

# **ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE**

# SHORELINES

**Tom Brault** Editor-in-Chief Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer

Bill Dern Reporter



AJ Mazzarella & LJ Fimbres

July 30, 2021

Finally, after 18 months, 3 days and 59 minutes (Past Pres TERRI HALL was a minute late starting her last in person meeting) and exactly at 12:30 P.M sharp. Co-President A. J. MAZZARELLA rang our club bell (what a new, yet also reassuringly familiar sound) and welcomed a rowdy group of Rotarians to our first in person meeting in a loooong time! Always smiling and ready for anything (and without any preparation, may I add), ERNIE MASCITTI led us in the



Pledge of Allegiance. Pres A. J. invited SUSAN BROWN to the podium to offer our Rotary Moment. SUSAN spoke about the one-word identifier that signifies what Rotary is all about ... What Rotary truly stands for. That one word is "TEA M" - Not a baseball team, not a football team, not a soccer team, and not a tennis team. It is Oceanside CA Rotary TEAM ... TOGETHER ,.. EVERYONE ...ACHIEVES ...MORE! Whether it's been a ZOOM meeting, an email, or a telephone call, we have been there for each other and our families throughout our time spent apart, and we will continue to meet our responsibilities "in the same brazen, productive manner as usual." Together everyone truly does achieve more, and we will keep on doing that going forward.

#### **CLUB UPDATES**

Aug 13 - Next meeting at El Camino Country Club. Speaker - our own SHOR **DENNY** 

Aug 14 - District Membership seminar - 9:00 to 10:30 am on Zoom. Since every one of us are tasked to be a part of our club's membership committee, we would like to see a good showing at this seminar. Go to the District Website (www.rotary5340.org) to register and a Zoom link will be sent to you later.

Aug 18 - Wednesday Evening Social at 5:30 p.m. Location TBD

Aug 20 - Board meeting via ZOOM at noon

Aug 20 - Rotary Night at the Moonlight Amphitheatre, 8 pm (Dinner before the show)

Aug 27 - Regular Meeting at El Camino Country Club

Aug 30 - Painting Work Party at Ivey Ranch. This is to make up for the earlier planned project that was rained out. (Rain in Southern California? Who would ever have imagined that could have happened?)

Registration is open for our District Conference to be held Sept 10-12 at Hotel del Coronado. Go to the District Website for details and registration.

#### **VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS**

BOB REINSETH was introduced by TINA ORTIZ
GORDON BROWN was introduced by SUSAN BROWN
SHOR DENNY was introduced by Past Pres TOM BRAULT
SHELBY LYNN was introduced by SHOR DENNY, her mother
TED VALLAS was introduced by ERNIE MASCITTI
JASON DESALIER, an ER doctor, was introduced by Co-Pres L.J. FIMBRES
SATIA AUSTIN, our speaker, was introduced by JANET BLEDSOE LACY
ANNE SPERAW was introduced by ED PARISH
RUDY VAN HUNNICK was introduced by Co-Pres L.J. FIMBRES



Coming to the podium and reminding everyone that singing is one of those potential super spreader activities, so masking up was the right thing to do, Past Pres TOM BRAULT led us in our welcome song. (We actually sound much better singing in person than via ZOOM.) He followed that with a song from the late 1970s, before many who were present at the meeting were born - "Reunited" by Peaches and Herb. We sounded O.K. Maybe our age or lack of practice showed.

#### PRESIDENTIAL STUFF

Past Pres MELISSA RODRIGUEZ finally got a chance to actually do some presidential stuff at an in person Rotary meeting, albeit after her year was over.

MELISSA presented the New Member Award for the previous Rotary year to TINA ORTIZ. MELISSA noted this new member, although not new to Rotary, jumped in and helped whenever asked and always doing it with such joy. TINA was involved in many activities



including working long hours on our web page for the various fundraisers, ensuring success. Thank you, TINA, and congratulations for being Oceanside Rotary Club's New Member of the Year 2020/21.

Speaking of New Members, next up was Past Pres RENEE RICHARDSON. RENEE welcomed our newest member to Oceanside Rotary - SHOR DENNY. SHOR has been a Rotarian before. We'll hear more from her at our next meeting as she is scheduled to be our speaker. (Did I nod off for a moment? Or did you forget, Mr. President, to ask our brand-new Rotarian just how happy she was to join this "fine" Rotary Club? Rookie mistake.)





ERNIE MASCITTI then shared a few thoughts on Oceanside Rotary Club's Foundation. ERNIE mentioned the COVID pandemic has reminded us all of our own mortality so he and his wife NANCY decided that they wanted to make a plan to share their good fortune in life with others. Last year our club foundation distributed funds for the first time in many years. So, the MASCITTI's

decided that one way to share a lasting legacy was to pledge a portion of their estate to the Club's Foundation. ERNIE closed with this suggestion ... (To get the full effect, read the end of the following quote as if it were being delivered by Vincent Price or Boris Karloff at their spookiest): "If giving in Rotary has enriched your life, imagine what giving posthumously will do for your sooooul!!"

Next up was Past President TERRI HALL with a Golf Tournament Fundraiser update. This year's event was extremely successful for us, bringing in \$8,000 dollars for our club. TERRI noted that nearly every member of our club participated in some way, whether it was as a donor, a player, a sponsor, or a volunteer. Congratulations to all and thank you TERRI for your part as a leader in fundraising.



President A. J. shared how he used to be nearly paranoid about forgetting his Rotary Pin and being fined. So, he had a few other ideas for fines. One was getting a Rotary tattoo (not certain that will be much of hit with our crowd, but God love the youngster for bringing it up) and another is a swear jar to ding members for inadvertent use of certain words during our meeting. (Note: It didn't

take long for this new fine opportunity to kick in ... Read on to see who was the first "donor" to the jar.)



### **HAPPY DOLLARS**

Starting off our happy dollars was JANET BLEDSOE LACY. JANET was \$5 happy to have hosted our demotion dinner at her place. She worked hard at stocking a complete bar with whiskey, rum, 2 kinds of gin, 3 kinds of vodka, and even sake along with appropriate mixers. So, on the big night, up came her first customer, BOB PICKREL, who asked for a



scotch. UGH!! The one thing she did NOT have. So today she gave BOB a bottle of Johnny Walker Black Label (good choice JANET) to apologize for not having scotch for him at the party.

ERNIE rounded up to being \$75 happy for everyone who showed up at the social at his home last week. Thanks for hosting it, ERNIE.

PP TOM BRAULT was \$25 proud to the R.I. Foundation to brag about his daughter GERILYN's performance in Moonlight's "Beauty and the Beast." This tremendously successful production has broken the all-time record for Moonlight attendance and performances have been completely sold out several times (a rarity at that large venue). Ticket sales were so strong that they added three extra performances to try to satisfy the



demand! In this show, GERILYN plays a bar wench, a town person and a broom. You should be proud, Dad!!

ED PARISH noted he has seen that production of "Beauty and the Beast" twice already and noted it was wonderful. He was also \$30 happy to have his ANNE SPERAW with him today along with seeing his friend BOB REINSETH.





TINA ORTIZ was \$50 happy to the R.I. Foundation to thank MELISSA and DALE for the New Rotarian Award. She then shared how, as a former member of San Luis Rey Rotary, she had to drop Rotary because of the

hectic nature of her life then. After attending a ZOOM meeting with our club, her daughter saw a spark come back to her Mom and told her she needed to get back into Rotary, as it has been such a big part of her life. And so, TINA did. Luckily, she decided to sign up with Oceanside Rotary and we are very glad to have her in our club.

LES NEWQUIST was \$20 happy to share the story of how his daughter and son-in-law sold their house in the Charleston, S.C. and bought a place in Salt Lake City all sight unseen via the wonders of the internet.



BOB PICKREL was initially going to give \$20 happy dollars to celebrate that we all could be together again. He then added another \$20 as a thank you for the scotch.

PP TERRI HALL was happy to be able to see part of her family recently (See "Rotarians Out and About" for photos) after 19 months apart, although it was "hotter than Hell!!" (DING! Goes

the Swear Jar! And later in the meeting, President A.J. was caught muttering the "D" word into the microphone, so he also owed the jar some cash.)

ROGER VANDERWERKEN was \$20 happy for the idea of the "Swear Jar" and noted he had one while serving with the Marines and ended up collecting so much money that it just about paid for the unit's Marine Corp Ball that year. He also invited Rotarians



to the Grand Opening of the Tri-City Pantry located at 165 Eucalyptus Ave, Vista on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 A. M. to noon. This is a 501(c) non-profit that serves as a food pantry for those in need.



Past Pres VICKIE PROSSER was \$20 happy to see a lot of her San Luis Rey Rotary Club friends at our meeting.

Running short of time for our speaker, A.J. nearly missed RUDY VAN HUNNICK. After a lengthy sharing of why he was happy which was eating into our speaker's allotted time, Pres A.J. was threatening to get out the hook as RUDY was sharing his appreciation for the beautiful demotion party at JANET BLEDSOE LACY's



home a few weeks ago, for the great social event hosted by ERNIE MASCITTI and his wife NANCY, and for other individuals in the Rotary family. It was a good thing you let him keep talking though, Mr. President, as Rudy generously donated not his standard \$25, but as he said, "10 times that for \$250." After that fantastic donation, many Rotarians were willing to let RUDY speak even longer. However, our speaker was waiting, so maybe next time.

### **PROGRAM**

JANET BLEDSOE LACY introduced our speaker, SATIA O. AUSTIN. JANET started to read her bio and then said if she read it all, that would take up the entire time of the program. Born in New York, SATIA moved to Oceanside when she was 15. Early in her life, she became interested in advocacy and served as the President of the Black Student Union at MiraCosta College and subsequently, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President of the North San Diego County NAACP. SATIA earned a Bachelor and a Master of Arts in Teaching and is working on a Masters in Arts in history.



Not only is SATIA a Life Member of the NAACP, she is the current President of the North San Diego County NAACP, a State Advisory for the Youth & College Division across California and Hawaii, a Representative for Region 1 for the National NAACP Youth Works Committee, a member of the Board of Directors for Operation HOPE-North County, serves on City of Oceanside Dr. King Jr. Task Force along with many other community groups. Ms. AUSTIN's list of numerous awards recognizing her commitment to advocacy and outreach would fill the rest of this page. Obviously, she is a hardworking, committed champion of advocacy and we are fortunate that her schedule allowed her to meet with us today.

(As always Rotarians needed to be there to really get the most from Ms. AUSTIN's presentation. Here are a few highlights.)

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded in 1909 in New York. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, cultural, and economic rights for all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Its founding leaders were of a variety of ethnicities. She also noted that, other than the top few leadership positions, everyone else is an unpaid volunteer.



Currently there are 2.4 million members in 47 states with 112 volunteer advocacy programs. NAACP has 1.7 million followers on Instagram, 541k followers on Twitter, and 685k on Facebook. She stressed the importance of developing a strong social media following as a way to reach many more people virtually.

The NAACP works to ensure that people are educated about issues and get out to vote. The organization is working with local police departments and city councils to be part of the discussion about equity in justice.

There are many ways for people to get involved, whether they actually join the NAACP through donating your time, your resources or being accountable and just showing up. One of the most important ways we all can participate is to hold our politicians accountable for their promises. SATIA discussed the various ways the NAACP is involved in our community which was quite impressive.

In the Q & A, JANET BLEDSOE LACY asked about dues to join the NAACP. Dues are \$30/year or \$750 for a lifetime membership, which can be divided over 10 years at \$75/year.

ROGER VANDERWERKEN asked if there is any relationship with Black Lives Matter? No, there is not. SATIA assured us that the NAACP is not "an aggressive organization" and is not supportive of violence. NAACP is more about policy change. If their action does not support policy change, then they will not act.

SATIA was asked about the current breakdown of ethnic groups in the organization. She spoke of her local executive committee, which includes Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. The importance is not to bring your color to the table, but to bring your voice.

PP TERRI HALL mentioned that our club is doing similar things as the NAACP in outreach to local children of need. She suggested maybe Oceanside Rotary could pick one project a year and work with the NAACP on that project. New member SHOR DENNY urged our club get involved with the Back Pack distribution program for our youth as they return to school. This program crosses all cultural boundaries and is important to our youth.

SATIA closed with an invitation for members to attend one of their committee meetings to see what they are doing locally.

President A. J. presented a beautiful succulent bowl prepared by our ANCHISA FARRANT as a thank you gift for this wonderful presentation.



#### **OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**



Holding our first drawing in a long time for a Jackpot of \$500 if you can find the Joker, Sergeant at Arms ANCHISA FARRANT brought the winning ticket and a deck of cards up to the podium. Knowing her proclivity for getting lucky and winning and noting that she was holding the deck of cards, many Rotarians expressed their concern that the outcome was predetermined. This proved to not be the case as PP TERRI HALL held the winning ticket and drew not the Joker, but the 9 of Clubs from the deck. She graciously donated the \$10 consolation prize back to the club.

And with the ringing of our club bell, President A. J. closed our meeting on time. Well done A. J. You set the standard high for L. J. at our next meeting!

### **ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT**

## A Rotary Night to Remember

"This is the Moroccan Dinner at BILL and LINDA BIRNIE's home on Sunday, July 18th. It was an Auction Item from the Wine and Cheese Night purchased by JIM SCHRODER, donated and prepared by Rotarian BILL BIRNIE and LINDA BIRNIE.



A delicious dinner was presented to the 11 of us. In attendance: our Co-Presidents AJ MAZZARELLA and LJ FIMBRES, DALE and NIKKI MAAS, VICKIE and LLOYD PROSSER, BILL and LINDA BIRNIE, SUSAN BROWN, JIM SCHRODER, and ALYSSA BAUER, niece of BILL BIRNIE.

A great evening was had by all!

Jim Schroder"

## July 8 to 15 - DAVE and TERRI HALL:

"Visiting our son and his family that we haven't seen for 19 months. So fun once we got there. Two days of driving each way (we break it up in the middle in Bishop), not so much... "

In the photo with TERRI and DAVE are son JASON, daughter in law JERUSHA, and grandsons SEBASTIAN and JULIAN.



#### RUSSIANS ON THE ROAD AGAIN



To get their money's worth on their posh RV, NANCY and LUIS RUSSIAN (with their pooch Luna along for the ride) headed back out onto the highways and byways of these United States for a

mega trip that, by the time they finish, will span over

6,600 miles! (Luckily, this picture taken in Amarillo, Texas was not of THEIR RV... Still, a disconcerting sight to see!)



This report was received from NANCY on August 1:

"We have had an exciting, relaxing, busy, and fun trip. LOTS of different and constantly changing weather from 119 degrees in Bullhead City (our first stop UGH on our journey across this great country) to rain, thunderstorms, tornado

warning and shelters at 2:45 AM, to humidity and heat, and back to 70's and sunny skies. On our way to Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida now to see Luis' cousins after which we start our trip back home through the southernmost U.S.

We just enjoyed a week with our granddaughters (Zoë and Sophia) outside of Chicago and in Spencer Indiana outside of Indianapolis. So much fun. Like Zoom, FaceTime has been a lifesaver but there is nothing like being able to be with and to hug your loved ones.

Last day Indiana camping, swimming, hiking, panning for "gold", fishing... (That's my son with the white beard!)

Our regards to everyone. Home around mid-August.

Nancy"



And the last photo is of our proud granny with her granddaughter Maddy in Spencer, Indiana.

Enjoy the rest of your trip, you vagabonds!

### **COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY**

Friday, August 13 – Regular meeting Noon at El Camino Country Club Program: SHOR DENNY

Saturday, August 14 -District Membership seminar - 9:00 to 10:30 am on Zoom Sign up at District website (www.rotary5340.org)

Wednesday, August 18 – Evening Social @ 5:30 pm. Location TBA

Friday, August 20 - Regular meeting Noon / Program: TBA

Friday, August 20 – Rotary Night at Moonlight Amphitheatre to see *A Chorus Line* Showtime 8 pm, Dinner before the show, Potluck desserts at intermission

Friday, August 27 - Regular meeting Noon / Program: TBA

Monday, August 30 - Painting Work Party at Ivey Ranch