

*March 16, 2018*



PRESIDENT CHUCK WARD opened today’s meeting clanging the infamous Rotary Bell with a dinner knife. His gavel was lost right after last Friday’s meeting. What else is new??

“Happy, Happy Friday. My name is CHUCK WARD, and I am your PRESIDENT for the remainder of the 3 months.” First question asked by the members was, “Where is your Gavel?”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by our Rotary Guest and soon to be the newest Rotarian BRIAN ORR from the Salvation Army.



SONGMEISTER – PAST PRESIDENT BILL

DERN. Our first song today, since tomorrow is St. Patrick’s Day, was none other than IRISH EYES. The Irish would have been very proud of this group today singing this lovely Irish song. The Lads and Lassies are smiling for sure. Next we sang GOD BLESS AMERICA. Yep... we were good on that one, too. We really sounded fine today. Must be the recent rain and the sunny day clearing out all those vocal cords and making that music sound soooooooooooooooooooooo sweet.



## MOMENT OF INSPIRATION - LYN CORDER

*“Once upon a time, there was a very smart farm boy whose name was Wally. He was one of 14 siblings. They grew up in south-central Wisconsin. Wally went to college and became a Capuchin priest, part of the network of Orders of Friars Minor. He studied law and eventually, more than 30 years ago now, he became a missionary in Panama.*



*His parish was large – several of the villages he visited by donkey. It took him a few weeks to make one circuit. He had big dreams and, with his background, friends, and family networks, he knew he had to cultivate supporters to make his dreams become real. He spent his ‘spare time’ learning the local culture, customs, language and laws and finding out what was necessary to get permits to build.*

*During his annual visits back to Wisconsin, he spoke at churches and service clubs. One of his brothers, Pete and Pete’s wife, Laurie, owned a construction business. Pete was a member of Kiwanis and Laurie was an active Rotarian. They began what turned out to be more than three decades of organizing regular volunteer trips between Wisconsin and Panama.*

*Laurie and friends wrote grant proposals for Rotary District grants to build roads to connect the villages. A few major donors provided road-building equipment and had them shipped to Panama. Can you imagine the excitement of the villagers when Fr. Wally first drove a huge road grader into their village? Pete and Laurie recruited volunteers – both Rotarians and Kiwanians, church members from various denominations, and students from the local high school and college – to spend two or three weeks each January working in Panama. January represented “down time” for farmers and construction workers, and winter holiday break for students in Wisconsin. In Panama, it was part of the dry season, thus one of the best months for these trips.*

*Over time, and through many fundraising cycles, dozens, possibly hundreds of volunteers from Wisconsin and elsewhere have built schools, a church, more roads, a dam, and brought electricity to the villages through solar power. Volunteers even built a dormitory in one of the main villages to house the volunteers who come to help. Not all of this building was directly sponsored*

*by Rotary. However, the Ripon Rotary Club has been a faithful part of these projects throughout the 30 + years that Fr. Wally has been in Panama.*

*In the early days, Fr. Wally stocked a pond with just a dozen tilapia that he transported in a bucket. To this day some of the villagers catch fish from this pond and sell them throughout the region. The dam makes it possible for several villages to have clean water year- round, not just during the rainy season. Pipes were laid by volunteers; the pipes purchased with funds partially provided by Rotarians.*

*Fr. Wally is nearing retirement and I just have to hope that whoever the Capuchins assign to his region of Panama continues to nurture and maintain the volunteers and service connections he built, along with all the tangible evidence of this dreams that have become real.”*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PAST PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT,  
PRESIDENT ELECT, SECRETARY RENEE  
WENDEE**



She commented upon coming to the podium,  
‘This is no fun. There is no Gavel here’!

Hmmm... was she looking to “lift” a gavel or two maybe??? She announced that April 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Camp Pendleton visit with the students from Lincoln Middle School. A signup sheet was passed around and it filled rapidly with volunteers from the club.

March 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday is the District Assembly in San Diego. Oceanside Rotary Club is leading the District 5340 in the number of members attending. Good arm twisting, PPPPPES RENEE!

June 25<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Rotary Golf tournament. We are looking for prizes for raffle items for this fundraiser. PRESIDENT CHUCK asked Rotarian MIKE WESELOH about the Hole in One prize of a new car. Has anyone every won? MIKE smiled and said insurance is necessary for this prize of a new car ... and a lot of Skill or Just Plain Luck!!!

## VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS



Brian Orr about to become a member of the Oceanside Rotary club



John De Cherney from Juneau Rotary Club – Both of these first two guests were introduced by PP JIM SCHRODER



Col John Polidoro, today's guest Speaker from Camp Pendleton – introduced by DAVID NYDEGGER



Rudy Van Hunnick – introduced by BOB PICKREL

PRESIDENT CHUCK WARD mentioned that Rudy was wearing a green shirt, green vest, and green pants for St. Patrick's Day. Rudy corrected him with the response, "No, I wore it for our speaker today from the US Marines."



PRESIDENT CHUCK WARD welcomed back to the club JOHN TODD

AJ MAZZARELLA had messaged to P CHUCK that he would not be able to make the meeting today. P CHUCK asked everyone to say out loud, “Hello AJ!” He recorded it on his cell phone and sent the vidclip as a return message back to AJ.

Our WELCOME TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY SONG had its problems. P CHUCK asked PP TERRI HALL to lead us, but just as she started the tune, PP BILL DERN jumped in and said, “Hey! You asked ME to lead the group today and I am going to.” He did, and we sang it well. (It’s not every Friday that we see dueling song leaders... HA! )



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS..**



We actually had 5 Rotarians celebrating Birthdays this month but unfortunately, of that group, only RON MARBEN was in attendance. He had his choice of 3 envelopes to pick from: #1 - 333 Restaurant dinner for 2 (allegedly), #2 - Appetizers at Fratelli’s and #3 - Gift certificate for coffee. RON won the Fratelli’s. Everyone then sang Happy Birthday specifically to him. (To heck with the birthday members who hadn’t shown up!!)

**CROWN HEIGHTS EVENT REPORT**

P CHUCK asked for an update on the recent Crown Heights trip last Saturday to MiraCosta College to see the musical *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* followed by dinner at the Jolly Roger. There were 3 girls and 5 boys along with PP TOM BRAULT, MELISSA RODRIGUEZ, and PP JIM SCHRODER.



PP TOM reported on the trip and how he was able to arrange for a backstage and onstage guided tour for all. The Students were very impressed. PP JIM SCHRODER reported that during the campus tour at MiraCosta College, the students spotted something they had never seen before. It was none other than a PAY PHONE. Yes friends, our young student guests

had never seen a PAY PHONE. They asked what it was and how it worked. I think at that time of the trip, the three Rotarians felt Older than Dirt!!! The kids wanted to know why would you have to put money into a phone when you can just use your cell phone instead. It was explained that “back in the day” when these devices were first started, the words “CELL PHONE” was not in the dictionary.

### **HAPPY DOLLARS**

\$5 LARRY HATTER – Speaking of cell phones, LARRY’s ring tone went off just as JIM was telling this story, and LARRY gave some slightly embarrassed Happy Dollars for the mid-meeting phone call. Could not have planned it any better.



\$10 DAVE NYDEGGER thanked PP JIM SCHRODER for stepping in at the last minute to fill in for him and Marta as they had been scheduled to be with the students at MiraCosta and both were sick with the flu. Also DAVE was unable to be at the Rotary Combined Military Meeting last week as the MC as he was Sick.



\$5 LYN CORDER - Flew back east last week to help babysit a new grandson and his brother who is 3 to help the new Mom out. She enjoyed her time with the family and seeing the new member of the Corder Clan.



\$5 NANCY RUSSIAN and Luis have traveled all over the world. On a recent visit while in Asia, Thailand, Cambodia, and in Vietnam in Halong Bay they came across what they thought may have been P CHUCK'S missing Gavel. She pulled it out of a bag and presented it to P CHUCK. Everyone rolled in laughter, as it was actually a wooden back massager - 3 roller wheels, with a handle, emblazoned quite presidentially with the Rotary wheel logo on both sides - a Vietnamese stress reliever that you roll across your body. Who knows?... It may work to relieve our President's stress from being gavel-less again!



\$5 PP TERRI HALL thanked STEPHANIE YOO for her help organizing the 4 Way Test Essay Contest for 4<sup>th</sup> graders as well as the contest judges LOLA SHERMAN, PP DAVE HALL and PP JIM SCHRODER.

\$1 John De Cherney, a Visiting Rotarian from Juneau, Alaska told us that he likes making up at different Rotary meetings whenever he is traveling and seeing the different clubs in action. He was very appreciative of the hospitality received here at the Oceanside Rotary Club and enjoyed his time with us.



\$20 LARRY HATTER was very happy in that each year he meets with Lincoln Middle School officials to talk over what has worked and what has not worked with the field trips we take with the students. One of the highlights has been the tours of Camp Pendleton, and the Oceanside Rotary Club and Camp Pendleton soon will be taking 45 more students aboard the base. This is a fantastic

experience for both the students from Lincoln as well as for the Rotarian chaperones, and LARRY expressed his appreciation for how our guest speaker for the day has been instrumental in organizing this event on base.



\$20 Rudy Von Hunnick – Always happy to be here with us at Oceanside Rotary.

### **OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**



Lucky Tickets were held by both PAM MYERS and PP TERRI HALL. The winner could go home with \$800 dollars today – IF they could touch the Joker. A choice was given to both ladies as to which playoff method would determine who would have the opportunity to draw for the Joker and the jackpot: High Card Draw, or Bean Bag Toss, or Chucking Ping Pong Balls into a net on P CHUCK's head. High card draw was selected, and TERRI's 4 was "hard to beat", but PAM just sneaked by her pulling an 8. After extensive moving around of the cards, PAM MYERS was not able to locate the Joker, and so she went back to grab the consolation prize from Treasurer LES NEWQUIST.

### **SPEAKER**



DAVID NYDEGGER introduced our speaker today. Coincidentally DAVID NYDEGGER is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy as is our speaker today, Colonel John Polidoro. But the coincidences didn't stop there. It was discovered some time ago that both DAVID and our speaker had actually lived in the very same dorm room at Annapolis 25 years apart.

Now is this a small world or not? There are over 2300 rooms at the Naval Academy, DAVID remarked. What are the odds?

Colonel John R. Polidoro Jr. was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1993, and then attended the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, as well as the Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

He reported to 2nd Tank Battalion in May 1994 and served as a Tank Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer and Company Commander. During this period, he completed a deployment to Haiti as part of a provisional infantry company in support of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. In July 1997, he reported to the Basic School serving as a Staff Platoon Commander and Company Executive Officer for four student companies.

Upon completion of the Armor Officer Advanced Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky in December 2000, Colonel Polidoro reported to 4th Tank Battalion as a company Inspector-Instructor in Yakima, Washington. In June 2004, he reported to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, serving as the Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer, and deployed twice in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

In 2007, he reported to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to attend the US Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies. After finishing these courses, Colonel Polidoro reported to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Pendleton, California, as the Future Operations Officer. In December 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and assisted in the transformation of I MEF (FWD) to Regional Command-Southwest. During this period, he also planned the expansion of Marine Corps operations into Sangin Valley.

Upon his return from Afghanistan in July 2010, Colonel Polidoro assumed command as Inspector-Instructor, 4th Tank Battalion. After that command, he attended the National Defense University and reported to the Joint Staff in 2013 to serve as Operations Officer and Division Chief of the Joint Operations Directorate, Central Command, J35 Deputy Directorate for Regional Operations. In July 2015, Colonel Polidoro reported to 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Bahrain as the Chief of Staff, where he concurrently served as the Director of Operations for the Joint Combined Planning Cell in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Colonel Polidoro is a graduate of the US Armor Officer Advanced Course, US Army Command and General Staff College, US Army School of Advanced Military Studies, and Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Management. He holds a Master of Science degree in Adult Education from Kansas State University, a Master of Military Arts and Science degree in Theater Operations from the US Army Command and General Staff College, and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Resource Management from the National Defense University.



His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with one gold star, the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Colonel Polidoro was able to share with us some of the background and history of our neighboring Marine Corps Base. Camp Pendleton is situated just north of Oceanside, CA on land that had been a Spanish land grant - the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. With the passage of the Second War Powers Act on March 27, 1942, the transformation of the Rancho into the world's largest Marine Corps Base was initiated. In addition to a colorful history, the Marine Corps acquired three mountain ranges, five lakes, 250 miles of road, and 20 miles of beach.

Camp Pendleton was dedicated September 25, 1942 under the command of General Joseph Fegan. Camp Pendleton was named after the late Marine Major General Joseph H. Pendleton, an illustrious figure in early California military development. His widow was present and raised the flags during the ceremonies. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was also present during the ceremonies and toured the old ranch house during his visit and took great interest in its history and in its preservation. The ranch house is a California Historical Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Because of the vastness of the Base and its 126,000 acres, several separate camps within the Base were established. The Spanish influence prevailed in the naming of some of the smaller camps including Las Pulgas, San Onofre, Del Mar, and Margarita. The old ranch brand "TO" which marked thousands of head of cattle for many decades was adopted as Camp Pendleton's logo and can still be seen

throughout the Base. An intriguing (and somewhat scandalous) backstory of the origin of this brand was also shared with us. But if you missed this meeting, then I guess you missed out on this story. So there!



Camp Pendleton is recognized as an outstanding training base and its vastness allows for use of modern weaponry, providing ample space for tactical maneuvers, wide beaches for landing exercises, and a variety of terrain for field practice in practically all types of combat operations that Marines are likely to encounter.

Today Camp Pendleton is the home to the 1 MEF, First Expeditionary Force. I MEF provides the Marine Corps a globally responsive, expeditionary, and fully scalable Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), capable of generating, deploying, and employing ready forces and formations for crisis response, forward presence, major combat operations, and campaigns. It is forward-deployed and able to rapidly conduct operations across a wide spectrum of duties, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to amphibious assault and high-intensity combat.

The United States Marines is often referred to as America's 911 Forces. Aboard the base at Camp Pendleton you will find a daily base population of 70,000, making it the 5<sup>th</sup> largest city in San Diego County.

#### BASE POPULATION BREAKDOWN:

40,000 Marines

4,000 Naval Personnel

3,500 Civilian Employees (includes 1,750 civilian contract personnel)

17,000 Military Family Members living in on-base housing

1,000 Civilian workers at non-DoD tenant organizations

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION = 70,000

The size of the United States Marines in recent years has decreased from 202,000 to the present level of 185,000. With the decreased numbers assigned to the base, they are finding that there are more buildings than needed. Older buildings built in

the 1960's are being removed. The electrical grid built in the 1960's needs to be rebuilt. Natural gas lines are not all marked. One of the focuses of the base to 2025 is modernizing its infrastructure.

The hope is to make Camp Pendleton one of the Greenest facilities of the all bases. The base has the potential for solar fields where the former tomato fields used to be along I-5. Environmental factors aboard the base are many. There are now 21 endangered species aboard the base. SONGS (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station) will hopefully eventually be turned back to the base once the site is cleaned up.

Camp Pendleton and Oceanside have a great working relationship. Our speaker has very much enjoyed being stationed in this area and feels right at home.

We feel very fortunate to have been able to work with Colonel Polidoro with our project with the students of Crown Heights. We have been able to partner the students with his young Marines with various visits in the past and another this coming April. The Oceanside Rotary Club very much appreciates all that the colonel has done for this program with Laurel Junior High School, The Oceanside Rotary Club, and the Crown Heights area. Many great impressions have been made on our young students as they visit aboard the base. New horizons have been opened in their thinking, hopefully changing their lives.

PRESIDENT CHUCK WARD presented to our guest speaker Colonel John Polidoro a planter box made by TERI Inc. here in Oceanside. It is a unique facility working with clients with autism and other special needs. Our own ANCHISA FARRANT placed succulents in the planter for our speaker today.



President CHUCK WARD was excited to have his new "Gavel" from Vietnam, brought to him by NANCY RUSSIAN, to close the meeting, even though even with repeated attempts, it gave off a pathetically muted (ding) instead of our usual CLANG.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## **ROTARIANS (and Leprechauns) OUT AND ABOUT**

This just in from our wee Irish lassie member who hails from a suburb of Dublin called “Thailand.” To celebrate St Paddy’s Day Weekend on Sunday, ANCHISA FARRANT charmed husband RON MARBEN and some friends from the Santa Margarita Yacht Club into the wearing of the green as they jigged and reeled over to O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub in Carlsbad. And while they may not have found the pot of gold there, it appears from the photos that some of the beverages imbibed may have had a distinctly golden tone. Looks like fun!



## **COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY**

March 23: USS MIDWAY, Part 2

Reporter: TOM BRAULT

March 24: DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, San Diego

(8:30 am to Noon at the USD Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice)

March 30: DARK for Good Friday

April 6: MASAYO HALPIN, Sex Trafficking

Reporter: SUSAN BROWN

April 13: DEANNA LORSON, Oceanside Assistant City Manager

Reporter: JAY CRAWFORD

April 20: DAVID BROAD, Board President MiraCosta College

Reporter: DAVID HALL

April 27: DARK for Rotarians at Work Day on 4/28

April 28: ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY

Details to follow

And for those of you into WAY advance planning, our annual demotion dinner date has been switched from June 29 to June 22. So plan accordingly to be there for the fun of bidding "Adieu" to PREZ WARD.

June 22: DEMOTION DINNER - New Night - Same Old President!