

ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE

SHODFI INFS

Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer Bill Dern Reporter



October 8, 2021

(<u>Reporter's Note:</u> Before I begin, I wish to thank all Rotarians for masking up except while actively eating while seated at their tables. That simple act, along with the wide separation among the tables, reduced seating at the tables, and the open patio door, made those folks who might be uncomfortable with an indoor meeting feel safer and want to continue to attend our meetings. Hopefully keeping up this simple courtesy at future meetings will encourage others to attend.)



With the ringing of our club bell (without his gavel I noted) and a **LOUD "Welcome to Oceanside Rotary"**, President L. J. FIMBRES got our meeting started on time. (Since we were meeting in the Main Dining Room due to inclement weather, Pres LJ didn't realize that the club's P. A. system

was definitely louder than the portable system we had been

using for our meetings out on the patio.)

After that, GORDON BROWN led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance" and Pres LJ mentioned the travels of "Indiana Gavel", (It's going to cost you guys to get him to return, either \$\$\$ or groveling or a bit of both.)





JANET BLEDSOE LACY then offered our Rotary Moment. JANET shared a story from her past and how our acts can affect other people's lives.

While she was practicing law 30 some years ago (I didn't know we let teenagers practice law), a couple came into her office who were a Nurse and Anesthesiologist Husband who worked at Tri City Hospital who for the last three months had cared for a premature baby at Tri City. The

baby had special needs and had been born to a mother who was addicted to meth. The mother had named a homeless friend as the father on the birth certificate, so that he could use the baby to collect welfare. The couple in JANET's office wanted to adopt this baby. However, JANET explained that such an adoption could not take place in this fashion without the parents approving of the same, which was not going to happen. JANET's couple also had plans to move back home to Massachusetts in the next two months. However, JANET said that even though it was highly irregular, that perhaps the couple could petition the Court to be named as the baby's Temporary Legal Guardian, which would put them in a position to have legal standing to petition the Court in Massachusetts for a permanent adoption once they moved there. If successful, this would avoid the baby going straight into the Foster Care System for at least a year.

JANET obtained the Temporary Court Order, and when she went with the parents to have the baby released to her clients, JANET witnessed the medical staff give the couple all of the legally required complicated instructions regarding the medical devices that the baby was hooked up to in order to stay alive. It was obvious to JANET that this baby would not likely be properly cared for in the overly congested and underfunded Foster Care System. However, as the couple were receiving these instructions, a Social Worker assigned to the hospital entered the room and insisted that this baby was not going to go home with this couple because JANET had bypassed the system that required this baby to go into Foster Care, and that Tri City needed to go back to the Court to stop this. JANET responded that she had a legal Court Order, and that she had no intention of going back to Court to do anything. JANET said that instead of going to Court she would go straight to the local newspaper (then The Blade Tribune/North County Times) and give them this story that Tri City Hospital was trying to prevent this wonderful medically trained couple who had taken care of this baby for three months from taking this baby home and instead Tri City wanted to throw the baby, who they believed had a hearing impediment who also might be partially blind, to go into the abyss of foster care. JANET said that "the managers of the hospital could not get us out of there fast enough!"

JANET then shared with fellow Rotarians she knew that this baby had gone to the right people, because for the last 30 years she had been exchanging Christmas cards and notes with the adoptive Mother, some of which JANET passed around. The cards from 2018/2019 indicated that the boy, named Travis, was doing "I.T. work for a local company, and is very loving." Travis also had a younger sister. It is in Rotarian's DNA to make a difference and JANET demonstrated that. Good thoughts for us all to remember.

CLUB UPDATES

10/11 Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation Board meeting via Zoom – Noon

10/15 Oceanside Rotary Club Board meeting via Zoom—Noon

10/21 District Membership Social, 6-8 PM at Agua Hedionda Discovery Center located at 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad. Cost \$25/person. (No Club social this month.)

10/22 Regular Meeting at El Camino Country Club, patio at Noon

10/23 Relay for Life at Mira Costa College – Contact TINA ORTIZ for info.

10/28 Volunteer Work Party for Iron Man – Contact BRIAN LONG for info.

10/30 Iron Man Race

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 11th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM Christmas Party at TERRI and DAVID HALL's home. More to come later.

PP JIM SCHRODER is doing well as he recovers from a breakthrough case of COVID. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

RUDY VAN HUNNICK was introduced by Past Pres MELISSA RODRIGUEZ.

And for the last time, JASON DESADIER was introduced as a guest by PP RENEE RICHARDSON.

PP DAVE HALL led us in our welcome song. (Was it me or do we sound better indoors?)





PRESIDENTIAL STUFF

PP RENEE was asked to come to the podium and make a Rotary International Foundation presentation to one of our members. After properly disinfecting the microphone, RENEE awarded LARRY HATTER with his Paul Harris Award plus 1, meaning he has donated, over the years, \$2000 to the Rotary International



Foundation, doing good locally and across our world. Congratulations LARRY! RENEE also shared how donations can be matched through club and individual points being donated to help someone achieve an award level sooner. See RENEE for further details.



RENEE stayed at the podium to induct our newest member to the club, Dr. JASON DESADIER. JASON is an ER physician, is married, and has three sons. JASON was welcomed to the club with a standing ovation as the newest member of the Rotary family. Showing how well indoctrinated he was, new Red Badger JASON without any prompting quickly noted that he was \$20 happy to be a member of such a "fine" club. (Wonder who his sponsor was – RENEE?)

ANCHISA FARRANT was \$5 happy to pitch her Halloween fundraiser for the Oceanside Rotary Club. ANCHISA makes beautiful Halloween Pumpkins for home decorations. The prices range from \$25 for small ones, \$35 for medium and \$45 for large ones. All proceeds go the Oceanside Rotary Club for use on our projects. Contact ANCHISA soon (760-525-3774) so you can enjoy this wonderful

centerpiece all month long and support our club. Here are some photos of happy Rotarians with their decorated pumpkins from ANCHISA.

THANK YOU, ANCHISA!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Today was the actual birthday of DAVID NYDEGGER. Although I doubt the amount he donated is related to his age, DAVID was \$100 happy. Then, in a typical DAVID NYDEGGER manner, he shared a funny joke that brought us to our knees.





Also having a birthday this month was PP MELISSA RODRIGUEZ who, claiming it is not related to her age, was \$52 happy. (Hmm!!) In a stroke of spontaneity, Rotarians burst into a birthday song for the birthday Rotarians. (We sounded really good, harmony and all.)

PP RENEE RICHARDSON is

celebrating 32 years in Rotary. (She must have joined in 5th grade.) RENEE noted how easy it was to go online and donate \$32 to Rotary International Fund. Congrats RENEE.

Our newest member JASON DESADIER 'fessed up and shared he will be celebrating his wedding anniversary this month, married in 2002. (You do the math).

and not himself.



HAPPY DOLLARS

Running short on time, Pres LJ asked for just a few happy dollars. TINA ORTIZ was first and \$10 happy for all the positive comments she received after her presentation last meeting.





ERNIE MASCITTI was \$20 happy and sad. He was sad that his neighbor JIM SCHRODER was sick with COVID and glad his neighbor had COVID

RUDY VAN HUNNICK was \$25 happy to suggest Rotarians watch KOCT from 6-8 pm to catch an interesting special.



LESLY ADAMS was \$20 happy to share she was in a photo shoot for a Jazzercize Magazine feature, named attorney of the year from North County Bar Association, and to report that she is cancer free. She will still undergo radiation therapy just to be certain. LESLY noted that JANET BLEDSOE LACY was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the same group. (Congrats to both!)



PROGRAM



Our fantastic program chair JANET BLEDSOE LACY (if you don't believe me, just ask her!) introduced our speaker, our own LESLY ADAMS, who discussed "Air Rage". LESLY has been a flight attendant for 30 years, a Jazzericize instructor of 20 years, and a lawyer for a bit more than 10 years. She was also head of her flight attendant association while stationed in Germany. (She usually flew San Francisco to Munich or Frankfort, mainly because she was one of the few flight attendants that spoke some German.)

As with all of our club's programs, Rotarians needed to be present to really fully appreciate the presentation. Here are a few highlights:

LESLY shared many stories or examples of airline rage in the airline industry.



Flight attendants are in a non-stop profession, not only waitressing or bartending, but also nursing, some psychiatry, and babysitting (for children of **ALL** ages).

She then shared stories of crazy actions by passengers on airlines, including the duct tape guy many of us read about in the newspapers, the attendant who was assaulted and lost a few teeth, a passenger who decided to open the wing exit door while the plane was taxiing, and many more. After sharing these, LESLY asked Rotarians, "Why do you think these keep happening?" Input from the club included: alcohol; frustration people have over another set of rules and regulations to follow; and lack of consistent, publicized penalties for these transgressions. (The editor also noted 6 or 7 out of the 8 or so examples given involved flights to and from Florida. So don't fly to Florida Maybe that wasn't a valid reason.)

Both the airline industry and the FAA are looking to each other to address the problem.

With COVID, alcohol (especially a mixed drink) is not being served on airlines due to the more intimate handling needed to serve them. As a result, airports offer 2-for-1 deals on shots or pre-flight specials or to-go alcoholic drinks. Although travelers are not allowed to bring open alcoholic drinks onto the plane, these often get sneaked by disguised as coffee or soda and end up onboard.



During the 5 years from 2015 to 2020, less than 800 incidence reports were filed by airlines for unruly passengers. Since January 1st, 2021, nearly 800 reports have already been filed. So, the numbers are going up a lot. In a recent survey of flight attendants, nearly 85% of them have already had to deal with an air rage incident this year. Most of the rest were out on administrative or medical leave, so that means nearly all of the active attendants experienced incidents so far this year.

LESLY suggested stricter, more publicized penalties for violations and a shared list of no-fly passengers among airlines. Now if someone is barred from United, they can fly Southwest. A sharing of these lists to keep the documented problem passengers on the ground would be beneficial.

A lack of general, good manners was also noted.

In summary LESLY suggested the following:

- Consistency in fines and prison times for convictions.
- The Department of Justice prosecute and publicize convictions.
- A centralized "no-fly" list.
- Make alcohol less available for passengers.
- Encourage passengers who notice excessive drinking or strange behaviors while waiting to board to share their observation with an airline employee.

Sadly, there was no time for questions.

Pres LJ presented LESLY with a special holiday pumpkin topped with succulents prepared by our ANCHISA FARRANT as a thank you gift for this wonderful presentation. Thanks, ANCHISA and LESLY.



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING



JANET BLEDSOE LACY held the winning ticket but could not draw the winning card for the big \$500 prize. She donated the not-so-big \$10 consolation prize back to the club.

And with that, Pres LJ closed a really fun meeting, ringing the bell – again without his gavel. I can't wait to see where "Indiana Gavel" goes next.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

Once again, NANCY and LUIS RUSSIAN took to the road and they sent in a brief update with some lovely photos so we could share their travels with them vicariously.

"We have been in Oregon and Idaho. Oregon requires masks for everyone everywhere. Idaho not so much. We are back in Red Bluff, California and I think we were the only ones wearing masks in the store there. Of course, we don't wear masks outside or in the RV parks but it's been interesting seeing and experiencing the many varied behaviors and attitudes within just these three states and cities.



Beautiful parks and scenery





At my sister Katherine's recently purchase river vacation cabin in Tidewater, Oregon. Here we are having lunch on their deck. My brother-in-law is taking the pic. This is my one niece Grace; her three other brothers are away studying or working. Grace is going to Oregon State so she was able to make it.





Lunch at Mexican restaurant in Canyonville, Oregon.

Luis and my brother-in-law David with the river right behind them. It's so beautiful!"



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Monday, October 11 - Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation Board meeting via Zoom – Noon

Friday, October 15 – Board meeting on Zoom at Noon

Thursday, October 21 – District Membership Social – 6 to 8 pm – Agua Hedionda Discovery Center – 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad - \$25.00 a person. Info and registration will be available at District website calendar (NOTE: Because of this special District event, we will NOT be holding our own club's regular social evening in October. Also note that this event has been postponed until 2022.)

Friday, October 22 – Regular meeting at Noon – El Camino C.C.

Saturday, October 23 – "Relay for Life" American Cancer Society event at Mira Costa College. Starts at 10:00am

Saturday, October 30 – Ironman 70.3 Oceanside. Check with **BRIAN LONG** about the details for this event – *Volunteers needed for Thursday, October 28*

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 11 – Christmas Party at TERRI and DAVE HALL's home - 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM