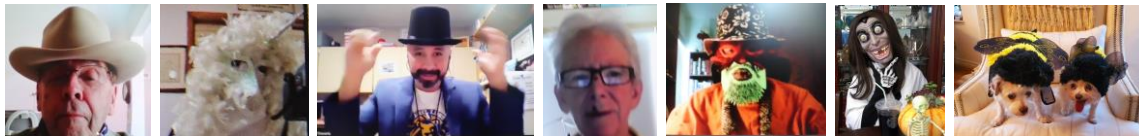


October 30, 2020

When I clicked onto Zoom on Friday and glanced at the individuals in the online boxes onscreen, I had to ask myself if I was at the right meeting. There were so many people I could not recognize in the assembly, as well as some people who didn't look like "people" at all! There was a witch, a unicorn, and a bug-eyed ghoul, for crying out loud! Then it hit me ... It was Halloween Eve, and a whole lot of interesting and creative costumes had been donned by our Rotarian friends in honor of the spooky season.

Here is a rundown of the various disguises (in alphabetical order by last name, so I don't show any favoritism ... There was a costume contest on the line, after all):



CHUCK ANDREAN – Looked like he was sporting a Ranger hat

JANET BLEDSOE LACY – Wearing a whimsical unicorn mask

TOM BRAULT – A colonial patriot, with a spangly green and white vest and knee trousers

Guest FREDDIE CHAVARRIA – Abe Lincoln (but a "stylish Chicano version")

LYN CORDER – To be fair, LYN wasn't actually in a costume, but with her split lip from her recent fall, we gave her credit for looking like a prizefighter after a not-so-successful round in the ring

JAY CRAWFORD – Sporting a combo of a feather mask, a green ghoul mouthpiece, and a snake slung over his shoulder

ANCHISA FARRANT – The super creepy, aforementioned bug-eyed ghoul

DAVE and TERRI HALL – A pair of beekeepers, with their patient doggies Mocha and Paris as their busy (and very cute) buzzers. As the erstwhile apiarists put it, "We are *failed* beekeepers. We only have 2 bees, and they don't produce!")



DALE MAAS – Apparently DALE had trouble deciding on his costume genre, because at various times he could be seen as either a toothy, scary clown – or – as Clark Kent in the middle of his change to Superman

A.J. MAZZARELLA – Two guesses came in for A.J.’s outfit: Jimmy Johnson or the Unabomber

PAM MYERS – A green faced witch

Guest NADIA NAVARETTE – The curliest and most hot pink / fuschia hair you could imagine

TINA ORTIZ – Mary Poppins, complete with carpetbag. “Practically perfect in every way!”

MELISSA RODRIGUEZ – A face-painted spirit that stepped right out of Dia de los Muertos

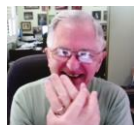
NANCY RUSSIAN – Adorned with horns

JIM SCHRODER – Exotically all wrapped up like a Bedouin

ROGER VANDERWERKEN – the Mad Hatter

At the not-so-precise starting time of 12:31, Co-President DALE MAAS got the meeting started by showing off the Starbucks gift cards which were up for grabs (courtesy of our two Co-Pres’s) as prizes for the “Funniest” and the “Scariest” costumes. (At first, some of us wondered if that was why DALE had worn different costumes during the meeting. Was he trying to run off with both of the prizes??? But no, he stated up front that he would NOT be eligible in this competition, as he had to serve as an impartial judge in the matter.) Everyone in attendance was instructed to submit their votes directly to our *other* Co-President MELISSA RODRIGUEZ via the “Chat” feature of Zoom. Pop to the end of this report to find out who the lucky winners were!

This week’s **ROTARY MOMENT** was shared by LARRY HATTER who



highlighted some of the history of our club and of Rotary in general. Rotary International has clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas, with 1.2 million members in more than 33,000 clubs worldwide. R.I. was established by Paul Harris on February 23, 1905, and our club is the oldest Rotary in North San Diego County – chartered on August 26, 1924. Rotary is an amazing force for good in the world, and the R.I. Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing projects to advance world understanding, goodwill, and

peace. We are all blessed to be members of Rotary. Amen, LARRY! We agree wholeheartedly!

CLUB UPDATES were read to us by one of our Co-Presidents Elect, A.J. MAZZARELLA.

- The deadline for turning in Thank You notes to the fine folks at the Oceanside Police Department is Friday, November 20. Get your cards in to RENEE RICHARDSON by that date so they can be distributed in time for Thanksgiving.
- Speaking of Thanksgiving, the drop off of either gift cards or frozen turkeys for Brother Benno's holiday meals is on Monday, November 16. Bring your donations to DALE's Edward Jones office (2424 Vista Way, Suite 325, Oceanside) between 8 am and noon.
- The Virtual Fundraiser Committee meeting will take place on Zoom on November 2 at 2:30 pm. TERRI HALL is leading this effort. Let her know if you would like to be added on as a participant in this planning.
- The District 5340 Foundation Seminar will also be on Zoom. The date is Saturday, November 7 from 9 to 11 am. (A Zoom link for this seminar was sent by email. Visit www.rotary5340.org for more information.)

VISITORS AND GUESTS

I guess all of our spooky costumes might have scared some other folks away, because we only had three guests at this meeting: RUDY VAN HUNNICK, our friend from Argentina NADIA NAVARETTE, and FREDDIE CHAVARRIA, the Principal of Laurel Elementary. This didn't stop Songmeister du jour BILL DERN from having a lot of spirit and style as he sang our "Welcome to Oceanside" song for them. Co-Pres DALE was obviously impressed by the tune and he told us, "That song never gets old!"



HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE KICKED OFF!!

At this point, a little juggling went on behind the scenes as we figured out how to share a computer screen to display a flyer for our upcoming club service project. We have partnered with both the Women's Resource Center and the Bread of Life Rescue Mission & Shelter to help those in need this holiday season. A list of items that we will be collecting was displayed (and has been sent to all of our members by email). Toys and clothes will benefit the kids served at Women's Resource Center and the food items will go to Bread of Life for distribution. (No glass or

perishable items / Easy open cans preferred) There is a wide range of dates for dropping off your donations – November 6 thru December 4, Monday thru Friday between 8 am and 4 pm at DALE MAAS's Edward Jones office (2424 Vista Way, Suite 325, Oceanside). The phone there is 760- 439-9001. We were tasked to send a copy of the email flyer to everyone we know to multiply our efforts. For instance, if we all sent it to five friends, there could be well over 200 people making donations! Spread the word!



DALE then went more low-tech on the next display. He could not pull up the digital photo that he wanted to show onscreen, so he did the next best thing. He held a real live photo print up close to his computer's camera. (A bit TOO close, as it looked really blurry, but we got the idea.) The picture showed the bounty of beef jerky which had been donated to Operation Gratitude to be sent to deployed military. The mound of meat that we saw doesn't even count the additional amount that was bought by AMANDA SNIDER with the money which had been donated to the cause. It was a successful project for us and will be a boost for the men and women overseas. DALE said that his brother in the Navy can attest that getting gifts like these really helps to lift their spirits. Thanks to all who participated in this project!

REPORTS ON MORE OF OUR DONATIONS

FREDDIE CHAVARRIA (Principal at Laurel Elementary School) had been invited to share with us the impact of our \$1500 donation to the school through our District matching grant this year. FREDDIE told us that he has been a part of Laurel for a long, long time, having been a student there himself way back in the day and now serving as its Principal for the past 8 years. He feels that his school has been blessed to have the ongoing support from the Oceanside Rotary Club. The school population is in a community with high needs – 99% of the students receive reduced price lunches and the area is one of high poverty in the community. Adding stress to this has been the need for the school to engage in hybrid learning due to the pandemic. Literacy support, FREDDIE said, has been a particular challenge in the current learning environment, with students having limited access to the books in their library, due to the limited number of copies and the need for quarantine and sanitation. Therefore, with our donated funds, the Laurel school library will be purchasing a number of multi-user E-books so that they can give more students the opportunity to read and to learn to enjoy reading. E-books will work well in the current environment when they want to minimize the physical sharing of materials between students. So, our money is being put to very good use.





Another way that we have spread some cheer with our contributions is pictured here, as bags of Halloween candy purchased by Oceanside Rotary were delivered to the residents of both the assisted living facilities at both Chateau



Lake San Marcos and Brookdale Oceanside, where it was handed off to their Social Director ERIC LIGARE.

Since we want to keep this streak of contributions from our club going, Co-President DALE announced that (unless you wished to direct your dollars to a different cause) the money taken in through today's fines and happy dollars would go toward our club's contribution to World Polio Day and Polio Plus. (Our goal for this contribution is \$300.)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

It is a sure bet that we can pull in some dollars as folks celebrate their big days! (...Assuming that the members in question are present to make a donation.) We weren't very lucky in finding birthday members at this meeting. Missing in Action were VERNON ALLEN, DAVE NYDEGGER, DAN WILSON, and ED PARISH, but at least we had MELISSA RODRIGUEZ in attendance to be treated to a jazzy version of "Happy Birthday to You" sung by BILL DERN. MELISSA said that she was \$51 happy for this birthday. (If I do the math right, I have to assume that this represents \$3 per year, because she doesn't look any older than 17 years old ... I mean, there is no way that this vibrant young lass could actually be 51 this year. Am I right?)

A wedding anniversary was noted for CHUCK ANDREAN and his wife YONG HEE. CHUCK also confessed that his birthday had been missed last month, so he offered \$39 for the birthday (since he is at the age where it is acceptable to freeze one's years of age at 39) and \$36 for their 36th anniversary – a total of \$75 to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation.

And we had a bunch of Club Anniversaries to note, as well: VERNON ALLEN, FRANK COXON, RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE (31 years in our club which netted a \$35 contribution to Polio Plus), PAM MYERS (9 years and \$90 to Polio Plus – PAM also wanted us to know that she still is giving \$100 per month to Studio Ace, a non-profit which provides 1400 to 2000 craft kits to schools and the U.S.O.), and DAVE SHORE (23 years in Oceanside Rotary for a \$100 contribution which he included as part of Happy Dollars – *See below*).



OTHER HAPPY DOLLARS

REMINDER: *You can take care of the Happy Dollars / Fines that you owe to the club either through the Venmo app or by sending a check in to Treasurer LES NEWQUIST or Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE.*

RUDY VAN HUNNICK actually jumped in early during the Birthday bucks to throw his Happy Dollar contribution into the pot - \$50 because he is “Happy to see everyone and especially for those in costume.” RUDY also kissed up to our Co-Pres MELISSA by saying, “She looks younger than she said!” ... DAVE SHORE’s \$100 covered not only his club anniversary (*See above*), but it gave him the chance to update us on his son who is fine now after coming down with Covid. Even though his boy has recovered, DAVE notes that “we can’t minimize what is going on” and that Covid can often lead to a long term disability, including the possibility of lung scarring, blood clots, nerve damage, and cardiovascular disease. He has personally had several family members affected in the last few weeks, and one person in his family has died from Covid. Thank you for bringing this sobering perspective front and center in our minds, DAVE.

DALE MAAS added \$20 to our Polio Plus happy dollars just for being on this Zoom call with us all ... TERRI HALL gave \$40 to Polio Plus from “the failed beekeepers.”



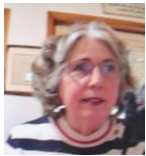
LES NEWQUIST inquired whether there was any update on DEAN ANDERSEN’s bike ride adventure. BILL DERN (who had been our primary contact with DEAN while he was cycling along the south) reminded us that there had been irreparable damage to the bicycle (a fractured frame) in Texas, which stopped DEAN’s progress about 1200 miles into this planned cross-country trip, forcing him to come back home. However, he is planning to return to that same spot at some point in the future to continue on the journey and complete the quest.

OUR PROGRAM – A “WHO AM I?” FOR THE AGES

When you have a fascinating life, you can fill up the allotted 20-minute program time with ease! And JANET BLEDSOE LACY was able to keep us all intrigued with the tale of her life.

Born in 1948, one of three girls in the Bledsoe family, JANET was “the youngest and the cutest.” Her mother stayed home with the kids while her father was a

former fighter pilot in World War II and after getting out of the service, he went into real estate in San Bernardino County. JANET attended high school in Ontario, CA and, after she graduated, her parents bought 4.5 acres of land in Oceanside, where the family relocated. College and law school followed for JANET. She was the second female student at her law school. "I was single and surrounded by men. I had a great time!" Then she graduated and passed the bar in 1974, becoming the second female attorney in North County and got married within two days of the bar exam. Attorneys were generally pretty welcoming to her as a woman in the profession, but soon after having her first baby in 1978, the Presiding Judge privately told her that she could be a good mother or a good attorney, but there is no way she could do both. JANET, of course, strove to prove him wrong, as she took Thursdays off from her practice to be at home more.



In 1975, she and husband STEVEN bought 3-1/3 acres next to her parents' 4.5 acres on the outskirts of town when there was "a whole lot of nothing there" and "People thought we were crazy!" When a housing development opened up adjacent to their properties, her parents bought the house right at the edge of the development so they could be sure about their neighbors there. Her sister MARVA bought another house on the bordering land and suddenly they had a "family compound." Houses have been and will be passed down in order to keep the property in the family for the long term.

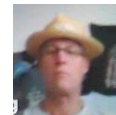
In 1992, JANET attended a controversial school board meeting which was focused on members of the public trying to prevent students who were 14 years or older from leaving campus to attend a doctor's appointment without their parent's knowledge. School authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian. This has been state law since 1986 wherein a student in California may leave school at any time for medical appointments related to drug or alcohol issues, child abuse, domestic violence, birth control and other medical issues, including abortion or socially transmitted diseases. As a lawyer, JANET had been appointed to cases to represent young kids who were subjected to horrible issues and abuses within their homes. Accordingly, she knew firsthand that "Not every parent is Ozzie and Harriet." Needless to say, JANET spoke out at this meeting, strongly in favor of allowing this medical leave, but the board president at the time pronounced, "There are the laws of the State of California, but there are higher laws and I must follow those laws" as he held up a bible. This interaction inspired JANET to seek a spot on this board. She was appointed by a 4 to 1 vote to replace DICK LYON, who ran for Mayor and won, so he resigned his position on the school board. The guy who raised the bible voted against her appointment. His

congregation circulated a petition to get 600 voters to demand an election for the seat, which was sufficient to have JANET's appointment "annulled". So, she ran for the seat in an election and won it! She served on the Oceanside Unified School District board for 22 years, but "it felt like a moment!"

It has been marvelous, she told us, to start to phase into her retirement from law. She is now down to one case, and the court sessions are being held on Zoom. She has found it interesting to see how courts are adapting to the pandemic. Her son has taken over her partner position in her law firm. Her daughter is also a lawyer, but she has her own business.

JANET feels very fortunate to be in the position to be able to retire without HAVING TO retire. And the current world situation would suit her just fine, for she "can't think of anything I would rather do than stay home all the time!" She avidly watches CNN and thinks that the election has been fascinating. She also dabbles in sewing and needlework and loves to read the newspaper. She will be continuing with her 30-year effort to raise money for the City of Oceanside's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship program. JANET, who has been a Rotarian since 1993, is grateful for Rotary's support of this program.

To close off her "Who am I" presentation, the floor was opened for questions and feedback. BRIAN LONG responded that he was fascinated by her stories from the 70's and how women seemed to be treated like second class citizens, following up by noting. "We still need to work on these issues." LARRY HATTER brought up how JANET had nominated MADGE BRADLEY to be inducted into the Oceanside High School Hall of Fame, and JANET was tickled to tell us all about this remarkable woman who had attended law school in the 1940's and became a judge in 1957, including the story of how MADGE, despite her position, had been excluded from attending Judges meetings at the "Men Only" Grant Grill restaurant. This was corrected when a new presiding Judge in San Diego changed the location of the meeting. But it wasn't until 1969 or so, when some women lawyers protested at the Grant Grill and were able to bring an end to this particular example of gender discrimination.



Co-President DALE spoke for us all at the end of JANET's time by simply saying, "WOW!" He was so impressed with how JANET had carved her own road in life and refused to be satisfied with the status quo. He agreed with BRIAN's earlier sentiment that "there still is so much work to be done in society, but people like you are helping to make positive changes." A round of mostly silent onscreen

visual applause was our way of thanking JANET for sharing her enlightening story with us.

Before we signed off, DALE shared some updates about some of our members.

Sadly, MIKE CURTIN lost his father Dr. TOM CURTIN recently. We were encouraged to send along our condolences to the CURTIN family.

We were happy to see LYN CORDER at the meeting, and that she is bouncing back from her recent fall and injuries. Surgery is scheduled for her.

Surgery also is coming up for BILL DERN, so think good thoughts there, too.

TERRI HALL was able to report that DAVE NYDEGGER is doing better and is “Hanging in there ... He just has to take it slow.”

MEETING WRAP UP

DALE seemed quite pleased to report that, through our happy dollars for the day, the club would be collecting \$336 for Polio Plus for World Polio Day, exceeding our goal. “This is a reminder of the core and character of our club,” DALE proudly stated.



And the last order of business was to announce the winners of what DALE labeled as the “First Annual, if not the first ever**” Oceanside Rotary Halloween costume contest, each to receive a Starbucks gift card. The prize for “Scariest” costume went to our googly-eyed ghoul ANCHISA FARRANT and the “Funniest” characters were DAVE and TERRI HALL, the failed beekeepers, although a jokester named JANET was heard to remark, “The dogs / bees are the real winners!”



*{** To correct the historical record, we should note that not only have we had multiple Halloween costume parties in Oceanside Rotary’s past, there also have been several costume contests over the years Admittedly in the years before DALE joined the club, so how would he know? A couple of the previous winners that some of our more seasoned members could recall include: RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE as a blonde haired gypsy about 10 years ago at the party at JOHN McMAHAN’s house, and RANDY MITCHELL who showed up*



at the Halloween happening at the HALL house as a surgeon with a severed hand on a tray.}

Co-President DALE signed off with a litany of gratitude: “Thanks to JANET for her story. Thanks to TOM for being our scribe. Thanks to everyone for dressing up. Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 13.”

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT



You don't have to venture far to be “out and about.” On a recent sunny day, ANCHISA FARRANT and NANCY RUSSIAN headed out to the tomato fields behind her house in Carlsbad where they put in some manual labor and picked 35 and a half pounds of tomatoes! Sounds like there will be a big tub of marinara in somebody's future!!!



STILL INTERESTED IN PUMPKIN HOLIDAY DÉCOR??



ANCHISA FARRANT has been crafting some very creative and beautiful pumpkin / succulent centerpieces, suitable for holiday display, which she has been selling to raise money for the club. Several members have popped for these purchases, and, although Halloween has come and gone, there still are holidays yet to come in this season. Contact ANCHISA if you are interested in having a beauty like one of these to call you own!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Saturday, November 7 – District Foundation Seminar on Zoom – 9 to 11 am

Friday, November 13 –Regular meeting on Zoom

Friday, November 13 –Frozen Turkeys for Brother Benno’s Thanksgiving.

Drop your frozen fowl off at DALE MAAS’ office (2424 Vista Way, Suite 325, Oceanside) between 9 am and noon – or – provide a gift card toward the purchase of a turkey

Friday, November 20 – Deadline for sending Letters to First Responders (Police)

Note cards can be dropped off or mailed to RENEE at
720 Silver Drive, Vista, CA 92083