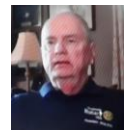


January 8, 2021

On this fine Friday, we gradually gathered online, and one by one, we were hailed by our “Unofficial Greeter Du Jour” BOB PICKREL as he saluted every new arrival with a hearty “HAPPY NEW YEAR!” Arriving just in the nick of time was our Acting President Du Jour MELISSA RODRIGUEZ who entered the Zoom session at 12:30 and 15 seconds and officially started our meeting at 12:31:02. No one held this slight tardiness against her after we heard that she had just recently lost a dear friend whom she had known for 43 years and as she described her emotional state: “I’m just trying to get through.” Positive thoughts go out to both MELISSA and to our other Co-President DALE MAAS who was excused from this meeting so he could take his Mom to a doctor’s appointment to manage a case of COPD plus a lung infection. Let’s hope for better and brighter times ahead in 2021 for both of our Co-Leaders.



With this being the halfway point of their joint term, this day’s meeting would be a Club Assembly so we could be updated on what has happened to date in this Rotary year, plus get a glimpse of what lies ahead for Oceanside Rotary. But before we dove into those details, we started out with a few more standard meeting agenda items. First up – our Rotary Moment, brought to us this week by the Number 7, the Letter J, and by our good friend DAVE HALL who had pondered the question: “Why do people join Rotary in the first place?” He figures that one of the main draws to Rotary is the desire to live the R.I. motto of “Service Above Self”, so his **ROTARY MOMENT** focused on that concept, sharing with us some pithy quotes on Service.



“There is something inside us that longs for some calling that requires dedication and sacrifice.” - David Brooks, The Second Mountain

Specifically, with our Literacy Project in mind:

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world” – Malala Yousafzai

One that applies to our Crown Heights mentoring work:

*“An education is not so much about making a living as making a person” - Tara Westover, *Educated**

And just a generally good quote to live by:

“I am still learning.” - Michelangelo

VISITORS AND GUESTS were singled out by one of our Co-



Presidents-Elect, L.J. FIMBRES. These included perennial guest RUDY VAN HUNNICK and also TOMMY THOMPSON (CEO



of a realtor association) who is checking out area Rotary clubs with an aim to join one somewhere sometime. Both of our guests were sung at by Songmeister TOM BRAULT, who invited everyone to sing along on mute.

The only **CLUB UPDATE** which was mentioned at this time was a reminder of the District 5340 Membership Workshop that was held the following day (January 9) ... Hopefully we had somebody in attendance to glean whatever pearls of wisdom were offered in that session.

WHO IS CELEBRATING WHAT IN JANUARY??

We had a few First Month of the Year birthdays to mention:



RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE (January 12) didn't specifically say how old she was turning but did say that she would donate \$56 to the R.I. Foundation.



ROGER VANDERWERKEN (January 15) wittily noted that he would be “dyslexic on RENEE’s amount” by contributing \$65 for this birthday.



JIM SCHRODER (January 20) was \$75 happy “to be above ground” for 75 years. He’s not sure that he believes he really has hit that milestone because “I see the same face in the mirror that I have seen for years. My secret: Don’t put on your glasses until you walk out the door!” JIM also reported

that he had just renewed his driver's license and discovered that since he arrived at the DMV after 4 pm, he only had to wait 5 minutes. So, this might be a helpful hint in planning YOUR DMV visits.



BILL DERN (January 28) was asked if he would be holding a big party for his birthday and tongue in cheek told us that “Yeah! THOUSANDS of people will be celebrating!” Then, following the discounting tradition of former member and former Councilmember **JACK FELLER**, **BILL** was 7 dollars and 10 cents happy for this birthday.

Wedding Anniversaries: **MIKE** and **LAURIE WESELOH** (41 years) and **SUSAN** and **GARY BROWN** (31 years).

Club Anniversaries: **LARRY HATTER** (51 years) ... **BOB PICKREL** (43 years, although “I think mine is in April”, so we might be hearing about this anniversary again in a few more months) ... **MIKE WESELOH** (38 years) ... **MIKE CURTIN** (12 years) ... **RON MARBEN** (4 years) ... **A.J. MAZZARELLA** (also 4 years – “I’m \$20 happy. Not sure if its January or February. But heck, for 4 years, I’ll bump it up to \$40.” Some folks tried to keep A.J. talking to see if his contribution would increase again, but no such luck. **BILL DERN**, however, offered to bump his \$7.10 up to \$20 if somebody would sing “Happy Birthday” to him (... and to the rest of the January birthdays, since that tune had been omitted before). **BILL** and the others got a very special rendition of the birthday song, crooned by a series of songleaders who each took turns singing just one line apiece (although **BILL** himself had to step in to warble the second to last line, with the final “Happy Birthday to you” covered by another January celebrant, and now a brand new Rotary songmeister **JIM SCHRODER**.)



Nobody got hit up for **FINES**, but there were a fair number of folks with **HAPPY DOLLARS**:



ANCHISA FARRANT - \$20 “Happy to see everyone healthy!” ... **ROGER VANDERWERKEN** - \$20 glad that his church continues to hold services outside, although on Christmas Eve it was a bit challenging, with “gale force winds that broke our umbrella!” ... **RUDY VAN HUNNICK** let us know that he will be turning 91 in August, but was encouraged to hear his doctor tell him, “I’ll be retiring in 15 years, and I expect that you will be my last patient.” For that encouraging prognosis, **RUDY** gave \$91 now, and will be reminding us in August that he has already covered his contribution for that birthday ... **JAY CRAWFORD** - \$50 glad to be “healthy and out



working in the garage and not cutting my hand off.” He is looking forward to a better 2021 when we might be “getting more things done in Washington.” ...

FRANK COXON - \$50 to give us advance notice of his birthday that will be coming up in September. “Born in 1933. I’ll let you do the math



on that.” ... TERRI HALL - \$20 grateful for the gift received

from BRIAN LONG in the mail of two Rotary masks so she and DAVE can both proudly “Wear Rotary.” BRIAN let us know that



he wasn’t able to gift everyone in the club yet because these masks are on back order, but the remaining folks should be getting them soon. Thanks, BRIAN!



... JANET BLEDSOE LACY - \$100 glad that “the election is over. The Georgia election is over. There is a lot of work ahead, but I’m looking forward to the next four years!” ... ERNIE MASCITTI



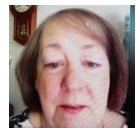
- \$20 disappointed that “people don’t know how to riot – I have seen nothing on eBay for sale from the Capitol rotunda yet!” ... TOM BRAULT - \$5



concerned that just a few minutes previously, he thought he had seen A.J. MAZZARELLA swigging a glass of beer, and now A.J. was driving on the open road. “Say a prayer for A.J. MAZZARELLA’s safety!” A.J. then reassured us all that “It might have looked like beer, but it was apple juice.” (Whew!) ... PAM MYERS - \$20 very sad that her brother-in-law in



Texas had passed away of Covid in mid-December after being in the hospital for three days. “It was just so sad that we can’t see each other and hug each other.... He was a good man – A world traveler like JIM.” We are



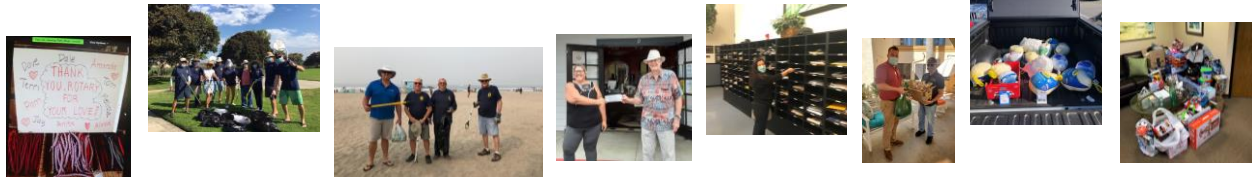
sorry for your family’s loss, PAM, and we wish you all prayers of peace and solace.

CLUB ASSEMBLY TIME

How the heck do you sum up the year to date for Rotary 2020? Co-President MELISSA started with an understatement: “This year has been brutal! Who would have thought it would have been like this? We had so many grand ideas and goals... Frankly, I’m tired of being tired!”

Still, our leaders have worked hard to try to come up with creative ways to keep our meetings fresh and engaging on Zoom. “We appreciate everyone showing up and taking part and being a community together.” But we will have to continue this remote attendance for a while still, waiting until it will be safe to get back together for in person meetings again.

Reflecting back on the year so far, MELISSA exclaimed, “You guys have been awesome! I have been blown away!” Our Community Service Committee led by Chair JAY CRAWFORD came up with projects we could do through the pandemic, and the members stepped up and “met and exceeded every project’s goal!”



The goal for the full year was to hold 12 **Community Service projects**. Well, we hit that number already in just the first six months! Here is a rundown:

JULY – Paracord bracelet assembly for Operation Gratitude

AUGUST – Our first virtual beach cleanup (with another one to follow in September) – Some members meeting together (while socially distanced) at a local beach, others cleaning up at various community sites in their own neighborhoods

SEPTEMBER – Oceanside Kitchen Collaborative fundraiser. We also kicked off our ongoing effort to write letters and cards to folks at assisted living centers. This project has been done in partnership with Breakwater Community Church, with birthday cards every month, Thanksgiving cards and cinnamon rolls, Christmas and Hannukah cards and candy canes and Chapstick covers and succulents. TERRI HALL tells us that we are planning still more “Thinking of You” opportunities in the spring to let these seniors know that they remain in our thoughts.

OCTOBER – Beef Jerky collection drive

NOVEMBER – Gathered a flock of frozen turkeys for Brother Benno’s as well as “Thank You” cards to officers of the Oceanside Police Department

DECEMBER – a Toy drive for Women’s Resource Center and Food drive for Bread for Life Mission



All told, we worked on 12 Community Service projects in these first 6 months. Plus, DAN WILSON and the Youth Committee also brought forward opportunities to donate books to the Oceanside High library through their “Reading is Freedom” program, as well as an invitation for us to sign up to be virtual guest speakers to students interested in hearing about various career choices. And, although it is not officially a “service project”, we helped to

buoy the spirits of a lot of our members through the “Random Rotary Acts of Kindness” deliveries, chiefly coordinated by BILL DERN and RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE. Hats off to one and all for all of the positive things that we have been doing for the community!



And then, of course, coming up in April will be our “Rotarians at Work” day, when we may need to be really creative, although (fingers crossed) with the vaccines starting to kick in, we *might* not be as locked down by then. Plus, we do have \$1,000 in the budget available for that project. If you have any ideas for a workable and meaningful project to undertake on that day of service, please share your thoughts with the Board.

How have we been doing on our **Donations and Giving** for the year so far? ... “Wow!” MELISSA gushed. “Just WOW!!!”

We have an annual goal of giving to the **Rotary International Foundation** of \$110 per member per year. (And we have to give at least \$50 per person average in order to be eligible to receive District matching grants for our projects.) So, with our 41 members, the Board set a goal for the year of \$5,000 in R.I. Foundation contributions. As of January 3, our total already stood at \$5,555 – 111% of our goal for the full year! A lot of that money was given up front as part of the members’ dues payments, and several members also have set up automatic monthly donations – an easy way to keep contributing throughout the year - SO easy that “you don’t even notice!”

Fines and Happy Dollars were budgeted at \$3,000 for the year. Currently we have taken in \$3,552, or 118% of the full year’s goal. Again – “Wow! Just WOW!!!!”

As far as **Total Revenue** goes, overall, we have taken in 79% of the full year’s goal already. (\$12,152 out of the \$15,000 budgeted.) And this has all happened despite the fact that we have not been able to hold any fundraisers so far this year. We will be planning a “Virtual Gala” (still a few months out, with TERRI HALL as the chair for that project). And we will be doing Golf again in June, although that might have a virtual component - Golf wherever you are, so your out-of-town friends and relations could take part.

For **Membership**, the Club has a goal of bringing in a net of Plus 5 new members in the year from July 2020 to June 2021. So far, we stand at Plus 3, so we need just 2 more to join. (“No pressure, TOMMY THOMPSON!”, MELISSA hinted.)

As she wrapped up our year-to-date synopsis, MELISSA admitted, “Part of me was thinking, ‘Maybe we should ease up on the number of projects.’ But I’m OK with all that we are doing, because members can choose their level of involvement and participation” and having more options available means there are more service opportunities to select from. And besides, “It feeds your soul, and keeps you going. We are here to serve our community, whether there is Covid or not!”

Please feel free to call, email, or text MELISSA or DALE with any ideas you might have for possible projects for the club. “We know that some of you have just retired and have LOTS of free time on your hands!”

MELISSA closed the meeting by letting us know what is coming up next on our Oceanside Rotary calendar (listed below in “Coming Soon”) and then thanked one and all for attending, knowing that “this is one of the ‘snooziest’ meetings of the year!” We appreciate seeing everyone and knowing that we all are striving to make the work of Rotary a priority in our lives.

“HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!!”

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Wednesday, January 20 – Zoom Social meeting, starting at 5:30 pm

Friday, January 22 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon

Friday, January 29 – Regular Zoom meeting, 12 pm –
TONY BRANDENBURG – Chief Judge of Intertribal Court of Southern California