



**ROTARY CLUB OF  
OCEANSIDE**

**SHORELINES**

  
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*March 24, 2023*

**MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ RICHARDSON** started the meeting right on time and asked visitor **EILEEN TURK** of **KOCT** to lead us in the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **PREZ. RENEÉ** then invited **MADAM PREZ. ELECT SHOR DENNY** up to give us the Club Updates as follows: March 25<sup>th</sup>, was the District Assembly, including Officers and Board Member training. Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, which would have been our next regular meeting is **DARK**, to allow Rotarians to volunteer for **IRONMAN** athlete check in from noon to 5:30 p.m. On Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a noon Board Meeting by way of Zoom. Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Rotarians at Work Day when we will be returning to the historic cemetery on Coast Highway to continue our cleanup efforts there from last year. (The betting line is now open on how many more gravestones we will be able to successfully relocate from underneath the overgrown grass and/or reposition for better viewing by visitors.)

### **VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS**



Following **PREZ. ELECT SHOR** was **CO PREZ. A.J. MAZZARELLA** who called for the introduction of visiting Rotarians and Guests, starting with **BRIAN LONG** who introduced his 12-year partner in his Oceanside Real Estate Business **CARRIE CHACON**, who would be inducted as the newest Rotarian of the Club later in the meeting.

**ROGER VANDERWERKEN** was proud to introduce “his boss” **JACQUE**, his Wife and Life Partner.



**DAVID NYDEGGER** introduced representatives from **NORTH COUNTY LIFELINE - FRANCISCO FLORES** and **BROOKE STANCE** - who would later be receiving a check from Rotary for their wonderful organization.



**EILEEN TURK**, of **KOCT**, who we would also hear from later in the meeting, was introduced to the club.

**JANET BLEDSOE LACY** introduced the guest at her table, **AKINA GOODSON**, who would be our speaker, representing the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic.



**JAY CRAWFORD** then led us in the Welcome Song in honor of all of our visitors.

The meeting then reverted back to **MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ** who invited **DAVE HALL** to bring up **FRANCISCO FLORES** and **BROOKE STANCE** from **NORTH COUNTY LIFELINE**. **DAVE** reminded us that amongst all of the good work that is done by **LIFELINE**, that each year they give their students who are graduating from high school leis which are made out of 50 \$1.00 bills, with help from our **ROTARY**. **FRANCISCO** and **BROOKE** shared that many of their graduating students have been with their organization from as young as 6 years old. **LIFELINE** provides free in-home parenting services to help families manage stress and improve their quality of life. They ensure that children remain safely in their homes by educating parents and connecting families to community resources. Family support partners provide individual attention, including home visits, to help the families identify and achieve their goals, and strengthen their families. Other services include information and referral, parent education, and support groups. **FRANCISCO** and **BROOKE** shared a range of areas of work that they do with these kids and their families, many of whom experience a wide variety of challenges. **LIFELINE** can be reached at (760) 726-4900 and is located at 707 Oceanside Blvd, in Oceanside. **BROOKE STANCE** can be reached at (760)419-9836.



The **LIFELINE** introduction was followed by **MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ**, **CO PREZ. A.J.**, and **DAVE**, presenting **FRANCISCO** and **BROOKE** with a check from **ROTARY** for \$750.

This was followed by **EILEEN TURK** of **KOCT**, who shared with us that amongst her volunteer efforts with North County's favorite (and only) local public access television station (shown on COX channels 18 and 19) that she has a show

called “On The Scene With Eileen” which covers local events and news. KOCT TV, the Oceanside Channel, is our community voice for North County San Diego News, Government, and local events. **EILEEN** was joining us to promote **KOCT** and their 2023 Annual Fundraiser Bash! The Oceanside Channel, KOCT Television, invites us join them for a fun afternoon. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual fund raiser will be at the Texas Roadhouse located at 2735 Vista Way in Oceanside, 92054. Since this restaurant is huge, there will be just one seating which starts at noon and ends at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday April 20, 2023. Tickets are \$50 each and can be obtained by calling (760)722-4433, or contacting [KOCT.org/FUNDRAISER](http://KOCT.org/FUNDRAISER).



**MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ** then announced our solo March birthday boy, **SEAN RYAN LOWE**, who was \$40 Happy. **SEAN** said the amount paid was a combination of his age plus a celebration of the recent victory of the Lacrosse team that he is coaching!



This Happy moment was followed by another, with **CARRIE CHACON** being sworn in by **RENEÉ** to bring the **OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB** back up to 50 members for the first time in quite some time! The event was celebrated with not only **MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ**, but with **CO PREZ. A.J.**, and **PREZ. ELECT SHOR**. **SHOR** mentioned that she wished she had been the one who invited **CARRIE** to join the club, but in fact **CARRIE**'s sponsor was none other than **MADAM PREZ. RENEÉ**. **RENEÉ** then reminded us all that when we are out and about and meet someone who we feel might be a good match for the club, speak up and ask them to come to a meeting and check out Rotary! **PREZ. ELECT SHOR** had the honor of placing the official Rotary Pin on **CARRIE**. **RENEÉ** then presented our newest member number 50 with what she referred to as “**ROTARY SWAG**” which included a Rotary t shirt, a Red Badge, and a bag of Rotary Goodies. But the best “Rotary Goodie” given was a \$500 check from Oceanside Rotary payable to the **REAL HEARTS GIVE** charitable organization which our newest number 50 Rotarian is part of, whose mission is “to lift the spirit of underserved youth in our community so they may thrive. When youth thrive, we all thrive.” Program Speaker Chair **JANET** promised that **CARRIE** would be given a chance in the future to present a program to Rotary about **REAL HEARTS GIVE** and about all they do in our community.



**HAPPY \$\$\$! ERNIE MASCITTI** was happy that he had just returned from a 7-day cruise with his recently widowed sister. He shared that they live 2,000 miles apart. and that the cruise was a great vessel (pun intended) to serve as a means of reunification to rekindle their relationship, despite their living so far apart from one another. During the trip, while sharing with his sister how important Rotary was in his life, **ERNIE'S** sister gave **ERNIE** \$20 to donate to Rotary, and with **ERNIE** adding his own \$25, he gave a total of \$45 Happy Dollars. He added an excited “Go Aztecs!” to the end of his presentation. (... And they went, alright – All the way to the Final Four! WOO HOO!)



**ROTARIAN/PASTOR ROGER VANDERWERKEN** was \$5 Happy that on April 9<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting wonderful activities at his **BREAKWATER COMMUNITY CHURCH** (located at 506 S. Nevada Street in Oceanside) for Easter Sunday, starting with a morning service at 9:00 to 10:30, followed by a 10:30 A.M. Easter Egg Hunt, and an 11:00 combined congregation meeting given in English and Spanish, followed by a great lunch and a “Jumpy House” for the kids.

**TINA ORTIZ** was \$20 Happy to share with us that she and her daughter had attended a **SPIN POTTERY** class run by fellow Rotarian **DAVID NYDEGGER'S** daughter **KINLEY**. **TINA** shared how fun it was to participate in the class, and how she had never done this before. She then showed off her impressive creations, 2 handcrafted cups/vases that she now treasures as her own. **TINA** also thanked **DAVID** for providing their “beverages” which enhanced their enjoyment of the event, without naming the exact “beverages” provided. But we all pretty much could guess that the “beverages” came in tall slender bottles topped with corks. You too can attend these classes by contacting [info@oceansidepotteryclub.com](mailto:info@oceansidepotteryclub.com). Oceanside Pottery Club is located at 1401 S. El Camino Real Suite 1103, Oceanside, CA 92054.



**DARREL LARSON** was \$25 Happy to be home after several days/weeks of travel due to his business **GIVE CLEAN WATER, INC.** Visitor **EILEEN TURK** of **KOCT** was \$5 Happy to be attending our Rotary meeting. **DAVID SHORE** was \$5 Happy to welcome our new “young” members. He added that,



in our Oceanside Rotary Club, the term “young” was defined as being under 70 years old.

**BRIAN LONG** was \$100 Happy to see his business partner **CARRIE CHACHON** be inducted as a new Rotarian. Then he shocked everyone by adding that he would pledge to contribute \$1,000 in Happy Dollars if visitor **EILEEN TURK** of **KOCT** would join the Rotary Club “within this calendar year”! (This author notes that things must be going well at **BRIAN’S** and **CARRIE’S** Big Block Realty business located in the Seville Executive Plaza at 2182 S El Camino Real, Oceanside, CA 92054, Phone: (760) 415-3329!) No pressure there, visitor **EILEEN TURK**!



## PROGRAM

**JANET BLEDSOE LACY** was then called up to introduce our speaker, **AKINA GOODSON**, who is the **CASE MANAGER/OUTREACH COORDINATOR** of The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD, Oceanside, 3609 Ocean Ranch Blvd., Suite 120., telephone number (760) 418-4611, [agoodson@cohenvvsd.org](mailto:agoodson@cohenvvsd.org).



**AKINA** has an impressive resume, which includes being a client advocate who researches, coordinates, and provides much-needed resources to support and improve client outcomes, so that they can achieve wellness and autonomy. She was also able to share the great services that the Cohen Clinic provides to the wider community. Through outreach initiatives and events, **AKINA** helps to de-stigmatize seeking mental health services. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in human resources and a Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology degree, both from Park University.

**AKINA** has worked with military service members and their families for more than 20 years. (Author’s note: **JANET** questioned this representation because **AKINA** looked too young to have done anything for “more than 20 years”!) The daughter of a Marine and a Marine spouse of 20 years, her passion for the betterment of society started at an early age as she began advocating on behalf of the military community, working toward bridging the gap of resources and services. **AKINA** has volunteered as the Director of Programs for a nonprofit called Network for Exceptional Military Families, which helps military service members, their families, veterans and caregivers with exceptional needs. She along

with four other military spouses founded this Network, where she also held positions of Vice President of the Board and Director of Programs. **AKINA** believes knowledge is key and spends time building on her professional and personal development through attending trainings, seminars, and webinars. **AKINA** has been honored as a volunteer of the year, awarded a certificate of recognition in honor of her leadership and dedicated service by the California Legislature Assembly and North County Philanthropy Council, and awarded Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year Camp Pendleton in 2018.

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD is part of Cohen Veterans Network, founded by Steven A. Cohen, who made a \$275 million dollar commitment to launch a network of mental health clinics to serve veterans and families. There are 3 of these clinics in the local area – Oceanside, San Diego, and Torrance - and a total of 24 clinics nationwide. The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD provides confidential, high-quality therapy, and local referral support services to: post-9/11 veterans, service members\*, National Guard and Reserves, and their family members, including spouse or partner, children, parents, siblings, caregivers and others. Care is available regardless of discharge status, role while in uniform, or combat experience. Lack of insurance or ability to pay will never be a barrier to care. (*\*TRICARE referral needed for active duty.*)

Mr. Cohen apparently developed an interest in supporting these family clinics after his own son had served in the military, and upon his leaving the service they learned that the resources available to assist in the transition out of the military were found wanting. **AKINA** indicated that many of the issues addressed at the clinics are Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; Substance Abuse; Homelessness and other issues that require an interaction of their clinic acting in partnership with other resources in our community, and referrals to the same. This includes Rotarian attorney **DAVID SHORE** who specializes in Social Security Disability Benefits, who has helped people successfully file and appeal Social Security Disability claims for decades. Most significantly, he takes on these cases on a “contingency basis”, which means that he only gets paid if he is successful in winning his clients’ claims. **DAVID** can be reached by calling 760-477-1180, and is located at 4059 Oceanside Blvd., Suit M, in Oceanside.



After this EXCELLENT program, this author googled Steven A. Cohen and found that this Mets owner, as of January 2023, had a net worth is estimated to be \$17.5 billion, ranking #95 wealthiest person in the world and #48 in America on the Forbes Billionaire List ... After **PREZ. RENEÉ'S** earlier pitch about reaching out to other people to join Rotary, it is suggested that this guy would be perfect!

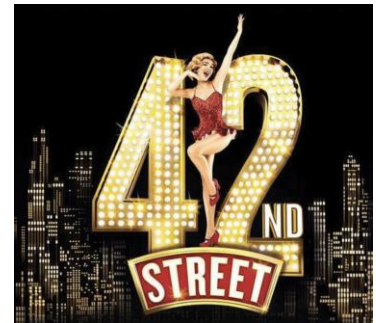
The meeting concluded with **MADAM PREZ. ELECT SHOR DENNY** having the winning raffle ticket, but not the winning card, leaving behind the \$1,000 winnings still in the pot for our next meeting!



### ONE EXTRA TICKET TO “ROTARY AT THE MOONLIGHT” ... CARE TO JOIN??



As part of our group purchase, the **Moonlight Amphitheatre** gave us one extra ticket to the performance of *42nd Street* on Friday, August 25, so we are seeking one more person to join us for our night under the stars to enjoy a fun and very fine musical. If you would like to attend (... or if you are already signed up for this event and have a friend who would like to come, too), contact TOM BRAULT – He might even be willing to haggle with you to bring down the price. (Regular price: \$53 / Group discount rate: \$47 / What TOM might sell the ticket to YOU for: \$???)



### COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Volunteer to help registration at Ironman event

*Regular meeting canceled for that date*

**Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** – Board Meeting on Zoom, starting at noon.

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Rotarians at Work Day service project

**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** - Regular meeting at El Camino Country Club

**Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** - AWAY meeting. Location TBD

**Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** - Regular meeting cancelled for Memorial Day

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, June 23** – Demotion Dinner. Location TBD