
 <p>THE MAGIC OF ROTARY</p>	<p>ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</p>		
<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Terri Hall Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p>Tina Ortiz Photographer</p>	<p>Terri Hall Reporter</p>
			<p>CO-PRESIDENTS Janet Bledsoe Lacy Paul Wendee</p>

November 8, 2024

DALE MAAS, Reporter

ANCHISA FARRANT, Photographer

TOM BRAULT, Editor-in-Chief

*{MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE: A big "WELCOME" and "THANK YOU" to our newest reporter DALE MAAS for stepping up to serve the club through his new assignment with Shorelines. I think you will agree that he did a remarkable job in his first edition!*

*Also a reminder that Shorelines is always looking for a few more folks who would be willing to wield a pen and serve the club by helping to keep us all informed through our newsletter. With our rotating roster of reporters sharing the load, each member of the Shorelines team only has to take on this duty about once every 3 months or so, and there is plenty of support to double check and format and fine tune your draft text. Talk to TOM BRAULT if you have any questions or any interest in trying your hand at being one of our lineup of reporters. We need you!}*

At the latest meeting of the Rotary Club of Oceanside, members gathered to discuss updates on ongoing projects, share community news, and provide support to fellow members and their families in need. The meeting was a blend of heartfelt stories, updates on important upcoming events, and expressions of gratitude for the club's continuous community involvement.





Our fearless Co-President  
JANET BLEDSOE LACY

brought to meeting to order precisely at 12:30 pm as there was a lot of new information to share with our club. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ROGER VANDERWERKEN. The four-way test was led by TOM BRAULT (pictured here emphasizing Point #3).



The meeting opened with a **moment of silence** for NANCY RUSSIAN, a valued member of our club who has recently been in a tragic car accident. NANCY has been undergoing treatment and recovery in the ICU, and requires time to rest and conserve her energy. Her family had requested no visitors at first, as it has been overwhelming for both NANCY and her children who have come from around the country to be by her side. NANCY had her pelvis and virtually all of her ribs broken in the crash, recently received a blood transfusion, and is facing a long road to recovery,

but her family remains hopeful. JANET also shared with the club the unfortunate news that NANCY's beloved husband LUIS and their fur baby Luna passed away in the accident.

LES NEWQUIST, along with his wife Cricket, was able to visit NANCY in the ICU early on. Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON, who has been in close contact with NANCY's children, shared that once NANCY is out of the hospital and in rehab, the Rotary Club will be able to assist more actively. There will be needs for meals, transportation to physical therapy, and other support. For now, members have been encouraged to send cards or messages of encouragement. The Rotary Club has prepared cards to send to NANCY and asked members to send well wishes her way.



*UPDATE: RENEE received word on Thursday, November 14 that NANCY is now able to welcome visitors starting next week. However, with her busy schedule of PT and OT and the ongoing need for time to recover, it would be best for you to text her in advance to set up a good time for your visit.*

RENEE also brought to our attention that fellow Rotarian DAVE HALL is experiencing health challenges as well. He is dealing with significant back issues, and further tests are being conducted. A card was passed around for Rotarians to sign on DAVE's behalf as well. The club has extended their thoughts and prayers to both NANCY and DAVE during this difficult time.

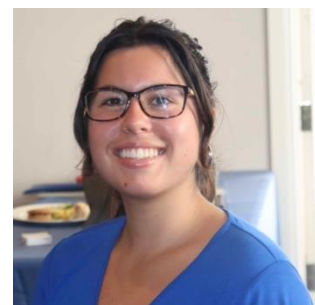
Secretary RENEE went on to share her own personal health struggles. She recently broke her foot. Despite this setback, she was still able to attend the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Tijuana Rotary Club and Dia de los Muertos celebration. (Pictures from this event were featured in our last edition.)

After these terribly sad health updates, Secretary RENEE went on to share some important **club updates**.



- **Board Meeting via Zoom:** November 15
- **Regular Club Meeting:** November 21, which will include the election of officers and board members. The guest speaker will be from the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest San Diego.
- **Holiday Social:** December 13, at the MAAS family home for an evening of appetizers, Christmas caroling, and holiday cheer.
- **Boat Rides with Santa:** December 14, at the Oceanside Harbor. Volunteers are needed to help manage the event.

Additionally, the club is gearing up for the **Women's Resource Center Holiday Gift Drive**. Donations of unwrapped gifts or monetary contributions are being accepted until December 6, with the goal of filling two trucks with items for women and children escaping domestic violence. Members were encouraged to drop off gifts at the Rotary meeting or bring them directly to DALE MAAS's office.



Next, Secretary RENEE asked for any **visiting Rotarians and guests** to be announced. ROGER led us off by introducing his two guests. His first guest is an active-duty Navy Chaplain and retired Marine named Paul Hyder. The other guest is Keith Williams who is a retired USMC Sergeant Major and currently owns a business organizing Marine Corps balls.

Co-President PAUL WENDEE introduced his guest named Vicky Dinov who was attending the meeting to present on her pursuit of a **global grant from Rotary**. TOM BRAULT, with the velvety smooth voice, led us in our welcome song. With this song, TOM was able to lift the somber mood of the previous announcements, to a happy and joyous one.



After the song, our co-president PAUL WENDEE stood up to give a proper introduction for Vicky Dinov. One of the highlights of this meeting was hearing Vicky share her Rotary story and why she joined us for lunch. A recent graduate from UC Berkeley with a focus on renewable energy and data science, Vicky has been involved in Rotary since she attended RYLA at age 16 and has developed a deep connection to the organization through her mentor, KIM BARRY, the president-elect of the Rancho Bernardo Sunrise Club. She shared her journey, including her research on renewable energy in regions like the Democratic Republic of Congo and India, where communities face severe electrification issues.

Vicky is applying for a Rotary Global Grant to help fund her graduate studies which focuses on the intersection of renewable energy and environmental sustainability. The grant requires raising \$10,000, which will be matched by Rotary clubs and eventually by Rotary International to help fund her two-year research project. The Oceanside Rotary Club was encouraged to consider supporting this important project, as Vicky's research could significantly impact clean energy solutions in developing nations.

After we heard from Vicky, madam President JANET transitioned to official presidential business. She started with **birthday** wishes for fellow

Rotarians. Unfortunately LARRY HATTER, DAVE HALL, and MIKE CURTIN were not in attendance. We will have to see how happy they are to be one year older and one year wiser at the next meeting.

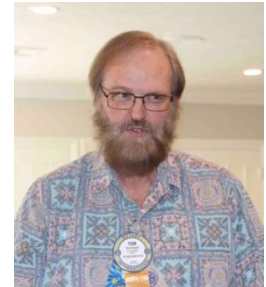


JANET moved on to wedding **anniversaries** next. Luckily the one person honored at the meeting was in attendance. DALE MAAS is about to celebrate his 8 year wedding anniversary with his amazing bride, Nikki. Being the smart man he is, DALE expressed his gratitude for being married to such an amazing partner. He was so happy, he rounded up and was \$20 happy for this anniversary.

We had just one member with a club anniversary at the meeting. Depending on which “Gift by Anniversary Year” list you are looking at (*Traditional or Gemstone*), LOLA SHERMAN is celebrating either her “*Crystal*” year or her “*Ruby*” year in our club. So if you are looking for a present to celebrate her FIFTEENTH year in Oceanside Rotary, you now know what to look for on Amazon.



Next we moved on to the club favorite, "**Happy Dollars.**" Special mentions included:



- RUDY VAN HUNNICK, who contributed \$40 despite not having a driver's license, reflecting his ongoing gratitude for the Rotary community.
- DALE MAAS was \$5 happy for the generous donation of \$666.86 from ROGER and Keith, who organized a collection at Breakwater Community Church for the Women's Resource Center Drive.
- ERNIE MASCITTI, who contributed \$50 in Happy Dollars, expressing gratitude for his life, family, and the opportunity to live so long.
- TOM BRAULT was still glowing from his trip with his daughter to Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Tokyo to complete their bucket list quest to have

visited all of the Disney theme parks in the world. (See “*Out and About*”) He told us that he had planned to donate 1,000 to our club’s foundation, but then realized with the conversion rates, 1,000 yen is only about \$6. So he pocketed the 1,000 yen note as a souvenir and instead handed over a check for \$32 American dollars (celebrating his 20 day trip plus 12 theme parks in the world) to the club foundation. He also expressed his thanks to TERRI and DAVE HALL, BILL DERN, and ROGER VANDERWERKEN for keeping Shorelines going strong during his absence.

These contributions are a reminder of the Rotary Club’s commitment to supporting both local and global causes, with members continuously giving back to their community in meaningful ways.



At this point in the meeting, it was time to hear from our **guest speaker**. DANA ALBERT, who had graciously arranged to have Amy Forsythe speak to our club, provided an introduction. DANA shared his history with Amy, their connection working on the KOCT Board, and their encounter at their recent 30 year high school reunion. With Veterans Day approaching, it was perfect timing to hear from Amy.

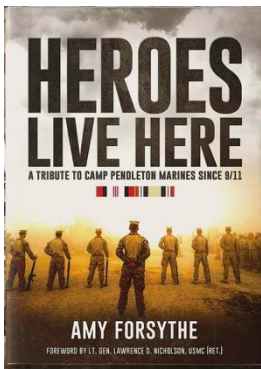
Amy Forsythe, a retired military journalist and current public affairs officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, shared her story. With a career deeply rooted in military service, her presentation emphasized the vital connection between Camp Pendleton, the local community, and the lasting impacts of military service. Forsythe began her military career as an enlisted journalist in the U.S. Marine Corps, later transitioning to the U.S. Navy Reserve. Over the years, she has been deployed in combat zones and served in numerous overseas assignments. Her passion for telling the stories of service members, particularly those stationed at Camp Pendleton, led to the creation of her book, *Heroes Live Here*. A portion of the proceeds from the book go to support military families and various veterans’ organizations.



As Forsythe highlighted in her presentation, Oceanside is not only home to thousands of military personnel stationed at Camp Pendleton, but also to their families and civilians who support and engage with the base daily. She emphasized that Oceanside's identity is deeply tied to the military presence, with around 45,000

active duty military personnel stationed at Camp Pendleton and an additional 100,000 civilians entering the base to work, shop, and attend to other needs. Forsythe explained how this significant military population plays a crucial role in the local economy and community fabric.

Forsythe's journey as a photographer and writer brought her into direct contact with many military personnel and civilians in combat zones. While working in places like Anbar Province in Iraq and Afghanistan, Forsythe found that her role as a female journalist allowed her to bridge cultural gaps. She recalled how women in local communities would often invite her into their homes and shared information - a gesture that led to the creation of female engagement teams—a program designed to increase the number of women in combat zones to gather intelligence and interact with local women who might not speak to male soldiers.



This work, along with Forsythe's own military experience, eventually led to the publication of her book, *Heroes Live Here*. The book chronicles the lives of Marines and sailors stationed at Camp Pendleton, as well as the broader impact of their service, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Forsythe highlighted that Camp Pendleton has lost more Marines in combat operations since 9/11 than any other base in the United States, and many of these heroes are honored with memorials scattered across the base.

In addition to telling these personal stories, Forsythe's work also sheds light on the challenges of adjusting to life after military service, especially for veterans who return to civilian life in communities like Oceanside. Forsythe discussed how the military community's sacrifice continues to ripple throughout society, influencing everything from local businesses to social organizations and beyond.

In addition to her continued military service as a public affairs officer for Naval Special Warfare, Forsythe is also focusing on community outreach through organizations like KOCT, Oceanside's local public access television station, and Visit Oceanside, where she works as a community liaison. As the U.S. military prepares for milestone anniversaries, such as the 250th year of the Marine Corps and the Navy in 2025, Forsythe plans to continue honoring the legacy of those who have served, while also sharing the stories of the Marines, sailors, and civilians who call Oceanside home.

For Forsythe, the journey of honoring veterans and supporting the military community is an ongoing mission. She encouraged those present to consider ways they can personally contribute to veterans' causes, whether through volunteering, donating, or simply acknowledging the sacrifices made by the men and women in uniform. The community's support of veterans, especially in a military town like Oceanside, plays a crucial role in ensuring that the legacy of service is remembered and respected.

In closing, Forsythe expressed gratitude to her audience for their time and for the opportunity to share her experiences. As the conversation moved toward a book signing, it was clear that *Heroes Live Here* not only serves as a tribute to the sacrifices of military personnel but also as a reminder of the power of community to support and uplift those who serve.

For more information on Forsythe's work or to purchase a copy of her book, *Heroes Live Here*, visit her website ([www.heroeslivehere.com](http://www.heroeslivehere.com)) or reach out to local organizations supporting veterans in the Oceanside area.



Our speaker was presented with one of our traditional gifts from the club. No, it wasn't anything with a "Ruby" or even a "Crystal" like LOLA might have earned for her anniversary. (But then, AMY hadn't been with us for 15 years.) It was instead a special plant-based and holiday-appropriate memento – a festively decorated set of stacked mini-pumpkins crafted by ANCHISA which included the word "Thankful" on its top tier gourd.

BOB PICKREL had the chance at the \$1,000 prize in our **Opportunity Drawing** but alas, the Joker remained elusive and the jackpot remains available to some other lucky ticket holder in some future week.



The meeting concluded with a sense of unity and determination as club members rallied together to support one another and continue their work for the greater good. As the holiday season approaches, the club's dedication to service remains unwavering, and members look forward to the upcoming events that will bring them closer together as a community.



## ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT



If you are dying to see a few photos from TOM and GERILYN BRAULT's extended Disney-centric tour in China and Japan, you're in luck! TOM has decided not to force you all to look at all 4,000 photos and videos which the two of them captured during their travels. Instead he sent in just one snapshot taken in front of the icons at each of the four Disney parks over there, along with this pic in their custom theme park "checklist" T shirts posing with Mickey.

They not only spent two days each at Shanghai Disneyland, Hong Kong Disneyland, Tokyo Disneyland, and Tokyo DisneySea, they also spent a few extra days in each of these cities (plus a side trip to Kyoto) to see other historic and/or scenic sites. All in all, a very memorable, very magical trip!



*Shanghai*



*Hong Kong*



*Tokyo Dland*



*Tokyo DisneySea*

## COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> - Club Board Meeting via Zoom at noon

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Regular Meeting and election of Officers and Board of Directors 2025-26. Program-Boys and Girls Club of Northwest San Diego County

Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - Holiday social at the MAAS home at 5:30 featuring appetizers, Christmas caroling around the neighborhood (Kazoos available for non-singers), and dessert. BYOB. Cost \$10 to offset food costs.

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Boat Rides with Santa fundraiser and service project at Oceanside Harbor 11-3 pm. We need volunteers to help, so save the date. More information to come.