



**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES

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		PRESIDENT Renee Richardson



February 17, 2017



PRESIDENT RENEE RICHARDSON pinged her gavel at exactly 12:30 to call the meeting to order.

RENEE informed us that Bill Ashley, a former member, who visited last year, has passed away.



ERNIE MASCITTI was called upon to give us a MOMENT OF INSPIRATION. ERNIE titled his words “Gratitude” and said on a day like today, it is easy to find one's self complaining that it is cold and wet outside. We forget, he said, what it's like in the rest of the United States. ERNIE said we live in the best country – in the best state. And Southern California is the wealthiest spot in the whole world. And Oceanside – “I love it.” We just need gratitude, he said.

RENEE then asked “one of our newest members,” DIEGO DOBSON, to lead us in the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.



SONGMEISTER VICKIE PROSSER told us that, in a follow-up to the sentiments expressed by ERNIE, we would sing “God Bless America,” which she then followed with “Smile.” VICKIE also took pictures of each table's participants singing, prompting RENEE to remark, “That's what you get when you have a songmeister and a photographer all in one.”



RENEE also welcomed PRESIDENT-ELECT CHUCK WARD back from president-elect (PETS) training in Los Angeles last weekend.



CHUCK called the experience amazing and said, "I'm still excited." CHUCK said he was told to "be yourself." He said with a chuckle and a twinkle in his mischievous eye, "I think that's not going to work." He reminded us about the "It's in the bag" promotion for the San Diego Food Bank and that Thursday, March 16 would be an "away meeting" with Fallbrook Rotary at the Grand Tradition in Fallbrook and a clipboard would be going around for signups. Our club will be dark that Friday, March 17.

Also, CHUCK said, Saturday, March 18, will be the DISTRICT ASSEMBLY in San Diego. "Please, please sign up to attend," CHUCK said. "I need all the help I can get. Trust me." Also, he said, attending the Assembly is "a great opportunity for Red Badges." The club pays for breakfast, CHUCK explained, and then he described the meal offered as "a fruit cup and a little muffin."



Then he made an announcement from Weseloh Chevrolet, saying that everyone who brings a friend to test drive a Volt car will receive a special performance from our club member MIKE WESELOH.

Only two GUESTS were on hand today.



SUSAN BROWN introduced "one of my oldest friends," which made NANCY PEITHMAN from Tyler, Texas, wince a bit. NANCY was on crutches, the result, SUSAN told us, of an accident at the turnstile Tuesday at Los Angeles International Airport. SUSAN reported that NANCY had come here straight from Tri-City Medical Center and may want to return because the "cutest EMT" had put a brace on her leg.



DAVID NYDEGGER introduced our guest speaker, JOHN COX.

RENEE referred to the club's annual El Toro Award (given at the demotion dinner in recognition of noteworthy vocal participation at our meetings) and she mused, "All of you seem to want to grab it this year."

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:



SUSAN BROWN gave \$20 for her first anniversary in Oceanside Rotary. VICKIE PROSSER ponied up \$20 for her 15th, and JIM SCHRODER told RENEE his was "the same year as your birthday." "Oh, stop it," RENEE replied, but then said "Oh... Thank you!" when JIM noted that it was his 39th year in the club. He joined Feb. 17, 1978, and he gave \$39.

NOTES FROM THE WIDER WORLD OF ROTARY SERVICE

RENEE asked about the Rotarians who had attended a community meeting on homelessness Monday night.



DAVID NYDEGGER reported there was a panel of four people – Leslee Gaul from Visit Oceanside, a man from Interfaith Community Services, a police officer and Margery Pierce, city neighborhood services director. DAVE said one of things he took away from the meeting was that the officer talked about how important it is to try to get all the agencies together under one roof to provide coordinated services.

And JAY CRAWFORD, who also attended, noted that some people wanted to give the homeless a plane ticket to go away, but that most of them actually are from Oceanside.



(Other Rotarians attending were BOB PICKREL, LOLA SHERMAN and GORDY WITZ.)

CHUCK noted that it is the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation and said that's "an opportunity to play up" Rotary. One suggestion at PETS, he said, is to perform "100 acts of kindness."

"It's going to be an exciting year," CHUCK said.

Also at PETS, he said, there was mention of a "Rotary Kids" project with pins for the youngsters, perhaps in conjunction with Rotaract (the college-level Rotary group). RENEE reminded us that our Rotaract Club at MiraCosta College is currently inactive.

HAPPY DOLLARS:

SUSAN BROWN gave \$20 as she promoted "An African Safari Shindig" Saturday, Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m. here at El Camino Country Club with tri-tip and chicken piccata on the menu. The dining and dancing (\$85 per person) benefits the Oceanside Art Walk and provides art scholarships. It's all tax-deductible, she said. The prize, SUSAN said, will be a seven-day, six-night stay at the luxurious Zulu Nyala Private Reserve in South Africa.

Also, SUSAN said, the Oceanside Art Walk program may take its lead from one in Kansas City, and the two could become "cousin" projects.



JANET BLEDSOE LACY was \$5 happy that her hubby is doing very well after knee surgery. This knee replacement is going so well, JANET said, STEVE is going to get one on the other knee.

On a different subject, she warned, "This storm that's coming is going to be ferocious!"

JAY CRAWFORD gave \$10 Happy Dollars for having finally used a gift certificate received from his kids in 2009 to take ANITA on a gondola ride among the Imperial Beach canals on Thursday afternoon. After the ride, they enjoyed dinner at the Brigantine in Coronado. How romantic!

JIM SCHRODER, recently returned from Antarctica and Argentina, offered “ten happy pesos” and \$20 as well. He said the meeting with our sister club in Parana, Argentina, began at 9 p.m. and concluded after midnight. JIM brought us a flag from Parana. He said he first went there on an exchange program in 1992 and now he is meeting the children of the young people he knew then.

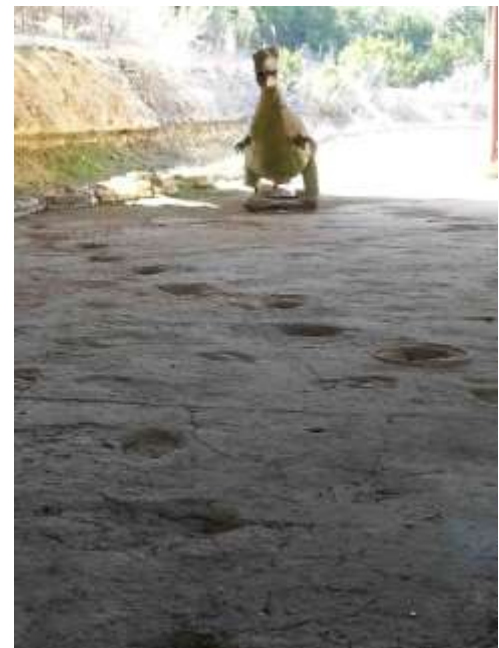


As for Antarctica, JIM said, there was a polar plunge on the last day of his trip, and he definitely knows all about the expression to “freeze your ass off.”



NANCY RUSSIAN gave \$10 in thanks for everyone's support at her Valentine's Day program last week and said she did not think she had thanked TOM BRAULT enough for being the judge in the couples' contest. She gave RENEE a thank-you card and “big (candy) kiss” to give to TOM, who was absent, spending a week with his wife in the Hill Country of Texas. (At the time of our meeting, we found out, TOM was investigating a

patch of dinosaur tracks which had been excavated about 30 years ago around Canyon Lake. Yes, that is right. TOM was hot on the trail of an iguanadon – give or take 80 or 100 million years!)



GORDY WITZ was \$5 happy to sell \$15 tickets for wife B.J's Soroptimist Club luncheon next Wednesday. JANET BLEDSOE LACY said the luncheon is a good place for networking, and the food is great. GORDY was agreeing about the food when RENEE cut him off, saying, “You are running over your \$5.”

SPEAKER

JOHN COX: In support of a Neighborhood Legislature.

As ERNIE had said earlier, COX agreed, we live in a great country and a great state.

COX said he came originally from Illinois which is “disintegrating before your very eyes” with a huge unfunded pension deficit. And he later mentioned that four of the last eight governors there have spent time in federal custody.

But the news isn't much better in California, he said.

His mother earned two master's degrees from UC Berkeley in the 1940s and went on to teach in Chile for a year – a “trailblazer” thing to do for a single woman in 1941. But when she returned to teach in Chicago, she found that everything was political – even appointments of school principals.

The corruption in our system is not just getting cash under the table for a liquor license, for instance, he said.

As a child, his daughter, Stephanie, now 32, asked if all fairy tales begin with “once upon a time.” Actually, he said, many begin with “if elected, I promise...”

His promise, COX said, is “to take California back from the people in control,” and, he said, it's urgent because California is first in the nation in poverty. It has, he said, 12 percent of the population of the U. S. and 33 percent of the welfare cases.

And, he said, its educational system ranks 48th among the states. It has a trillion dollars in pension debt, he said, but still that's “not insurmountable.”

It's not, he said, that we have elected corrupt people but that the system is corrupt.

Legislators earn \$100,000 plus benefits and “are fund-raising every single day of the year” when it” should be an honor and a privilege to help your fellow man,” COX said,

Using mainly his own money - from having been successful buying apartment buildings at a young age – COX is heading a campaign which will begin to gather signatures in April to put a measure on the ballot in 2018.

It would divide Assembly and Senate districts into 100 small units of 5,000 to 10,000 people each.

Now, he said, state Senators represent a million people – more than the populations of North and South Dakota combined (actually about 1.5 million).

The 80 assembly district and 40 Senate districts in California were set up in 1879 when there were only 800,000 people in the state, he said.

With a million people per district now, COX said, organizations like Walgreen's, VISA and the California Teachers Association have become especially powerful and, as a result, 80 percent of the population believes that special interests dictate government. Ordinarily, he said, “You can't get 80 percent of the people to agree that the sun rises in the East.”

He especially cited the influence of the teachers' union, saying he believes in collective bargaining, but not in the degree of power the union wields today. Some call it “the third or fourth branch of government,” he said.

As an example of smaller government that works, COX cited New Hampshire, where districts represent far fewer people, and legislators don't need a lot of fundraising.

If California would divide Assembly and Senate districts into 100 small units of 5,000 to 10,000 voters each, candidates wouldn't need to raise much money to be elected by such a small group, and they would only send one of their number to Sacramento to cast votes for all of them.

“Who's going to serve in this Legislature?” COX asked. “People like you,” he answered, because the newer, smaller districts won't take so much of anyone's time, and they won't have to give up their business, family and life.

The new Legislature will be fueled by technology, COX said. Participants can take part by Smart phone and e-mail.

COX said he's spoken about the concept to 50 Rotary Clubs in the past four to five months, but there are 700 in the state. And, he said, he's also made presentations to Kiwanis, Lions and Optimists clubs.

“You guys are all leaders in your community,” COX said. “You all have e-mail

lists. You can get the vote out.” He invited us: “It will take all of you to get involved.”



Already, he said, 20,000 people have filled out forms to participate.

The only comment after his talk came from JANET BLEDSOE LACY, who said that after 21 years on the local school board, she disputes his statement that California ranks 48th in education. COX replied that she should challenge the people who prepare the statistics.

RENEE gave the speaker a parting gift of a book of thank-you quotes.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING:

There was \$110 in the pot. When no one responded to the first call of the number, VICKIE PROSSER looked in her



pocket and found the winning ticket. But, alas, she pulled the Nine of Clubs from the proffered cards and had to be satisfied with just the \$10 consolation prize.

RENEE reminded those who had not brought filled food bags to this meeting to be sure to bring them next week, and then she adjourned the meeting at exactly 1:30 p.m.



SHARING IN THE SPECIAL DAY FOR ANCHISA AND RON

This just in: A selection of photos from the traditional Thai wedding ceremony in Bangkok on February 19. Congratulations to the happy couple!!!





ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

Want to see some of the parties that JIM SCHRODER enjoyed during his visit to our sister club in Parana, Argentina? Well then, you are in luck, because JIM sent in a few photos to share with us all in Shorelines, along with this report, straight from the SCHRODER's mouth: "Total of 10 days of Parties every night... start at 9:30 pm and end around 1:30 am each night. I had to come home to rest after 10 days in Argentina partying nightly into the morning."



Included in this collection of pictures are: a reunion with various Rotarians from Parana; visits with various local Rotarian families; and (in the last one in this photo series) the gathering of Rotarians from Gualeguaychu (pronounced like “wally why chew”) for a festive barbecue asado.



From a completely different hemisphere at a completely different time, JIM was captured on film at another festive gathering this past weekend. This time it was for the 60th anniversary party for IDA and FERNANDO ACUNA, long-time citizens of Oceanside and the parents of local Rotarian TINA ORTIZ. This celebration took place at the VANC building on Mission Avenue (which our club had contributed significant sums toward the renovation of the kitchen for the veterans center). Also in the picture from this event are: LLOYD and VICKIE PROSSER, FR. ANTHONY from Mission San Luis Rey who had presided at the renewal of vows, the anniversary couple IDA and FERNANDO, and former Oceanside Rotarian JACK FELLER. Here is JIM's summary of the celebration – “It was a very nice day with vows repeated for 60 years at the Mission and of course the dinner and dancing last night.”



And finally, sent in to Shorelines with the heading “Every day is Valentine’s Day!”, here we see President RENEE and PAUL at the Top of the Mark, an ultra-cool rooftop bar and restaurant at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco. Are you jealous?

COMING UP AT OCEANSIDE ROTARY

February 24 – SUSAN LAWSON, Solutions for Change
Reporter: JANET BLEDSOE LACY

March 3 – JODI DIAMOND, Boys & Girls Club of Oceanside
Reporter: DAVE HALL

March 10 – NICOLE PEARSON, Outside the Bowl (Super kitchens in impoverished countries)
Reporter: TERRI HALL



March 16 – **JOINT MEETING AT
FALLBROOK CLUB
MILITARY AWARDS
CEREMONY**

12:00 PM @ Grand Tradition Estate, 1602 S. Mission Rd, Fallbrook
Reporter: VICKIE PROSSER (on assignment in Fallbrook)

March 17 – **REGULAR MEETING DARK**

Saturday March 18 – DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY
USD KROC CENTER, 8 am to noon

March 24 – TERESA BARNES, Uphearing / Listen UP
Reporter: PAM MYERS

March 31 – DAVID LOPEZ, Teach America – San Diego
Reporter: TOM BRAULT