

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES

Rotary Opens Opportunities

2020-2021

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In our pre-meeting chat time, we got some candid insights from our visiting District Governor STEVE WEITZEN, who appears to be on track for spending his entire year of leadership in the pandemic times of Zoom meetings and enforced social distancing. “We came into the year knowing what we were facing,” he told us, “and we set up our schedule the best we could,” given the circumstances. Taking a moment to see the bright side, he noted, “It sure has saved a lot of wear and tear on my car!” and “I don’t miss the rubber chicken lunches and dinners.” Still, when we get back to a reasonable semblance of “normal” (whenever and whatever that might be), he hopes to be able to come out to visit the district’s clubs live and in person to thank us all for keeping the faith in Rotary during these tough times.

At 12:31 pm, our Co-President DALE MAAS was eager to get the meeting underway, since this was set to be a “very special day.” Having our District Governor with us to share his time and his thoughts “makes our normally awesome meeting even better!” To accommodate our busy D.G.’s schedule, we flipped our standard agenda to push his program to the top of the list. But before he was officially introduced to speak, D.G. STEVE was treated to a special song provided by our frequent Song Leader TOM BRAULT. TOM had



Googled “Steven Weitzen” to get some ideas of what to feature in his musical tribute and having learned online that the D.G. lives in La Jolla, TOM was inspired to revise the lyrics to “On and On” (a well-recognized 70’s pop tune by local singer / songwriter Steven Bishop) since the original version of that tune started out with “Down in La Jolla” instead of “Down in Jamaica.” The special version sung to our D.G. today focused on STEVE’s leadership through Rotary and was accompanied by a series of photos showing our leader serving his club and our district over the years.

*Down in La Jolla they got ... a really great Rotarian
Leads our District and he ... does his part
Selfless fellow, always one to do more*

Even worked on projects in El ... Salvador

*On and on, he just keeps on giving
Shows us how service is the best of living
On and on ... On and on ... On and on*

*Steven Weitzen served as his club president
Now he's the head of Fifty Three-ee For ty
He makes Rotary a priority
Cuz he knows that "Rotary Opens Opportunities"*

*On and on, up the ranks, going higher
And all who hear him, they will be inspired
On and on, On and on, on and on
On and on, On and on, on and on
On and on, On and on, On and on. Ooooh*

Our D.G. and his assistant both seemed to enjoy this tribute very much, with one of them even declaring that it was "better than the original!" And our Co-Prez DALE was quick to note that one of the photos which TOM had displayed of D.G. STEVE showing off his dance moves was taken at the PETS conference which he and MELISSA had attended.

DALE then segued into his official introduction, but was able to trim it a bit, since TOM had inserted several bits of the guest's bio directly into the song. STEVE is a native San Diegan and does in fact live in La Jolla with his wife, AVA. He has been a licensed attorney since 1987 and opened his law practice in 1990. Currently he is a solo practitioner focusing on civil litigation.

STEVE served as president of the Del Mar – Solana Beach club in 2013-14, as an Assistant Governor of District 5340 from 2015-18, and as Chief Assistant Governor from 2019-20. He is a Paul Harris Society member and has been a speaker at PETS, District Trainings, and the District Conference. And today we had the honor of hearing him speak to the Oceanside Rotary. DALE tacked on to this more standard biographical information one additional line: "Plus he is an awesome human being and awesome Rotarian!"

STEVE, being one who apparently is happy to share the spotlight, opened his remarks by introducing his primary Rotary aide this year – SUSIE CALLAHAN from the Rancho Santa Fe club – the Chief amongst the 16



Assistant Governors who will be helping to manage the District through this Rotary year. STEVE also congratulated all of us for our service to our community through Rotary and made special note of our Rotarians at Workday plans for our food distribution event. Plus, he was proud to let us know that our very own MELISSA RODRIGUEZ will be stepping up to serve as an Assistant Governor for our area as she “begins her journey on the road to district leadership.”



STEVE said that the question he has been asked the most this year is: “When will we be able to meet in person again?” and he has to admit that the answer is: Nobody knows. It all depends on the recommendations and restrictions from the state and the county. In the meantime, “our year is just Zooming along!” (Get it? ... Hee hee hee)

There are 60 clubs in District 5340, which spans from Tijuana to Oceanside and all the way east to the Arizona border. There are also 10 Rotaract clubs (7 affiliated with area colleges, and 3 community based). As District Governor, he has the honor and the duty to visit all of these clubs over the course of his year as Head Honcho.



STEVE told the tale of how he first was introduced to Rotary. He had struck up a conversation with a woman at a local business networking meeting and she invited him to check out her Rotary club later that week. He thought to himself, “That’s all I need ... Another breakfast meeting!”, but he showed up at that first meeting “just to get her off of my case.” Not seeing her there, he figured it would be safe to duck out, but he ended up chatting with two other fellows who invited him to come on into the breakfast. As it turns out, STEVE found that he enjoyed that meeting and then took the members up on their invitation to attend their demotion party where he and his wife had a great time and it “felt like being with old friends.” Fast forward to the present and he can report that he has come to every Friday morning meeting since, but he still has never again seen that original woman who had invited him to Rotary that first time, nor did his description of her sound familiar to anyone he asked. In his mind, he must have been touched by his own personal “Rotary Angel.” The take home message he wants us to remember from his tale is that we should “continue to be the warm, welcoming club that you are to everyone who shows up at your meetings, because you never know which guest might end up being the next club president or even District Governor!”

So, the next question after “Why did you JOIN Rotary?” is “Why do you STAY IN Rotary?” With 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs worldwide, there are lots of answers to that question. But quite commonly the reason ends up being the feeling that, by taking part in Rotary, you are given the chance to change the world through service. He certainly found that to be true in his experience participating in his club’s International Service project in El Salvador where they met a girl with a tumor. The Rotarians swiftly pulled the funds together to get the girl to a clinic to have the tumor removed. It made a deep impression on him how Rotarians will so quickly step up to take action and “we help people we do not even know.” STEVE invited us to consider, “What is YOUR why?”, and he specifically encouraged us to consider becoming actively involved in an international project, suggesting that our club could partner with another club, or we could call him, and he could guide us to a project that could inspire us. “As you change the lives of others, you will be changed, too!”

One cause which STEVE is very passionate about is working toward reducing the scourge of Human Trafficking, which takes three main forms – Organ trafficking, Slave Labor trafficking, and Sex trafficking.

Organ trafficking includes the buying and selling of human body parts, such as corneas, livers, lungs, hearts, and the number one organ: kidneys. Over 10,000 kidneys are trafficked each year, as poor and disadvantaged individuals will sell these organs because they are so desperate for money. “People were not created to live like this,” STEVE believes.

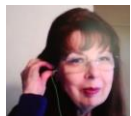
Slave trafficking – It is estimated that 40 million men, women, and children are exploited and pressed into service working in restaurants, hotels, homes, crop fields, etc. for substandard wages in abysmally poor working conditions.

Sex trafficking is particularly depressing, especially since the average age of entry into this tawdry enterprise is just 16 years old, with many victims starting out even younger than that. Much of the recruiting of this sex trade is done via the internet, with the perpetrators offering compliments, and promises of love and of work to vulnerable and impressionable youths. The average life expectancy of a sex trafficked worker is just 7.5 years. Generating over \$800 million per year of business, sex trafficking is a close second to the illegal drug trade. And just like with drugs, there is a strong gang component in sex trafficking, with 110 different gangs identified as being involved in this low risk / high yield criminal enterprise.

To provide help on these issues, Rotary is partnering with law enforcement efforts, collaborating with other governmental and community organizations, and has established an Anti-Trafficking Committee as part of Rotary's Pathways to Peace avenue of service. The District has been approved for a Global Grant of \$70,000 to help build awareness of this problem through signage at local transit terminals and trainings provided to teachers, so that more individuals can learn to recognize the warning signs of trafficking in process. There are three training videos that you can watch on the District 5340 website. (<https://rotary5340.org/sitepage/watch-our-past-video-workshops>) Each of these videos is about an hour long and can give you ideas on how you can become involved and help.

Besides the chance to become actively involved in helping the community through important projects like that, there are other valuable aspects of being a member of Rotary. Volunteerism has been proven to keep people more socially connected, and service to others can be an "antidote to loneliness." It reminds us that we have value in our world, plus it can slow the cognitive declines associated with aging. But perhaps Aristotle summed it up best when he gave his definition of the "Essence of Life: To serve others and to do good."

D.G. STEVE then had just a few moments for questions, since he had to leave for a court hearing shortly. ("My wife insists that I have to keep working for a living," he joked.) JIM SCHRODER asked for more information on the average age of sex trafficking victims. That average is just 16 years old, and the victims are groomed by older exploiters. This deplorable sex trafficking "wreaks havoc on them and on their families." And RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE assured our District



Governor that our club's official gift to him to show our appreciation for his presentation would be coming to him the next day. Co-President DALE sincerely thanked D.G. STEVE for such a fine presentation which "reminds us of what we are all doing as an organization." DALE remembered back to the trainings he and MELISSA received at PETS and at District events where they had been inspired to use their year in leadership to strive to make a difference, just like STEVE had espoused in his presentation. And our Co-Presidents let us know how much they appreciate all of the members of our club who are joining with them on this path to service through Rotary.

At this point of the meeting, we flipped back to the items that are normally at the top of our agenda, although as DALE noted, after that insightful program on the value of being a Rotarian, there was no need to hear an additional Rotary Moment.



Co-President Elect A.J. MAZZARELLA was asked to read off the **CLUB UPDATES:**

4/9 – Regular meeting on Zoom

4/10 – District Assembly online from 8:30 to Noon

Info, including Zoom link and a list of topics in the various sessions at:

<https://www.crsadmin.com/EventPortal/Registrations/PublicFill/EventPublicFill.aspx?evtid=bdc44307-7cd7-445f-ad5d-d9bd5cb6991d>

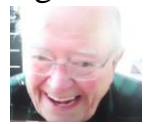
4/23 – Board meeting at noon

4/24 – Rotarians at Workday (*Details below*)

4/30 – Regular meeting

You may have noticed something missing from this lineup of club events, compared to our past months. DALE admitted that “Zoom fatigue is a real thing”, and announced that, for the rest of this Rotary year, we will be suspending the monthly evening social meetings. But we were all invited to join the regular Friday meetings closer to noon so we can get in our social time with our friends from Oceanside Rotary prior to the 12:30 official start of the meeting.

When it came time to hail our **VISITORS AND GUESTS**, at first, we thought that the only non-member present was RUDY VAN HUNNICK, but as it turns out, NANCY RUSSIAN raised her hand to say “Hello, from Branson, Missouri” where she had her husband LUIS right there with



her in their RV on their travels, and she introduced him as a “Branson Missouri Cowboy.” (After seeing on the screen, the luxurious interior of their vehicle, DALE suggested, “It must be rough living in that motor coach.”)

REMINDERS AND MORE DETAILS



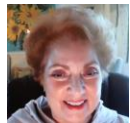
The Hall’s are wearing multiple hats this spring. First up with a reminder was DAVE HALL, who is spearheading our **Rotarians at Work Day** planning. This annual event will be on Saturday, April 24 starting at 11:30 am. We will gather together (appropriately masked and distanced) at the courtyard of Breakwater Community Church (506 S. Nevada Street, Oceanside – Special thanks to Pastor ROGER VANDERWERKEN for allowing us to use this space!) Bring along perishable foods (fruit and vegetables) and/or staples (rice, beans, bread, etc.) to donate to Lived Experiences, or bring cash or a check to donate to the purchase of food instead. Lived Experiences is a local non-profit that (amongst other important programs) has a food pantry to support



neighborhood working families in need to help address their food insecurity, and they will have a refrigerator truck on site to collect and then transport these donated food stuffs. More special thanks to BILL DERN who made arrangements with Yasukochi Family Farms to volunteer to donate some of their fabulous food boxes. (As you may recall, early in our Random Rotary Acts of Kindness, we had purchased and provided several of their bountiful boxes to bestow upon a few lucky members). You can choose to spend the R.A.W. afternoon together with your friends from Rotary for a box lunch social (\$25 – RSVP to RENEE by April 19th with your choice of meal – Reuben or Tuna Wrap / Cole slaw or chips, plus beverage and dessert, all catered by the Oceanside Kitchen Collaborative charity) which will include entry into the first cash prize bingo game. (Bring your own bingo marker. A set of bingo cards for the remaining six games may be purchased for \$30, and if you want to play extra cards in a game, you can buy as many as you would like at \$5 each.) Send your money for lunch and bingo to LES by April 23rd, either by Venmo or check.



DAVE then ceded the Zoom spotlight to his wife TERRI who chairs our Fundraising Committee. TERRI put in another passionate plea for donations of “really good silent auction prizes” which will be put up for bids at both our Online **Virtual Fundraiser** on May 8 and at our **Golf Tournament** on June 21. She recommends that fun experiences are very popular prizes, and if you can’t come up with enough scratch on your own to bankroll a big prize, you could pool some money together with another member to make a substantial prize more acquirable. Smaller prizes can also be used as raffle prizes, but we are really looking for some big-ticket items, so put your thinking caps on, see what you might come up with, and let TERRI know soon so the Committee can be properly planning and promoting the auctions.



Also, for the Golf Tournament, we are seeking individuals and/or businesses as Hole Sponsors. (Sponsorships are \$100 per hole, and if you would like to have the whole \$100 go to the club, you can choose to add another \$25 to cover the cost of prepping and printing the signage. Again, these hole sponsorships could be shared by a couple of Rotarians, if that fits your budget better.) One last question that she wanted to lay on the table for us: Does anyone have a connection to a local auto dealer that they might approach as a potential sponsor for the Hole in One prize for the tournament?

HAPPY DOLLARS were kicked off by ERNIE MASCITTI, who gave \$21 in gratitude for his bank's fraud department which had flagged a suspicious check of his which had been altered by some ne'er-do-well person, who overwrote "Verizon Wireless" on the "Pay to" line and attempted to

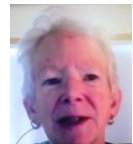


deposit it online by photograph into their own personal account.

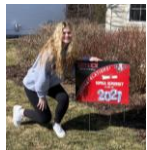
Due to this diligent detective work on this dastardly deed, the bank will pay ERNIE back the \$121 from that fraudulent transaction ... TOM BRAULT donated \$25 to the Rotary International Foundation to let everyone know that his daughter GERILYN will be featured acting in Grossmont College Theatre's online streaming production of the musical "The Mad Ones." It will be available for viewing from April 8 – 17. For tickets, call 619-644-7234 or visit

<https://www.grossmont.edu/get-involved/arts-and-culture/theater-arts/the-mad-ones.php> ... LYN CORDER also offered \$25 to the R.I. Foundation, so very

happy that for the first time since July of 2019 she would soon be gathering together with her son and his family. They have all been immunized and thought it had been far too long since the grandkids have seen her. She also greatly appreciates that DALE and NIKKI MAAS



have loaned a stash of toys for the kids to play with during their stay ... NANCY RUSSIAN joked that "DALE should have loaned BLAKE to you", too. On a more serious and celebratory note, she offered \$25 in thanksgiving for her granddaughter



SOPHIA SEMERSKY being accepted into the honors program at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point as an Interior Design and Architecture major. Congratulations! ... RUDY VAN HUNNICK

pledged \$50 this week in appreciation of this meeting's terrific "speech of the Big Area Boss!" Plus, RUDY kicked in another \$55 to support the food distribution event for Rotarians at Work. (Additional Note: Shorelines would like to extend our apologies for failing to give RUDY full credit in our most recent edition in recognition of his generous contribution to our fundraising efforts. Sorry, RUDY, and THANKS!) ... JIM SCHRODER raised his bandaged



hand to offer \$20 in happy dollars. He is glad to have one carpal tunnel surgery down, and just one to go, though he says it has been "strange to shave with the wrong hand" while he has been wrapped up. On the plus side, there has been no pain at all. HOORAY for that!

COMMENTS, COMMITMENTS, AND QUESTIONS



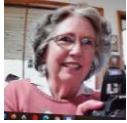
Before we signed off, a number of members raised their hands for a variety of reasons. Many of them were pledging their support for the fundraisers:

ANCHISA FARRANT will drop off a gift card at the Hall house.

NANCY RUSSIAN renewed her \$100 Golf hole sponsorship.



JAY CRAWFORD wanted to know who to mail a check to for a hole sponsorship – You can either send your money in on Venmo or as a check in the mail to LES NEWQUIST.



JANET BLEDSOE LACY committed to a hole sponsorship in her son's name. (The full \$125 to cover the printing of the new signage.)



JACQUELINE BROWNLEE – Another hole sponsor ERNIE MASCITTI is willing to partner with “any and all” who would like to be joint hole sponsors. Yes, he means that he will put in \$50 to be a co-sponsor with “as many folks who are willing.” (JACQUELINE immediately said she would take ERNIE up on that generous offer, and that she would therefore pledge a total of \$75 - \$50 for the co-sponsorship and \$25 to print the sign.)

JIM SCHRODER – Yet another \$100 hole sponsor.

DALE MAAS – confirmed that he, too, would be renewing his hole sponsorship.

Getting all of these hole sponsorship commitments is fantastic for our club, because although the proceeds from the tournament itself get split between our club and El Camino Rotary, 100% of the hole sponsorship money and auction proceeds go straight to the club that brought in the donation. So, keep those pledges coming!

TINA ORTIZ asked for and received a clarification that yes, we are being asked to physically bring produce / perishable food to the Rotarians at Work event that will then become a part of the Lived Experience food pantry for distribution.



And last on this list (but only because I regrouped the verbal input to bundle all of the golf pledges together) was a request from RENEE that members should let her know which of the topics they were planning to attend in the various sessions of the District Assembly on April 10. We would like to make sure that we can have people listening in and taking notes on as many of the subjects as possible so the club can gain the most knowledge from our participation in the assembly.

At 1:35 pm, DALE closed the meeting and let us all click off of our computers to go recover from terminal Zoom fatigue at our terminals.

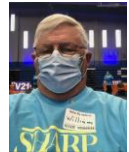
SPREADING ST. PATRICK'S DAY JOY



Sure, and we had a wee leprechaun at work for us, delivering St. Patrick's Day notes written by Rotarians and the congregation of Breakwater Community Church. Added to the merry mail disbursement were 67 bowl "cozies", all made by ROGER's wife, JACQUE VANDERWERKEN. Seen in this photo are TERRI HALL (all dressed in green) plus ERIC LIGARE (Director of Resident Services) and another helper from the Brookdale assisted living facility.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

I know what you are thinking ... Who the heck is getting to go "Out and About" while we still are supposed to be distancing? Well, BILL DERN had a GREAT reason to go forth and do great deeds, as he returned on Thursday, March 25 to spend another afternoon as a volunteer vaccinator at the site at Cal State San Marcos. Another instance, just like D.G. STEVE had said, of a Rotarian helping out people he doesn't even know. Good for you, BILL! ... And good for the community, too!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday April 9 - Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm

Saturday, April 10 – Virtual District Assembly, starts at 8:30 am

Info, including Zoom link and a list of topics in the various sessions at:

<https://www.crsadmin.com/EventPortal/Registrations/PublicFill/EventPublicFill.aspx?evtid=bdc44307-7cd7-445f-ad5d-d9bd5cb6991d>

Friday, April 23 – Board meeting on Zoom at noon

Saturday, April 24 – Rotarians at Work day

@ Breakwater Community Church - 506 S. Nevada Street, 11:30 am start

RSVP to RENEE for the Box Lunch

Friday, April 30 - Regular Zoom Meeting @ 12:00pm

Saturday, May 8 – Virtual Online Fundraiser & Silent Auction

Monday, June 21 – Rotary Golf Tournament fundraiser