

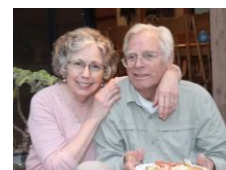
 <p>Rotary Opens Opportunities</p> <p>2020-2021</p>	<p align="center">ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</p> <p align="center">SHORELINES</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief</td> <td>Janet Bledsoe Lacy Anchisa Farrant Photographers</td> <td>Tom Brault Reporter</td> </tr> </table>	Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Bledsoe Lacy Anchisa Farrant Photographers	Tom Brault Reporter	<div data-bbox="1114 226 1365 426">   </div> <p align="center">CO-PRESIDENTS Melissa Rodriguez & Dale Maas</p>
Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Bledsoe Lacy Anchisa Farrant Photographers	Tom Brault Reporter			

June 18, 2021
Special Demotion Edition

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW...



That's right. Friday June 18 marked the end of an era in Oceanside Rotary as we bid a fond and festively fun farewell to our first ever set of Co-Presidents - DALE MAAS and MELISSA RODRIGUEZ - at their demotion dinner. This event marked the very first time in their entire presidential year that the club could gather together for a live and in-person Rotary meeting, which made it even more special than your normal demotion. Plus, this evening was held in a very special place, as JANET BLEDSOE LACY and her gracious husband STEVEN had offered up the backyard of their home to be the site of this event.



Now a backyard gathering might not sound too impressive, but if you are thinking that, then that just proves that you weren't there to appreciate the setting. Picture this scene ... You stroll to the end of a street atop a bluff overlooking Oceanside, walk past the stone gates and up the drive, past a serene pond. You continue on past their beautiful home through the garden leading to the yard, which for this event had been transformed with strings of clear lights illuminating the decorated tables with lovely floral centerpieces. A full bar was available to get you loosened up for the laughter. And if you chose, you could meander around the multiple levels of the Bledsoe Lacy grounds to take in the sights, including a charming playhouse down the hill. The focal point of the yard was a large, raised gazebo which would serve as the stage for the evening when the entertainment would begin.





But first, it was time for **COCKTAIL HOUR** and mingling with friends, followed by a delicious and bountiful **DINNER**. Such an array of fine food to be sampled! Oceanside Kitchen Collaborative



catered tacos of various flavors. Plus, we supplemented that supper with huge trays of fried chicken, salads, and fruits. That alone would have been more than ample for our meal, but on the deck behind the house there lay an impressive assortment of desserts, including cakes and other sweets from Petite Madeleine bakery and some spectacular truffles hand crafted by our own ALEXA KINGAARD. If you did not find something that you absolutely loved about this meal, then I don't know what to say to you.

At the stroke of 8 pm, just as had been planned, we proceeded with the demotion proceedings. But the regular order was flipped, since we were holding off on the slideshow in the skit until more darkness could settle in. So, the first order of business (before the monkey business) was the distribution of **AWARDS**. Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON kept us on track and our still current presidents MELISSA and DALE were also on the stage to take part in the photo



opportunities. First up was the pinning of some Paul Harris Fellows to recognize their cumulative contributions to the R.I. Foundation. Proudly receiving pins and certificates were ALEXA KINGAARD and ROGER VANDERWERKEN. Congratulations to you both and thank you for your substantial

donations to the cause!

Scanning the assembled members, it became apparent that the next target for Paul Harris honors had stepped away from the audience for a while, so that pin was put



on temporary hold and RENEE and the Co-P's moved on to our annual awards instead. TOM BRAULT set a new standard for excellence in slinging the B.S. by winning yet another El Toro Award (of which he was immensely proud). Our New Member

Award will have to be delivered at our next meeting, because the busy and uber-helpful newbie TINA ORTIZ was not in attendance, so we moved on to the Marty Schroder Award recognizing exemplary community service, which went to a surprised and humbled JAY CRAWFORD. (Considering how much effort and energy he put into his role as Community Service Chair in this past year, he might have been the only person in the club who was surprised by this particular award announcement. Well deserved!!)





By this point, LESLY ADAMS had returned to the backyard and could be called up to receive Paul Harris recognition which had been co-sponsored to a large degree by R.I. Foundation donation credits which our club has had in reserve, so it was a genuine surprise to LESLY that she had qualified for this award.

Plus, the pin which she received held a unique surprise – It was the very first P.H. pin that RENEE had received 20 years ago. (LESLY was so proud that she swore that she will wear this very special Paul Harris pin continuously – even on her P.J.'s!)



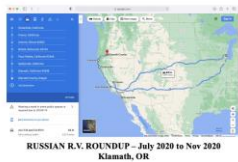
In a preamble prior to announcing their choice for this year's Presidents' Award, Co-President MELISSA reflected on the challenges which she and DALE had faced as leaders through this pandemic year, letting us all know this in no uncertain terms with a number of repetitions of one key phrase - "It was HARD!" Plus, they both agreed, if you had asked them at the beginning of their year who would end up being their choice to receive this award for supporting them this year, neither one of them would have guessed it would be this person, because there had been some difficult interactions at first, and it took quite a while for the three of them to reach a meeting of the minds to make their interplay and communications more productive. But in the end, they forged a strong working relationship and now, looking back at the year in hindsight, our Co-Presidents simply cannot imagine making it through 2020-21 with anywhere near the same level of successes if it were not for the support and guidance of their Presidents' Award winner - RENEE RICHARDSON. RENEE, for her part, was genuinely moved by this recognition, agreeing that their year together had indeed started out "hard" but in time, working closely with these leaders turned out to be a very positive thing, both for themselves and for the club as a whole. In the end, RENEE was not the only one in attendance who was moved close to tears, and (having been so meticulously cautious about social distancing given her work in the senior assisted living facility), she received her first hug in over a year from MELISSA, plus a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.



FROM TEARS TO LAUGHTER – LET THE SKIT BEGIN!

The podium and microphone were then turned over to the many, many members who were assigned various parts in our annual skit to skewer our outgoing president(s), with a rotating series of M.C.'s taking turns covering one aspect of this past year after another. Right off the bat, we admitted that – because we had

never had any live meetings at all this year – we really didn’t get to gather much roasting ammunition on DALE and MELISSA, and therefore we would “simply have to make some stuff up!” Well, somehow, our skit creators ended up with a ton of material and this turned out to be one of our longer demotion skits on record with a whopping 23 members taking part (either live or on video) in this play which lasted until just after 10 pm (... WAY past some of our bedtimes!)



Here is a rundown of the topics covered in this presentation. Reading this as a simple list of items does not do the skit justice – You really had to be there! And if you were there, then you’d know that this show resulted in a whole lot of smiles, giggles, laughs, and outright guffaws on occasion.

- Why Co-Presidents? (Song to the tune of “The Brady Bunch” theme)
- Name mashup: “DaleIssa MaaRiguez”
- Who’s in charge?
- Running late
- LES showing us the “big” Happy Dollars check from LYN



**DaleIssa
MaaRiguez**

- Melissa as attorney / Dale as financial advisor
- Reenactment of things that could go wrong at a “typical” Zoom meeting
- A video demonstrating why our Zoom breakout sessions weren’t the greatest idea (One quiet, boring group / A group where all they would talk about was vaccines / A racy joke video that really had been forwarded by ANCHISA)

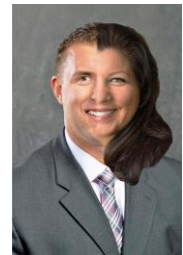


- Terrible group singing on Zoom
- “Rotary Why?”
- Mid-Year status report
- Trivia and Costume contests galore
- One more “Who the Heck is That?” contest (Spoiler alert: It was TOM as a toddler – and without the beard)
- Fun birthday stuff and Notable Quotes from the year
- NANCY and LUIS cross country RV trips, complete with travel related song snippets as a soundtrack

**WHO THE
HECK IS
THIS???**



- A threat from the Gavel Grabber, who had no pilfering opportunities this year, since there were no meetings (and actually there weren't even any gavels given to our leaders)
- Good stuff which happened this year – Successful community service projects
- RARK – “Random Acts of Rotary Kindness”
- DALE was the high bidder on a box that held such “treasures” as a roll of toilet paper, a half-eaten piece of Costco pizza, and a pair of lacy women's undies. (“What the what?!?!”)
- Oceanside Rotary members featured in magazines (One was real, others were really funny)
- Rotarians at Work food collection and Bingo games
- With two presidents, there was not just one face of our club this year
- A door prize to one and all of a disturbing mashup mask!
- Looking forward to L.J. and A.J.'s year
- A presidential sendoff by carriage - One final song “Happy Trails to You”



So, yes, we did find plenty to make fun of this year after all. And a few of these scenes were highlights of the night which will long be remembered – Especially the Zoom reenactment which featured nine members with their faces seen in 9 individual “Zoom boxes”, standing and / or kneeling behind a “Zoom screen” grid made of wood and nylon rope ... playing solitaire, having audio problems, talking on questionable phone calls without muting themselves, gluttonously eating, swigging beer and passing out drunk, falling asleep and snoring loudly, and having to be muted for offering inappropriate Happy Dollars at an inauspicious time. And then there was the final tableau, in which our two new incoming presidential “studs” A.J. and L.J., with vinyl hooves covering their hands and carrots stuck in their mouths, were reined in and posed as if they were horses pulling a full sized, twinkle lighted carriage carrying our immediate past presidents MELISSA and DALE off into the sunset of their Rotary Leadership careers.





And of course, to mark the transition, our outgoing presidents received their Past President pins (apparently with very impressive diamond chips in them) and then both they and the incoming presidents each had their turn at the microphone. (With four of these leaders given time for a speech each, no wonder the event ran longer!) Then we held our traditional “Pass the Gavel” lineup, from our most senior Past Presidents to the current crop. (MELISSA tried to commandeer the stunt gavel by putting it someplace special for safe keeping, but she soon relented and passed it on down to the New Guys to complete the exercise.)



All in all, a very memorable and fun evening and a suitable sendoff for our latest batch of “has beens”!



A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO PLAY GOLF!



Monday, June 21 marked the first fundraiser of the new administration (...although I’m not sure whether L.J. and A.J. can claim credit for this one, since all of the planning took place during the MaaRiguez era). Regardless of who were the presidents of record for this event, the real kudos and thanks go out to Event Chair TERRI HALL and her team, who had lined up golfers and raffle prizes and silent auction items and tee sponsors and volunteers, and even



arranged with the man upstairs to have a picture-perfect day of blue skies, comfortable temperatures, and light, cooling breezes.



From all appearances, the participants seemed to be enjoying this great day to walk about on the grass and curse the hitches in their backswings. We are looking forward to hearing what the bottom-line haul was for our club's coffers, but two of our members already scored big-time, with both L.J. FIMBRES and ANCHISA FARRANT being winners in the random raffle. (L.J. won two prizes and our infamously fortunate ANCHISA actually walked away with 3 – count 'em – THREE separate winners from her \$20 worth of raffle tickets. How DOES she get so lucky so consistently??)



ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT



BILL DERN had an excused absence from our demotion festivities. In the overall scheme of things, family is generally considered to rank above Rotary as a priority, and on this particular weekend, he and KATHY chose to be devoted grandparents and made a pilgrimage to Washington state to witness the graduation of their grandson IAN. Here we see the new grad with both sets of his grandparents proudly by his side. And before, during, and after the ceremony, the DERNs enjoyed time with son CHRIS and his wife AMBER, whether they were out to lunch together or just hanging around the homestead. Congratulations to the next generation of the Dern clan, growing up to face the big, wide, wonderful world out there!

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

- Friday, July 9 – Zoom Meeting at Noon - Club Assembly with “The Boys on the Block”
- Wednesday, July 14 – Summer Evening Social. Location TBA
- Friday, July 16 – Zoom Board meeting. Noon
- Friday, July 30 – Regular meeting (Could be on Zoom still / Could be back at the Country Club ... Stay tuned for news on the location once this gets settled.)