



2024-2025

Tom Brault
Editor-in-Chief

Vickie Prosser
Photographer

Tom Brault
Reporter

ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE

SHORELINES



CO-PRESIDENTS
Janet Bledsoe Lacy
Paul Wendee

March 28, 2025

Our eager AG, PP, Secretary, and Acting President for today RENEE RICHARDSON seemed eager to get our meeting underway, clanging the bell at 12:29:45 pm. Two seconds later, we discovered that the microphone at the podium had not been activated, so she did her best to make her voice carry to the back of the room as she invited MIKE CURTIN to lead us in the Pledge to the Flag. Our speaker GABE FASOLINO was tapped to start our recitation of the Four Way Test. And VICKIE PROSSER proved that she could multitask by serving as both our Photographer and Songleader du jour. For our songs, she provided a tripleheader, starting off with a duet with BILL DERN on “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” to honor the brand-new baseball season, followed by another of BILL’s favorite tunes “God Bless America”, and then brought our group’s warbling to a close with the ever popular “Smile.” How nice to have songs back as a regular feature of our meetings!



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS were read by Co-President Elect ROGER VANDERWERKEN.

Saturday, March 29 - The District Training Assembly had ROGER, MICHELE, RENEE, and PAUL all scheduled to attend.

Friday, April 4 – Volunteer to help with the registration for the Ironman competition. Over 3,000 participants will be competing. Bring along canned food / non-perishable items to benefit Santa Fe Senior Village in Vista.

Friday, April 11 – Regular Meeting – Speaker: Christopher Romero from Ending Hunger, Enriching Lives.

Friday, April 25 – Regular Meeting – Speaker from the Oceanside Public Library.

Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27 – Co-President PAUL WENDEE will be serving as a Facilitator at the RYLA weekend in Idyllwild.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

The table nearest to the flag was practically filled by friends from elsewhere: ANA MARIA FERNANDEZ from the Tijuana Rotary, our speaker GABE FASOLINO from La Mision Rotary, and NINA and RICK HALL from Rosarito Rotary – all introduced by RENEE.



DANA ALBERT said that his guest (again) LAURA BASSET was “back for more Rotary action!” And last, but not least, VICKIE PROSSER introduced our regular visitor RUDY VAN HUNNICK as well as KATHY CORCORAN who hails from a town in Pennsylvania with a name so unusual, VICKIE was proud to have spoken it correctly. (For the record, the town is “Zelienople.”) Then, since she was already standing up, VICKIE was asked to lead our Welcome Song, and she even threw in an extra “Boom Boom” at the end of the lyrics.



RENEE's first item on the "**President's Stuff**" agenda list was a reminder for us to follow through on the Member Recruitment efforts which a number of our members had signed up for - to contact certain targeted local businesses to see if we could entice them to join Rotary. If you are one of our designated recruiters, be sure to get a report on your progress to RENEE pronto. She reminded us all that the first one of us who sponsors a new member during this drive will be rewarded with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

And Board chairmen and members were reminded to get their committee budget requests in soon, because the overall 2025-26 club budget will be drafted on April 6th.

She then talked us through a series of "**SAVE THE DATES**":

Friday, June 27 – Demotion dinner, El Camino Country Club, 5:30 pm

Saturday, June 28 – Oceanside Independence Day Parade, 9 am

Friday, July 11 – "Rotary Roundup Social" will be held in the evening at JIM SCHRODER's house, starting at 6 pm. Invite past, present, and future Oceanside Rotarians for this social gathering. This social was planned to give us a chance to meet up somewhere else while the Country Club will be undergoing renovations.

We also will need to line up a location for the July 25 meeting. Let RENEE or either of our Co-Presidents know if you have a suggestion for an away meeting location.

Time for **HAPPY DOLLARS** ...



The first hand that went up was one of our guests, KATHY CORCORAN, who was glad to be with us at Rotary and dropped a hint that she might be living in the area soon (at least part time) to be closer to grandkids ... Recruiter RENEE's eyes lit up immediately!!

MIKE CURTIN was \$10 ecstatic for finally be back at a meeting after having "followed JANET BLEDSOE LACY down the pneumonia trail." Welcome back, MIKE. You were missed!



TERRI HALL offered \$5 and a story: She reminded us about the beautiful floral arrangement which she had received from RUDY as a "thank you" for her making the presentation about his father at one of

our September meetings possible. Ever since then, TERRI has been diligent about caring and watering the gift, occasionally tossing an ice cube into the pot to slowly provide water to the lovely plants. Imagine her surprise when she recently discovered that the flowers were artificial! But we are sure that they were the healthiest and most vibrant fake flowers to be found anywhere!



RUDY VAN HUNNICK followed that with Happy Dollars of his own – First griping that “being without a driver’s license is terrible!”, but then, on the more positive side, noting that our meetings are so uplifting for him that he was moved to donate \$100.



DAVE HALL kicked in \$5 for the chance to pass a letter around from Lifeline, thanking the Club for the funds we had provided to their program through our District matching grant.



TOM BRAULT gave \$25 to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation to promote his performance coming up on Friday, April 11 at Lifeway Church (1120 Highland Drive in Vista). He will be a singer in a benefit concert for the Lighthouse Players theater group. In this concert TOM will be singing on 10 or 11 songs, including solos as Tevye in a tune from “Fiddler on the Roof”, as Jean Valjean from “Les Miserables”, as the Father in “Ragtime”, and as Daddy Cane from “Bright Star.” (Info and tickets at: lighthouseplayers.org/tickets)

Guest GABE FASOLINO told us that he has visited many other Rotary clubs and lots of them include singing in their meetings, but he was really impressed that “You sing GREAT!”



DANA ALBERT offered \$5 to announce that the OHS Interact Club is closing a deal with Waste Management and Main Street Oceanside to raise funds through trash sorting and recycling at the Sunset Market downtown and the upcoming “Taste of Spring” event. RENEE prodded him to give a plug for the website which should be up and running soon to promote the 8th Annual Goat for Joe Golf Tournament fundraiser on Saturday May 17.

In a flashback to the song which had started our meeting, DAVE NYDEGGER described and then sang for us a hyperspeed and somewhat abbreviated version of “Take Me Out.”



How do you follow an act like that??? ... You invite our **Guest Speaker** to come up to start our presentation. GABE FASOLINO first congratulated our club on 100 years of service to our community. He then described how, when he had retired in 2016 and moved down to Mexico, he wanted to find a Rotary club down there to join. But the local club not only spoke only in Spanish, but it also met at 8:30 am (not a particularly enticing start time for a new retiree). So,



joining an existing club wasn't going to work very well for him, *but he realized that there are lots of fellow expatriates in his area.* He pulled some interested folks together to form a brand-new club – La Mision Rotary – a binational club with both Mexican nationals and American expats as members. They not only provide a bilingual newsletter, but their meetings offer live closed captioning translations so that everyone can follow along.



GABE is obviously quite proud of their club's Focus Areas where they concentrate their efforts:

- Schools
- Vision Tests and Eyeglasses
- Rotary Scholars
- Community Improvements
- Supporting the Bomberos (volunteer firefighters)
- Health & Ecology

The needs are great in the local community, where the average income per person is a mere \$300 per month. Although the \$80 per year local property tax is quite affordable for him, clearly it is a terrible source of funding for the local schools, who suffer from poor facilities and teachers at times not getting paid for months on end. Education is such a key focus for their club that they have already been working with 9 out of the 14 schools in the area and have committed to getting connected to each and every one of the 14 sites to provide ongoing service. Examples of the work they have done in schools to date: They renovated one library (which, before they arrived, was simply a haphazard stack of storage crates filled with a jumble of books) and created a brand-new library for a school which never had one before. They raised \$8,000 to buy computers for the campuses and

installed water filtration systems. They have purchased and installed playground equipment and benches.

Their Vision and Eyeglass project is a partnership with Rotary clubs in Glendora and Rosarito. Testing is done and prescriptions are filled on the spot! To be able to allow a child to really be able to see for the first time in his or her life makes such an impact!

After a devastating fire, the club built a house for a displaced family using recycled materials (discarded tires and wine bottles, for example) as part of the construction to keep the costs down. And to give the community a greater sense of pride, the club commissioned an artist to create a mural to cover a 70 foot blank white wall with a colorful design. The residents themselves finished the “paint by number” project.

Rotary Scholars is a program with four other Rotary clubs and other organizations to provide scholarships and support to make it possible for local students to attend university – often the very first member in their family to ever attend a college. Some of these scholarships are provided to orphans. Talk about making a difference in a life!

We were shown a short video of one of La Mision Rotary’s newer members Humberto who, after only one year in the club, has already participated in over 30 service projects and has sponsored five new members. He told us in his own words what being a part of Rotary means to him personally. How moving it was for us to hear him say, “I’m never going to get tired to help people!”

This inspiring video was followed by snapshots of some of the other “Joys” that their club has been a part of: Participating in the Revolution Day parade / A basket full of thank you notes from students who had received eyeglasses which changed their lives / Various school events and graduations (At the commencement ceremonies, the Rotarians were invited to sit at the dignitaries table and they were the ones handing the graduates their certificates) / The sign which they funded to celebrate the community of Santa Anita, and within the individual letters, the artist had painted in the faces of several of the club members, including GABE himself. La Mision Rotary is proud and appreciative of these connections with local community partners and other Rotary clubs, both in Mexico and in other countries.

GABE described some lessons his club has learned over the years:

Partnership is Power

If you build it, they will come
Service Above Self is a gift to *ourselves*

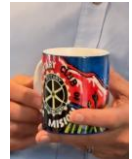
GABE summed his presentation up by asserting, “It has been an amazing journey, and we have impacted so many lives!” Amen to that!

We are invited to visit the club. It is located near Guadalupe Valley which has some fine wineries and restaurants. (Possible group road trip??) And to get in contact with GABE, he provided his phone number (503) 919-1333 and email address (gabefasolino@gmail.com)

A lively Q&A session included a recommendation that La Mision should submit an article about their experiences to Rotary Magazine to spread the word about their successes.



GABE had brought a parting gift for US! A coffee mug which shows a portion of the colorful community mural which they had sponsored. He hinted that other clubs had auctioned off the mug at the meeting as a chance to raise funds. RENEE proved up to that challenge and immediately opened the bidding: \$20 / \$40 / \$50 / and a final, very generous bid of \$100 from



JIM SCHRODER, with the funds earmarked toward our club’s annual Polio Plus contribution goal.



RENEE then turned the tables and gave OUR parting gift to GABE – A beautiful succulent pot crafted by ANCHISA FARRANT. (VICKIE mentioned to GABE, “I think you have to water it,” which brought a laugh, as we all recalled TERRI’s earlier story.)

We were encouraged to leave a tip for our server, and then the **lucky ticket** was brought up to the podium. #290372 was held by MIKE WESELOH who, in his excitement, flipped over 2 cards instead of just one. Neither of them was the Joker, and MIKE turned his \$10 consolation prize over to La Mision in support of their fine projects.



And with that, our meeting was over. RENEE proudly noted that she still was holding the official Oceanside Rotary gavel as she rang the bell to send us off our separate ways.

MAJOR CONGRATULATIONS!!

On Friday, March 21, 2025, Assembly member Laurie Davies honored 26 North County women nominated for the 2025 Women of the Year program at a reception in Oceanside. The event recognized the valuable contributions of women from California's 74th Assembly District, celebrating their dedication and impact within their communities.

The Woman of the Year program was created to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions of women across California who have significantly impacted their communities.

Since its inception, this program has become a powerful platform to showcase the extraordinary achievements of women, recognizing their unwavering determination, inspiring leadership, and profound compassion. By shining a light on these trailblazers, the program underscores the vital role women play in shaping our state's social, cultural, and economic fabric.

"To all the nominated women, I want to extend my deepest gratitude. Your work and contributions do not go unnoticed," Davies said during the ceremony. "The passion with which you serve our communities ignites hope and drives progress, making our world a better place day by day. May today be a reflection of the appreciation and admiration that your communities hold for you."

Among the nominees, six honored women were also presented with Assembly Resolutions, which were distinguished with category awards for their exceptional dedication and influence.

Our own Renee Richardson was nominated and also received a Resolution for her Legacy in Service Above Self.



Proof positive that we Oceanside Rotarians are not the only ones who appreciate RENEE and all that she does. Congratulations!!

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

ANCHISA FARRANT is off on an extended trip to Thailand to visit her mother. She sent along this photo and brief report:

I registered for the District 3350 Conference (which includes parts of Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam), and all my fellowship Rotarians are glad to see me. They announced that it is a Magic Rotary that Anchisa travels overseas for 24 hours to join the Conference.



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, April 4th - Iron Man Registration Service Project – 12:00 to 5:00.

Friday, April 12th – Regular Meeting – Speaker: Christopher Romero – Ending Hunger, Enriching Lives

Friday, April 25th – Regular Meeting – Speaker – Oceanside Library

Friday, April 25 – Sunday April 27 – RYLA at Idyllwild - PAUL WENDEE will be one of the Facilitators