

April 1, 2016

SOME FOOLING AROUND TO START OUR APRIL 1st MEETING

Our ever-witty President JAY CRAWFORD came prepared to provide a few chuckles as he banged the bell at 12:30 with a rather unusual tool – an Ice Cream Scoop. (What the what?!?!) As he described to us, "I got the <u>scoop</u> today on the off chance that <u>I</u> <u>scream.</u>" HA! As we were LOL'ing, our resident Past President couple of DAVE and TERRI HALL chided him, "Did you ever

even look for your gavel?" As JAY glanced around the immediate area, a familiar piece of wood caught his eye ... "It's right down here under the doodad!" Yes, folks, the actual gavel was sitting right on the shelf of the podium (a.k.a. "doodad") that is at the front of our room each and every week, which begs the question: Just how long had it been sitting there, and was the gavel ever actually "lost" to begin with? JAY had a broad smile as he tucked the gavel into his pocket and said, "Whoever was involved, THANK YOU!"

PP TERRI was asked to step up to the doodad ... I mean the podium ... to share a Rotary Moment. As a preamble, she reflected on how the "Rotarians at Work" project started 10 years ago this month, the brainchild of our District Governor at the time BOB WATSON who pulled together 60 clubs to participate in hands-on

service activities all on the same day in 2006. Since then, the idea has morphed into an international effort with simultaneous service taking place all around the world – all thanks to the vision and drive of our very own District 5340 governor.

With that idea of "service" in mind, TERRI's actual Rotary Moment to share was this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

LARRY HATTER then provided us the service of leading us all in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by PP DAVE HALL to lead us in "A", as in ONE song. Perhaps the spirit of April Fools Day was

involved, but DAVE's "one" song ended up being a mashup, with "You're a Grand

Old Flag" moving straight into the familiar song of "Oceanside." (We suspect that President JAY wasn't complaining about the extra song being tacked on, since that little ditty to the tune of "O Tannenbaum" was in fact written by JAY himself.)

A DE-LEI-TFUL PRESENTATION

As JAY returned to the podium, his eyes looked all around hopefully and was heard to mutter under his breath, "Are there any chocolate bunnies hidden up here? Because this feels like an Easter egg hunt

today.") Alas, there were no sweets tucked away, but there was a check that he was scheduled to give away, so he called RHIANNON RIECKE up as a representative of the La Casita Center at Crown Heights to receive the check, the first installment of a \$750 contribution, written to North County Lifeline. RHIANNON thanked one and all for our partnership over the last 10 years or so, helping to support the youth of that area, and reported that the money will go toward the traditional leis made out of dollar bills that are presented to OHS graduating seniors who hail from the Crown Heights neighborhood. This year, 12 seniors are on track to receive their diplomas, and our money will go to help celebrate their academic milestone.

CLUB UPDATES

PP, Secretary, and PE RENEE RICHARDSON was heard griping just a bit as she took the microphone for Club Updates, as she lamented, "I don't know. I think the club is getting awful soft, returning JAY's gavel so easily!" (You could tell from the tone of her voice that she is looking forward to the challenge in the coming

year of trying to thwart the cursed Gavel Grabber during RENEE's Rotary Reign Redux.)









Here are the many and varied items she described in her report:

* We all have the opportunity to get away for a weekend in beautiful Idyllwild from April 15-17. All we have to do to earn this time up in the mountain wonderland is agree to be a facilitator at the RYLA Camp. Talk to RENEE for more info.

* On Saturday April 9 the District is hosting a Model UN Banquet in Mission Valley, with former US Ambassador to the United Nations BETTY KING as the guest speaker.

* Next Friday April 8 there will be a Board meeting at 11 am before the regular meeting. All are invited to see what happens behind the scenes.

* Thursday April 14 starting at 5:30 pm, RENEE will be hosting a Board and Committee Chairs retreat and dinner at her condo as they gather to map out the plans for the coming year.

* Saturday April 23 deserves a couple of stars on your calendar. Not only is it Rotarians at Work Day, with some folks needed for our project at Heritage Park starting at 9:30 am, but it also marks our Club's 92nd anniversary, which we will celebrate with a BBQ (catered by That Boy Good) at Heritage Park from 11:30 to 2. Cost of the meal is \$20, and kids are free. Sign up for this meeting / meal right away! (Don't Forget ... Our regular meeting on Friday April 22 will be DARK.)

* On Wednesday April 27 at 7 pm, a Youth International Music Contest will be held at Carlsbad by the Sea (2855 Carlsbad Boulevard). This is a free concert. The winners will perform at the District Conference. (*See below.*)

* The District 5340 Conference will be May 13-15 at Newport Beach. The keynote speaker will be Olympic medalist and one of the creators of California's Special Olympics, RAFER JOHNSON. Register now!

* The Laurel Elementary PTO is in need of supplies for their Spring events which will include: Family Math Night, Science Field Day and their Annual Fun Run. The first of these events kicks off on April 13 and they will run through May. RENEE has access to a list of items that are being requested, but to make our support even easier, she passed around a cute metal lunch box for us to dump some cash into to help purchase those supplies. We were encouraged to be generous in our giving, because 96% of the 500 students at Laurel are from low income families. (We ended up collecting \$131 in the lunchbox, which will be of great help to their events!)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

SUSAN BROWN had a bunch of smiling faces at her table, including her soon-to-be new member SUSAN MURPHY who was joined at this induction meeting by her daughter SAMMI MORRIS and son ANDY PANTOJA. And the table next door also had some



folks for us to meet. DALE MAAS gave a warm welcome to two attorneys from Downtown Oceanside who had attended our recent mixer and wanted to see the Club in action – SAMANTHA ROE and MELISSA RODRIGUEZ. And then we all joined in a rousing chorus of "Welcome to Oceanside" to all the folks who joined us at the meeting.

TOLD YOU SHE WAS SOON TO BE A NEW MEMBER...

Right after being introduced as a guest again, SUSAN MURPHY was called up with her sponsor SUSAN BROWN to be officially made a member of Oceanside Rotary. We heard a little background about SUSAN M. She was born and raised in



Prior to relaunching her career in real estate, SUSAN was a D.J. In fact, she was the very first female D.J. in Pennsylvania (a difficult profession for a woman to break into at the time). Her interests include bike riding, cooking and socializing. It's a fair bet that she will socialize and make some new friends here in Oceanside Rotary! And she also is looking forward to being a part of our club so she can help give back to the community, with a special interest in helping the homeless in our area.

RENEE then started doling out the goodies to her – an official member badge and Rotary wheel pin, as well as a packet full of information about Rotary in general that SUSAN was encouraged to learn from and then think about sharing with someone else as another potential new member. We all then stood and applauded as we welcomed SUSAN MURPHY as the newest Rotarian in the world!





One more piece of business having to do with this induction remained, and that was for RENEE to bestow upon PP JIM SCHRODER a Rotary new member sponsor pin for having brought SUSAN B into the club. This special pin (which was first unveiled about a year ago) has a different colored backer, depending on the number of new members you have brought into Rotary. More bling for us all to aspire to!

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU", etc.

Of the members with April birthdays, the first one announced was BOB PICKREL who could not be at this meeting. The next name called was ERNIE MASCITTI who WAS

present, but said, "I'm not going up without PICKREL. Having him with me makes me look younger!" ANCHISA FARRANT was then called up without any dissension, but JOHN TODD was also M.I.A. and missed the chance to hear a terrific version of the Birthday Song. Our two celebrants in attendance each donated \$20 in honor of their big days.

None of our April Anniversary folks showed up for the meeting, but we didn't take it personally. That just means we will have to congratulate SUSAN ASATO (for 43 years married to MOREY) and BOB PICKREL (65 years with DARLENE) and DICK YOUNG (for being a member of Oceanside Rotary for 53 years) the next time we see them.

PRESIDENT "JAY CLAUS"???

At this point of the meeting, our President made a very deliberate and ostentatious effort of making a list and checking it twice, ticking off items that had been completed from his agenda. He then confidently figured it was time to move on to the Program. No, President JAY – We have to put you on the Naughty List in April, because you forgot about Happy Dollars! But we will cut him some slack because after all, not only did we have last Friday off from Rotary so he was out of his normal meeting rhythm, but the line item for Happy Dollars was on a whole new page of his printed agenda. (I mean, Come on! He has only been doing this job of President for 9 months – How can we expect him to keep all this stuff straight? – Like for instance missing the chance to fine our new member?)





Anyway, on to Happy Dollars!

GORDY WITZ started us off with \$5 to

welcome SUSAN MURPHY not only as the newest member of our club, but also as the newest associate at Century 21 Real Estate ...

ERNIE MASCITTI gave \$20, basically apologizing for missing a few meetings ...

SUSAN MURPHY made up for JAY's missing fine by a \$5 self-imposed assessment, happy to be a Rotarian and at Century 21. As she put it, "If I had a million bucks on me, that's what I would give."

CHUCK WARD wrapped a whole lot of things into his \$20 Happy Dollars: 1) For the amazing mixer event that was so much fun, he is already looking forward to the next one; 2) To be able to point out

DAVID NYDEGGER's astounding socks; 3) and To celebrate daughter MARGARET landing a

promotion at a production company in Anchorage, Alaska. CHUCK then went on to add that he and BARB had purchased an Astroturf franchise opportunity there and they would soon be moving

up to Anchorage themselves to kick off this newest venture. But not before many of us started kicking ourselves for not realizing that this was just a creative and convincing April Fools story.

SUSAN BROWN was \$5 happy to have SUSAN M's kids SAMMI and

ANDY able to come down to the meeting to see their Mom get all badged up ... DAVE

HALL had been informed that he was getting dangerously close to qualifying for another Paul Harris Fellowship, so he added \$20 to his RI account for no particular reason DAVE NYDEGGER crowed to the

tune of \$5 about his upcoming trip with MARTA to Kona and Kauai. Aloha, my friend!

"WHO AM I?" PROGRAM

DAVE NYDEGGER was soon called up as our April Program Chair for our presentation. He told us that he had diligently lined up a full slate of speakers for the month, but then they basically all bailed on

















him! Yikes! For instance, next week we were <u>supposed</u> to hear from TIM MORAN, the CEO of Tri-City Medical Center, but then came the breaking news that the hospital was parting ways with him and he is being replaced. Ah, well. DAVE is still pretty confident that we should have SOMEONE from Tri-City who will speak to us next week!

So this week's program was listed as "Who Am I's and other fun stuff", so DAVE himself kicked us off with a chunk of his engaging life history, weaving a story that started with him picking up a stray lottery ticket from the ground which, lucky for him was a winner, netting him a \$35,000 prize. With that money, he bought a Jet Ski which he took

out for a spin on the ocean. The waves kept getting progressively bigger and



bigger and as he crested a massive 50 foot wave, expecting to wipe out, things got even worse as he spied two huge great white sharks waiting for him at the bottom of that wave. He deftly maneuvered his craft and managed to shove the Jet Ski down the throat of the larger shark and, luckily for him, he was a world class Olympic swimmer, and was able to swim away from the other one. Unfortunately he swam right into the path of a cigarette boat zooming straight at him at 70 mph. Luckily he was a trained Navy Seal, so he dove under the boat, grabbed onto a trailing rope, and soon popped out of the water, barefoot skiing right behind. He pulled himself forward, reeling in the rope as he went, until he was right at the boat and able to jump into the cockpit. Lucky for him, there in the captain's chair was Madonna, wearing a tiny bikini. But unluckily for her, she had been bound and lashed to the chair by the notorious bad guy "El Gordo Gato" who proceeded to shoot at DAVE. Lucky for him, DAVE is a martial arts expert and was able to dodge the bullets (Think Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix") and then roundhouse kicked El Gordo off of the boat, right into the jaws of the second shark.

Madonna was so grateful to be saved and released that she said she would do absolutely anything for DAVE. Lucky for her, he had studied the Kama Sutra, and so, much, MUCH later he inspected the boat, which it turned out was chock full of beer and cocaine. He took the wheel and turned it toward the shore, but unfortunately at 800 miles off the coast of San Diego, the boat ran out of gas. Lucky for him, he had studied chemical engineering and knew how to make a biodegradable fuel out of cocaine and urine. Logically the next step was for him to down the beers to process into the urine that he mixed with the cocaine and was able to fill the fuel tank and make it all the way to shore where the word of his heroic exploits had already spread and a parade in his honor had been planned. However, being the "shy guy" that he is, DAVE wasn't too keen on the idea of everybody making a big fuss over him. Lucky for him, he had a great excuse to not attend the parade, because "I had to be here with you at this Rotary meeting instead." If you hadn't already guessed, this "Who Am I?" from Mr. Lucky DAVE was really more of a "What the heck?" story, very suitable for April Fools Day. In fact, this was a speech that he had created for a 2002 Toastmasters "Tall Tale" competition and with it, he did very well at the regional contests telling this whopper! TERRI HALL shared a classic, but off-color comment as a review, "Lucky for us, you are a Grade A 'B.S.' artist!" (Although she chose to not use the abbreviated version and filled in the blanks of "B*** S***" – A word that she used over and over again, like she was a drunken sailor or something!)

"NO, BUT REALLY, WHO ARE YOU?"

DAVE then graced us with the "Non-B.S." version of his life story. He is not quite a true native, but his family moved to Oceanside when he was just 8 months old. In what must be a mind-bending coincidence, the address of the spot where he now works (the Chamber of Commerce building at 928 N. Hill

Street) is the precise location of the trailer park where his family lived when they arrived in town in 1945.

He went to OUSD schools before being enrolled into the Army Navy Academy. Eventually he went to college, got married, and enlisted in the Navy (although I doubt he actually had Seal training or could dive under and ski behind a boat going 70 mph!) When he got out of the Navy, he came back to Oceanside, had a daughter but had no job. So what was the logical thing for him and DIANE to do at that point? ... They bought a house, of course. He then landed in the newspaper industry for 17 years. Right when the paper he was at was being bought out, a job opened up at as CEO of the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, which was a good fit for his skill set. So good, that when the Oceanside Chamber's CEO position eventually became available in 1998, he landed that plum job right in his hometown and has been working there ever since. And although his story might sound like a tall tale, too good to be true, it really is the bonafide background on DAVE NYDEGGER. Thanks for sharing, DAVE!

He had also drafted another member to give a brief "Who Am I" talk to fill the allotted program time, so we got to hear some more details about the life and times of RENEE RICHARDSON, who confessed to having been a Marine Corps brat with her GunnerySgt dad who now lives in South Carolina after his retirement. But RENEE's base of operation





growing up was primarily Vista and Oceanside and she attended Jefferson Jr High and Oceanside High "in the tough years."

RENEE is guessing that very few of us were aware that she could claim membership in both Jobs Daughters and the Order of the Eastern Star. But we might have heard that she currently works caring for the needs of the elderly residents at Chateau Lake San Marcos, and she has been on 24 hour call for 10 years. Her job responsibilities include taking residents to the dentist or doctor or hospital, among many other supportive functions. She finds this line of work to be "a very touching, emotional and demanding job", but very fulfilling as well, and "Something that our society really needs."

RENEE told us that her best kept secret is that she has a wicked sense of humor. And it is not a secret to any of us that she is "a Rotarian through and through." She is very honored to have been selected by us to lead us once again as our President in 2016-17.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

When that notorious stretcher of the truth Sgt at Arms DAVE NYDEGGER was asked how much was in the progressive jackpot for our weekly drawing, he read the amount off of the ticket "\$3 No. \$36 No, Make that \$361." (That sounded more like it, as the aces have been elusive for quite a while.) President JAY then announced that "This week's lucky ticket is a blue ticket", pausing just long enough for everyone to squint their eyes and shake their heads in disbelief as absolutely everybody was holding white tickets in their hands. "Just kidding. A WHITE ticket", JAY finally admitted. And the

lucky ticket was held by CHUCK WARD who took the time to personally touch each and every card on the table, trying to sense its aura, before he confidently flipped over his chosen card. Not an Ace, but the Jack of Spades, so the jackpot will continue to grow, and CHUCK pocketed the \$10 consolation prize to help pay the costs of his "move to Alaska."



And with that, a fun and literally unbelievable meeting came to an end, but not before our President gave his best wishes to the gang who would be taking some Crown Heights kids to a baseball game the next morning. Then he Double Clanged the meeting to a close, striking the bell with both the Ice Cream Scoop AND his long lost gavel.

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

LOLA SHERMAN and President JAY CRAWFORD attended the Laurel Elementary Hall of Fame presentation on Thursday, March 31. At that event, Principal FREDDIE CHAVARRIA (pictured here accompanied by the first Laurel Hall of Famer WILLIE BUCHANON, the former Green Bay Packer and San Diego Charger star cornerback) honored four new Hall of Fame Inductees, recognizing selected Laurel alumni who have achieved success in Business, Athletics, or Professional Groups though Education:





ARACELI CHAVARRIA DAGDAGAN (a Marketing Consultant, who just happens to be Freddie's sister).

CHRISTINA HERNANDEZ LEVINE (a VUSD

Elementary School Teacher) and MELINA QUON (an Elementary Assistant Principal at Romoland School District).

Also honored (but no photo was provided) was DANA MCCARGO (a US Treasury Department Revenue Officer) – daughter of the late, great JIM MCCARGO, a Rotarian in our club for many years.

In a separate Out and About, we received the following short report and photo from VICKIE PROSSER:

"The Todds and the Prossers with Mary Villela in Bisbee, AZ, April, 2, 2016. A great time was had by all!"

This report raises more questions than it answers. Like "What's with the monster motor homes?" and "Who is



MARY VILLELA and why should we care?" and "Why in the heck would someone go to Bisbee, Arizona (population 5,575, the county seat of Cochise County and listed by AARP as a runner-up for "quirkiest town in America")?" So consider this to be just a teaser report, and you'll just have to chat with VICKIE or JOHN sometime to get the full scoop. (At least this solves the mystery about why JOHN wasn't in town to hear his birthday song at Oceanside Rotary.)

COMING UP AT OCEANSIDE ROTARY

April 8 – TriCity Medical Center (.... We hope!!) Reporter: TERRI HALL

April 15 – DAVE STEWART, Genentech Reporter: JANET LACY

April 22 - DARK for Rotarians at Work weekend

Saturday, April 23 – Rotarians at Work project and BBQ at Heritage Park

April 29 – COLLEEN FOSTER, City of Oceanside on "Green Oceanside" Reporter: BILL DERN