" option. BRIONY's goal is to sell 1,500 boxes this season at \$5 or \$6 per box (depending on the flavor). She is hoping to earn a spa day for herself, and her troop is trying to qualify for a horseback riding session as a group prize. BRIONY already has personally peddled 146 boxes, and the cookie season just kicked off. She told us that her favorite part about the Girl Scouts is meeting people, and she confessed that she is "probably going to eat one from each box, at least."



In this electronic age, you can order your annual stash of cookies online and have them delivered right to your door. Oh, boy! Convenient cookies! Here is the link to use which will give BRIONY credit for your purchases:

<https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/briony8949>

Share this link with your family and friends to help her in her quest for that spa day! JANET BLEDSOE LACY suggested that the club might consider buying some boxes from her to use later on for some of our "giveaways", and DALE said he would bring that idea to the Board for discussion.




One of the other presentations planned for this day had to be tabled to a future meeting, since the intended recipient was not able to attend.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE???

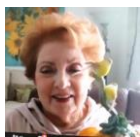


As Tina Turner would sing, "What's Love Got to Do With It?" ... Well, at our February 12 meeting, it will pretty much have EVERYTHING to do with it! NANCY RUSSIAN piqued our interest in the upcoming Sweethearts Day meeting, promising lots of fun for everyone. Feel free to bring your special sweetie along as TOM BRAULT will guide us through a deep and daring dive into a true treasure trove of trivia – all focused on love and romance. The big winners will earn big prizes, but no one will be left empty-handed, for NANCY will be sending a Valentine's gift to each person who attends this special session. You won't want to miss this event! RSVP to RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE soon!


OTHER ASSORTED ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NOTE

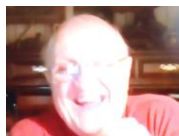
- Our Fundraising Committee will be firing up into high gear soon, and we could use your ideas and your energy as a volunteer and/or member of the Fundraiser committee. Contact Chair TERRI HALL to get involved in this important (and hopefully profitable) enterprise for our club.
- We are also in search of ideas for a service project that we could schedule for the club to actively participate in by the end of February. One concept that is under consideration is a possible sock drive for Brother Benno's, but we would love to hear any other ideas you might have for a way for our club to do something positive to help our community. Let either of your Co-Presidents DALE MAAS and/or MELISSA RODRIGUEZ know what you might suggest as a worthwhile service opportunity. 
- “Get Up and Move Challenge” – Also under consideration in the near future is pairing up with another service organization to encourage the members to engage in some healthy physical activities (for example, holding a friendly competition between the clubs to see who could rack up the highest level of steps tracked during a certain period of time). We will be planning the details and voting on this idea later, so stay tuned to see what we end up with.

HAPPY DOLLAR TIME



TERRI HALL (\$10) confessed to being “a bit of a klutz, I guess”, enduring her fourth fall since hitting the big Six-Oh. She says she bruised the heck out of herself, but thankfully did not break any bones this time around.

NANCY RUSSIAN (\$10) For those who wondered what was up with NANCY's Zoom background, she and her husband LUIS were spending the day lounging around in their beautiful coach home on wheels, parked at Pala. (They originally had planned to be up at Julian, but with the recent snow, they didn't want to try to maneuver a big motorhome through the slippery mountain roads.) 



BOB PICKREL (\$50) Three weeks ago, BOB had his right eye lens replaced and is ecstatic to report that he is now “seeing details I haven't seen in a long time!” It went so well, he will follow up next

week to have his left eye done, too.

TOM BRAULT (\$10) wanted to piggyback on BOB's report of eye improvement and told a story of the day when he was back in college and received his first set of eyeglasses, realizing at San Diego Stadium how much he had been visually missing from a distance all of his life before then. "I didn't know you were supposed to be able to see that!"



JAY CRAWFORD (\$20) He and ANITA were very grateful to have received their first Covid vaccine shots and look forward to their second dose on 2/11.

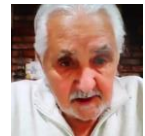


DAN WILSON (\$20) blessed and relieved that his Moms were able to get vaccinated.



OUR PROGRAM

Our coordinator of weekly programs JANET BLEDSOE LACY was able to introduce a long-time friend and colleague as our speaker for the day. TONY BRANDENBURG had been a member of JANET's law firm back in the 1980's. After that he was appointed to the California Municipal Court and later elevated to the Superior Court as a Commissioner, handling both civil and criminal proceedings. He has served as the President of the California Court Commissioner Association and in 2004, having retired from the Superior Court, was appointed as Chief Judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California. With such an extensive background to try to sum up, TONY joked, "Send me a nickel and I'll give you my full resume!"



Although the area of land controlled by Native Americans has shrunk dramatically, "Every place you are, or have been, or will be in the United States was once Native American country." There are 562 federally recognized tribes in the US, including 120 in California and 17 in San Diego County alone. Each tribe has its own leadership, history, language, traditions, and rules. It is this wide range of rules which makes the Intertribal Court system so important, as the judges must consider the customs and beliefs and traditions of each tribe in their decisions. There are 190 tribal courts spread around the country. A lot of tribes are so remote that lawyers don't go there. In that case, they will have "tribal advocates" who try to

manage disputes, but this can get out of hand in the cases when these non-professional jurists really don't know the underlying laws.

Up until 1953, the federal government held jurisdiction over all tribal areas. But Public Law 280, enacted by Congress in 1953, allowed tribes to choose to deal with their criminal cases in the state courts instead. Civil matters can be handled concurrently through either the state or tribal court systems. As a consequence, many tribes have amended their rules and have made some minor offenses (such as speeding, etc.) civil offenses instead of criminal complaints so that they can be handled within their own tribal courts.

Intrigued by this distinction, JANET BLEDSOE LACY posed the following hypothetical: "NANCY right now is on native land at Pala. If she punches her husband LUIS in the face, who would handle the prosecution of that?" TONY clarified that Public Law 280 only applies to offenses committed by a member of the Native American population. A non-Native like Nancy would have her criminal trial handled in the State courts. (Luckily for all concerned, NANCY did not follow through and make this hypothetical a reality.)

TONY informed us that the highest rate of crime in the country is "Indian on Indian" crime, and a lot of that goes unpunished. (For example, four out of five Indian women are abused sometime in their lifetime, and much of this is not reported to authorities.)

We are surrounded by natives, but we generally don't pay much attention to that fact. 8 to 10% of all the land in San Diego County is owned by the tribes. Reservation sizes vary dramatically, as does the number of members in each tribe. The smallest tribe in the country is right here in San Diego County, with a population of just eight members. The largest tribe is the Navajo Nation whose lands span areas in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. In all, their reservation is about the size of the whole state of New Jersey and they have 320,000 members.

TONY is currently the Chairman of the four person Ethics Commission for three confederated tribes. The land that these tribes are on holds 16 actively pumping oil wells, and they have so much money that on occasion "things can get out of hand

with crooked dealings” which must be adjudicated, with the findings sent to the Tribal Council.

You could tell that TONY could have just kept on giving us more information and insights about the tribes and how he works with them and for them, but he wanted to be sure we had some time to have our questions answered.

LES NEWQUIST asked if Indian casinos are required to be on specific land. Yes, the casino itself must be on tribal owned land, as defined by the federal government’s allotment. However, supporting facilities (such as a parking lot or a restaurant) can be on surrounding non-tribal properties. In fact, tribes have been known to buy up land adjacent to their traditional reservation area to allow such expansions, and it can take anywhere from 8 to 10 years to transfer land from a fee-based property to the full designation of tribal property,



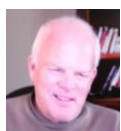
DALE MAAS asked if outside companies can participate in the profits from Indian casinos. In fact, we were told, most of these casinos are indeed funded by outside entities who can either just supply money toward the project or alternatively they could supply both the money and the management of the casino property.



PAUL WENDEE wondered if tribal casinos must be in synch with the California state Covid guidelines. No, since they are on sovereign land, they can make their own rules.



BILL DERN asked if there are set guidelines for a percentage of a person’s bloodline in order to be considered part of a tribe. This consideration is tribe specific, with wide differences seen in what it takes to be labeled a part of a particular tribe. In the extreme case, the Cherokee tribe will accept as a member anyone with “any percentage of blood quantum.” There have been “horrendous legal battles” about some of these designation requirements, usually founded in greed. When there is a pot of tribal income (from casinos or oil, etc.) to be divided between the members, keeping the tribal numbers lower means more money for each person. (Per capita incomes vary depending on the tribe and its income sources, ranging from as low as \$7,000 per person per month, up to as much as \$28,000 or \$35,000 per person per month.



ROGER VANDERWERKEN’s family farm was on Mohawk Indian land and he observed that natives there have been buying a lot of their previously sold lands back over time. This type of buy back has become very common, according to TONY. For example, Sycuan has repurchased a lot of

properties recently. The landmark case of the State of Montana vs. United States found that the county or the state cannot dictate how you use the tribal land that you may own.

BILL DERN had a two-part question: 1) What is the tax liability on tribal income? And 2) Is there an appeals process in the tribal courts? Answer to #1: There is no state tax on tribal incomes, but you do pay federal taxes. #2) Tribal courts have their own interstate appellate courts, often presided over by retired federal judges. If appeals continue above that level, they eventually could end up in the federal court of appeals and even at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Before signing off, TONY told us that he has a consulting company that works on Native American issues and then showed us a collection of Kachina dolls and other artifacts which he has collected over the years, some given to him as “payment” for his legal services. Plus, he himself has hand carved about 30 little village scenes.

We all really appreciated learning so much from TONY about the tribal system. JANET thanked him for his excellent presentation, for staying an extra 15 minutes for our extra questions, and she promised him, “We’ll do a lunch together once COVID is over!” Sigh ... That comment reminded me just how much I miss sharing lunch at the country club every Friday with all my friends from Oceanside Rotary. Seeing each other on Zoom virtually is OK, I guess, but it simply doesn’t match the feeling of “joining together in fun and song.” Forgive the loosely reworded lyrics, but I am sure that we all look forward to the time when we can “forget all troubles while we’re here to come to our club again....”

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, February 12 – Special Sweethearts Day Zoom meeting -12 pm
Valentines Trivia. Share the fun with your Sweetheart by your side!

Wednesday, February 17– Zoom Social meeting, starting at 5:30 pm
Rotary Trivia Challenge. Show off your knowledge! Learn more about Rotary!
Have Fun! Have an excuse to drink adult beverages mid-week!

Friday, February 19 – Board meeting on Zoom – Noon

Friday, February 26 – Regular Zoom meeting – 12 pm