

# Rotary Club of La Jolla Meeting

July 9, 2024

**President Barbara Brown Called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM**



**Invocation: and Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Davis Cracraft**

“One of the most important benefits of belonging to our La Jolla Rotary Club is the simple and perhaps underappreciated fact that by joining our club, each of us instantly becomes a member of a family of 135 siblings (now 40 siblings). Coming from Utah, this size family to me is about average.....Our Rotary family, like all families, has members fully committed (some that may need to be committed)... those who exist more on the periphery, those of you who are upstanding and stalwart members, and a few odd ball

better ---(idiosyncratic).... members.... Like our own families, each of you is appreciated and loved for who you are. We are very lucky to belong to a family that is truly caring, generally happy, unquestionably intelligent, exceedingly capable and energetic. We celebrate our successes and together mourn our losses.

This club offers each of us a wonderful opportunity to grow young together. In that vein, I offer the following reflection:"

## **"YOUTH" by Samuel Ullman**

“Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity of the appetite, for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of sixty more than a boy of twenty. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether sixty or sixteen, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing child-like appetite of what's next, and the joy of the game of living. In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station; so long as receives

messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from men and from the infinite, so long are you young.

When the aerials are down, and your spirit is covered with snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at twenty, but as long as your aerials are up, to catch the waves of optimism, there is hope you may die young at eighty (I prefer 95).”

## New Member



We welcomed new member **Said Dawlabani** with Sponsor **Midge Coburn**.

## Happy Bucks \$\$\$

**Bob Pecora** donated \$\$\$ in honor of his daughter, Marianne, who was at a party at the White House for the Fourth of July

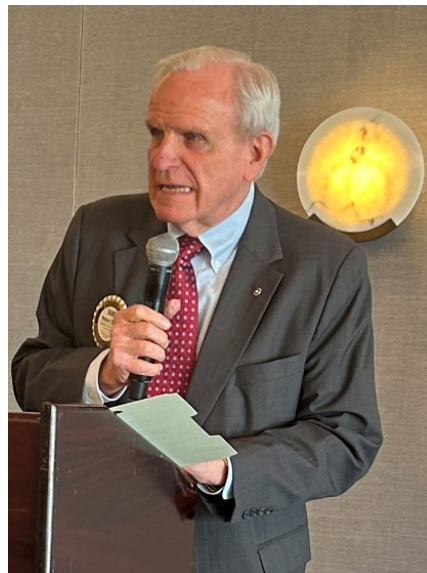


## Announcements:

**President Barbara Brown** announced

The Riford Community Fund donated a total of \$24,000 to the following beneficiaries:

1. Atheneum
2. La Jolla Aquatic Complex
3. La Jolla Historical Society
4. La Jolla Meals on Wheel
5. La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Association
6. La Jolla Community Center
7. La Jolla Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival
8. Dan McKinney Family Y



**Vice President Bob Teaff** explained the process for succession of officers in the Club. He also talked about effort to

get all candidates for San Diego City Mayor to speak to the club.

Invitations have been sent repeatedly to **Todd Gloria**. His office has declined our invitation, stating he is too busy with running the city at this point to accept our invitation.



## Our Speaker for our Next Meeting, July 16, Mayoral Candidate, Larry Turner



**Larry Turner** is a native Californian with roots throughout the state. At a very young age his family taught him the importance of service to our community and country. Immediately following college Larry joined the **US Marine Corps** where he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1992. Larry served in numerous commands throughout the world during his 22-year career until his retirement in 2015 as a **Lieutenant Colonel**. Larry served in combat and humanitarian operations and is a recipient of the **Bronze Star**.

Larry chose to continue his life of service immediately upon his military retirement by joining the **San Diego Police Department** where he is still an active police officer and served over eight years on our streets. Larry has served as a patrol officer throughout the city, he was a member of the **SWAT** team, a field training officer for new officers, and is currently a **community relations officer**.

Larry knows the city from inside the homeless encampments to city hall and has developed relationships at all levels throughout the city. He has a unique perspective as a leader and lifelong servant who can see the dire need of a new direction to return San Diego to the finest city which it can be again. He is married to Cynthia Turner and together they have two young children.

As an independent, Larry has been able to bring together people who have differing political points of view, yet with the same objective, to make San Diegans proud of their city due to sound decisions that represent the needs of its

constituents. With years of experience of serving the people, he will initiate a culture within the city that embraces common sense, transparency, and an alignment with all communities within the City of San Diego.

**Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on June 16th to [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)**

## Last week's Speaker

**Bob Teaff** introduced **Neil O'Connell, Executive Director of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Association.**



Since 2022, **Neil O'Connell** has provided leadership and executive management at the **Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial in La Jolla**, which honors veterans from the Revolutionary War and on. O'Connell was a sergeant major in the U.S. Marines, serving 32 years primarily out of the West Coast. He is also a board member of **San Diego Nice Guys**, a nonprofit that, since 1979, has helped those who have fallen on hard times.

He noted that the Mt. Soledad Memorial was founded in 1954, and, over the ensuing 70 years, has memorialized some 2,000 veterans,



both men and women. Around the cross, walls bearing granite plaques memorialize these veterans, and are maintained by veterans and every 7 years by volunteer contractors. The memorial received over 300,000 visitors/year and in the past six months has held 47 memorial ceremonies in the past six months.

Mr. O'Connell took questions from the audience.

## **Our Speaker in Two Weeks, President and Ceo of The San Diego River Park Foundation Rob Hutsel**

The Vision and Plan for the San Diego River Park

### **And coming on July 31, Our Social,**

It will be held At Natascha and Lance's Home in the Muirlands. More to come on that next Week.

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