
 BE THE INSPIRATION 2018-2019	ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE SHORELINES		 PRESIDENT Renee Wendee
	Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer	

November 9, 2018

PRESIDENT RENEE RICHARDSON-WENDEE called the meeting open at 12:30 on the dot, with the actual Rotary bell! This was a joint meeting between Oceanside Rotary Club and El Camino Rotary Club in honor of Veterans' Day.

PLEDGE

Led by El Camino Rotary President JULIE BEMIS

SONGS

Led by PP DAVE and PP TERRI HALL – *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again* and *You're a Grand Old Flag*. Members from both clubs gave these songs a grand old try! DAVE pointed out that "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" is from the Civil War, and the tune is from an even older drinking song ("And we'll all get blind drunk, Johnny fill the bowl")...



WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME

*When Johnny comes marching home again, Hurrah! Hurrah!
 We'll give him a hearty welcome then, Hurrah! Hurrah!
 The men will cheer and the boys will shout
 The ladies they will all turn out
 And we'll all feel gay
 When Johnny comes marching home.*

*Let love and friendship on that day, Hurrah, hurrah!
 Their choicest pleasures then display, Hurrah, hurrah!
 And let each one perform some part,
 To fill with joy the warrior's heart,
 And we'll all feel gay
 When Johnny comes marching home.*

ROTARY MOMENTS



ANCHISA FARRANT joined Rotary in Bangkok, Thailand, and in 2009 a past president of a Rotary Club in Bangkok asked her to be a volunteer to teach Ethics to students in a Buddhist temple from Monday to Friday after their regular classes. In addition to Ethics, she corrected their Thai accent as well, which was quite an accomplishment. Some orphans called her “Mommy” and gave her a hug that made her eyes fill with tears. That makes her so proud to be a valued Rotarian!

BRIAN ORR said he loves good news and held up a bible as an example of good news. He said though that there is more than one book with good news: for example, there is good news in this month’s edition of Rotarian magazine, which has an article on World War I. (This month is the 100 year anniversary of the end of WWI.) The article talks about the concept of international friendliness and points out that Rotary paved the way for the United Nations. Shortly after WWI, a Rotarian published an article called “Conditions of a Democratic Peace” in which he championed President Wilson’s League of Nations, which evolved into the United Nations. So, “Service above Self” led to the forming of the United Nations!



CLUB UPDATES

November 16th – Jeremy Cohen, San Diego Malkin Hotel Project
Remember: Bring Frozen Turkeys or gift cards. The Brother Benno’s representative will be there for pickup at 12:30 pm)

November 23rd – DARK for Thanksgiving

November 30th – Rick Robinson, Oceanside Fire Chief
Remember: Bring a gift for Toys for Tots

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS



Because this was a joint meeting with the El Camino Rotary Club, PRES RENEE asked all of the El Camino rotary members to stand and introduce themselves: PRES JULIE BEMIS, MARIE GALLAGHER, JOANNE O'MEARA, MICHAEL BRENNAN, DAVE JONES, who is a charter member of the club, LEE RUSSELL, PE MICHELLE MCGOWAN, TG VALLAS and his uncle TED VALLAS, who is 98 years young and a WWII veteran.



DAVE NYDEGGER introduced our speaker, JOHN STRYKER MEYER and his wife ANNA.

NANCY RUSSIAN introduced her hubby LUIS RODRIGUEZ.



PP TERRI HALL then led us all in our Welcome Song.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER FINALLY GETS HIS BADGE



PRES RENEE then called to the podium LJ FIMBRES, who was inducted into the club last week. She said that Club Secretary RENEE had goofed up his red badge last week, and she needed a good talking to, but this week she came through so LJ finally got his badge this week!

HAPPY DOLLARS AND FINES



JANET BLEDSOE LACY was \$10 happy that Dr. DAVE JONES from the El Camino Club was at the meeting today: Dr. DAVE was the doctor who told her she was pregnant with their first child!



PP JAY CRAWFORD was \$20 happy that he has been in Rotary for 19 years (even though our never-wrong club secretary did not have him on the list this month)!



PP VICKIE PROSSER was \$5 happy to remember her Husband, Father and Father-in-law, all career Marines, since the Marine Corps Birthday is November 10 - and also to thank our speaker, Tilt Stryker Myers, and the rest of the vets present for their service, as November 11 is Veteran's Day! (Boy! She got a lot out of that \$5, didn't she???)



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$3 dollars happy to thank all of you who understood her Rotary moment, and \$2 more dollars thank you to those who do not understand (just joking)... and she went on to say that she bet that she speaks English better than any of us speak Thai! To which I say, absolutely! Good job, ANCHISA!



NANCY RUSSIAN gave \$10 to commemorate her 31 years in Rotary, and she added a "Happy Belated Birthday" to her husband LUIS.



TG VALLAS was \$10 happy that his uncle has been successful getting Cal-Pacific Airlines (CPA) off the ground (... literally).



DAVE JONES was \$5 happy that Oceanside Rotary has a new golf event chairman, LES NEWQUIST.



LES NEWQUIST was \$5 happy because when TED VALLAS started the process of getting his airline up and running LES was the CPA for CPA airlines!



DALE MAAS was \$5 happy he is going to school and studying to become a Certified Financial Planner.



JULIE BEMIS was \$5 happy to have a joint meeting with both clubs.



JOANNE O'MEARA was also \$5 happy.

PROGRAM

DAVE NYDEGGER introduced our speaker, JOHN STRYKER MEYER.



JOHN STRYKER "TILT" MEYER is a U.S. Army Special Forces combat veteran who served in covert reconnaissance with the Studies and Observations Group in Vietnam. He became part of the Army Special Forces (Green Berets) in 1967 and went to Vietnam in 1968 as part of an Army reconnaissance team, where he toured "all over Vietnam." He has written three books on the "secret war" in Laos and Cambodia. His first book was a nonfiction memoir, first published in 2003, and titled *Across the Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam*.

He also co-wrote *On the Ground: the Secret War in Vietnam* with John Peters in 2007. His most recent book is *The SOG Chronicles* about his experiences with the Studies and Observations Group.

For eight years, far beyond the battlefields of Vietnam, American Green Berets fought a secret war in Laos and Cambodia. Because of a treaty between the US and South Vietnam, there were to be no US combat troops in Laos or Cambodia. However, special operations troops operated in those countries in secret missions. It was so secret that the Navy hid the entire

special operations budget under a line item called “Studies and Observations” in order to keep anyone from finding out what they were doing.

He said that sometimes he wondered if he’d ever be around for Veterans’ Day: 1,592 Americans missing in action in Southeast Asia, 50 green berets MIA in Laos, 120+ aviators died supporting the 12-man special operations teams in Laos and Cambodia.

They held a reunion last month of their special operations group, which included families of the killed or MIA members. Many of those family members had never heard what actually happened to their servicemen until that reunion, the operation was so secret. Many reconnaissance teams were completely wiped out or missing.

Army special forces units are active in Afghanistan (the Green Berets were the first Special Forces into that country), and they currently are working in 97 different countries.

JANET BLEDSOE LACY asked about his experience coming home after Vietnam, since there was so much negative public opinion about the Vietnam War, and many people blamed the servicemen (instead of the politicians who got us into the war). He quipped that he had performed a “clandestine infiltration of New Jersey in 1970”, coming home through a second story window at the back of the house to let his Mom know he was home! He said he did run into the attitude which JANET had referenced when he went to college after coming home from the war. Fortunately, attitudes have changed since then and Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are experiencing a much better reception as they return home.

Because of his experiences, he has been working to support veterans. He helped organize a welcome home parade for veterans returning from Iraq; he works at a non-profit in Orange County for veterans; and he is involved with the Veterans Association of North County (VANC), which is the non-profit that both Oceanside Rotary and El Camino Rotary provided funds for the Veteran’s Kitchen (\$150,000). He said that San Diego is recognized as having the best veterans’ collaboration program in the US.



In thanks for his interesting program, PRES RENEE presented him with a choice of two children's books to sign and be donated.

To wrap up our Veterans' Day meeting, PRES RENEE asked all veterans present in the audience to stand and be recognized.



She then noted that it was going to be a big weekend for club members TOM BRAULT and BILL DERN, whose families will be joined in matrimony on Sunday! That is, their kids will be joined in matrimony, but you always marry the whole family, don't you?

PRES RENEE adjourned the meeting early at 1:22 PM with another resounding clang of the official club Rotary Bell!

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT – Rotary Wedding Edition

Yes, the blessed event did come to pass. After a fine rehearsal on Saturday morning, followed by a tour and a delicious lunch at the Stone Brewery in the afternoon and a fun gathering at Dave and Buster's that evening, on Sunday, November 11 the youngest offspring of both BILL and KATHY DERN and TOM and LINDA BRAULT were joined in matrimony at the Green Gables Estate in San Marcos in front of 114 of their friends and family. Those present at the ceremony heard the tale of how the two lovebirds MARK and ROBYN (whose families had known each other since 1998) finally met in Phoenix just a few years ago, and how their acquaintance grew into the deep love that brought them together to exchange rings and emotional, heartfelt vows. (A few sniffles and sobs were heard from the gathered witnesses.)

And then it was party time! A beautiful location, great food, plenty of beer and wine, touching and humorous toasts, and hours of visiting, reminiscing, and dancing. It was an evening full of joy and love, best expressed by the diehard partiers who remained at the end of the evening surrounding the happy newlywed couple in a group embrace as they all sang and danced together to the last song from the D.J. – “All You Need is Love.” To borrow a phrase from “Mary Poppins”, the whole rehearsal / wedding / reception event was “practically perfect in every way”, and we wish the newest “Mr. and Mrs. Dern” all the best!





COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Nov 16: JEREMY COHEN, S.D. Malkin Hotel Project

*** *BRING FROZEN TURKEYS OR GIFT CARDS FOR BROTHER*

BENNO'S THANKSGIVING MEAL ***

Reporter: A.J. MAZZARELLA

Nov 23: DARK for Thanksgiving weekend

Nov 30: RICK ROBINSON, Oceanside Fire Chief

Reporter: PAM MYERS

Dec 7: SEASIDE SINGERS, Christmas songs

Reporter: VICKIE PROSSER

Dec 14: DARK for Christmas Party on December 16

Dec 16: ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

At Rancho Carlsbad Community Center, 4 pm to ???

Potluck and Bring Your Own Adult Beverage. \$10 fee.

Dec 21: DARK for Christmas

Dec 28: DARK for New Year's