



The Rotary Club
of Ventura-East

The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata
Volume XLVII, Number 35

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata
March 17, 2011

Programs

Program Chair: Rocky Ludes & Deborah Perkins

March 17, 2011

RYLA - Darin Arrasmith

March 24, 2011

Avenues of Service

March 31, 2011

Bill Spellman Interview - Joe Strohman

April 7, 2011

How Not to Become a Victim - Karl Keller

Greeters

March 17, 2011

Tom Shilton & Nikki Sloan

March 24, 2011

Bill Spellman & Rich Stewart

March 31, 2011

Midge Stork & Joe Strohman

April 7, 2011

Tom Swan & Alison Thompson

Club Events

Important Dates

Basic PRLS	Apr. 8
District Assembly	Apr. 9
RYLA	Apr. 15 - 17
R.I. Convention New Orleans	May 22 - 25
Wendy Pazen's Stepdown	Jun 10
Deepa Willingham's Stepdown	Jun 25
Push em Pull em Parade	Jul. 4
Tom Swan's First meeting	Jul. 7

Fundraisers

Nightmare on the Hill

October 29, 2011???

Next meeting is

at

time

Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date

December 1, 2011

Youth Soccer Tournament

Date TBA

Next meeting is

at

time

Raffle Prize Donors

March 17 - Chad Gibson

March 24 - Deborah Perkins

March 31 - Bob Lynn

April 7 - Nikki Sloan

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Web Addresses

www.RotaryVenturaEast.org • www.IrishFestivalVentura.org
R.I.: www.rotary.org • District 5240: www.rotarydistrict5240.org

Presidents Message ...



Wendy Pazen
President 2010-2011

Welcome back to our NID team!! **Midge** and **Dave Stork** represented Ventura-East and had an amazing time. **Midge** has become passionate about Rotary doing more for India and it's people. I can't wait to hear more about this trip on April 14, when the NID Rotaractors as well as the NID Rotarians will speak to our club.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade was last Saturday, March 12. We only had a few volunteers show up to ride on the people mover. **Rich Stewart** and **Harriet Clune** arrived early to start decorating with the help of **Terry McBreen** and **Jeff Hata**. **Bob Pazen** was joined by our grandchildren, **Orion and Oni Garman**. **Floyd Gill** was on the Wells Fargo Stage Coach (in his kilt) and **Erin, Brandon and Logan Gill** all climbed aboard the people mover with **Bill, Kim, and Melia Gray**. And of course, **Pete Gallagher** was completely organized with the help of **Chris Norstedt** and Pete's friend **Bill Potter**. They had the vehicles all set up with the banners of the 3 clubs in Ventura and we even had **Ventura-South's President John Lau** and **Ventura's PE Lynda Girtsman** riding in convertibles. Thank you, **Bill Spellman**, for once again driving your President!

At 3:00 on Saturday, **Vance Thompson** met me at **Jan and Pam Lindsay's** beautiful home in Santa Paula to get things set up for the Irish pot luck party. Jan and Pam were at a Go-Care meeting and let us make ourselves at home until they could get there to help. The incredible Irish band, **Shenanigan's**, arrived about 4:00 and entertained us until 7:00pm. The music was lively and wonderful, the pot luck dishes were amazing and Jan and Pam could not have been more wonderful!! Thank you, **Lindsays**, for making this evening possible!

Now a word from our OCIW (or DG Deepa), last week District 5240 was in second place only to New Orleans for registering for the RI Convention. Well, things have gotten a little more competitive. This week's registration is:

- 230 – District 6840 / New Orleans
- 201 – District 3280 / Bangladesh
- 197 – District 9100 / West Africa Countries
- 197 – District 9200 / Ethiopia
- 184 – District 5240 / us

If you are planning on attending the Convention, please register soon! It is going to be amazing.

Have a wonderful week and please keep PDG Otto Austel in your prayers as well as the people of Japan.

Wendy

2010 - 2011 Club Board of Directors

Wendy Pazen	President
Tom Swan	President Elect
Jeff Hata	Past President
Jordan Eller	Secretary
Robert Lynn	Treasurer
Devere L. (Pete) Gallagher	Sergeant at Arms
Deborah Roberts	Director 2009-2011
Henry Oster	Director 2008-2011
Deborah Perkins	Director 2009-2012
Robert Pazen	Director 2009-2012
John Masterson	Director 2010-2013
.....	Director 2010-2013

Avenues of Service Directors

Tom Swan	Club Service
Bill Spellman	Vocational Service
Craig Miller	Community Service
Floyd Gill	New Generations
Judy Hoag	International Service
Mark Smith	Interact

Rotary International Officers

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Ray Klinginsmith	President, Rotary International
Deepa Willingham	Governor, R.I. District 5240
Wade Nomura	Governor Elect, R.I. District 5240
Frank Ortiz	Governor Nominee District 5240
Dr. John Carroll (In Memoriam)	P.D.G. 1981-1982
Arnie Dowdy	P.D.G. 2003-2004
Jan Lindsay	P.D.G. 2004-2005
Sally Adelsblue	P.D.G. 2005-2006
Rich Abbott	P.D.G. 2006-2007
Jane McClenahan	P.D.G. 2007-2008
Anil Garg	P.D.G. 2008-2009
Luz Maria Ortiz-Smith	P.D.G. 2009-2010

The Four Way Test

First ... Is it the TRUTH? Second ... Is it FAIR to all concerned? Third ... Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Fourth ... Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Meeting March 10, 2011

Reported by Jeff Hata



Carol Marquez-Olson led in the Salute to the Flag.

President Wendy Pazen invited everyone to lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first!

President Wendy thanked our greeters Deborah Roberts and Mark Rook.

Carol Marquez-Olson led us in the salute to the Flag.

Deborah Perkins gave our Inspirational Message.

Vance Thompson introduced our guests

and visiting Rotarians. Visiting from the Downtown club was Hoot Bennet!

John Borneman then led us in a song.

Terry McBreen announced that our raffle today was a \$50 Trader Joes gift card generously donated by Dick Gallagher.

President Wendy asked for March Birthday's and Anniversary's. Celebrating a birthday is Past President Bob Pazen. Celebrating an anniversary is Tom & Georganna Swan.

Presidents Announcements:

President Wendy announced that there will be a club social at the home of Jan & Pam Lindsay on March 12th! This will be a pot luck event and we will have the Irish Band Shenanigan's performing for us during this event.

A-G will bring an Irish Main Dish, H-M will bring a side dish or salad, N-W will bring dessert.

The Rotaract Clubs of Ventura and Santa Barbara will be conducting the Montecito Garden Tour on April 16th from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

Monte Widders gave a report on the R.I. Foundation. In 2009 - 10 the R.I. Foundation received \$208,000,000



Vance Thompson introduced guests & visiting Rotarians.

in donations. In turn the R.I. Foundation expended \$187,000,000 in various projects, most notably Polio Eradication. (A copy of the R.I. Foundation Annual Report is on our website. Just click on the link to read it.)

Harriet Clune announced the time and location for the St. Patty's Day parade float decoration.

Avenues of Service:

Club Service (Tom Swan) asked for people to come be on the people mover and represent us at the St. Patty's Day parade on Saturday.

International Service (Judy Hoag) reminded everyone that the next trip to Nicaragua will be the week of April 24th.

Vocational Service (Bill Spellman) asked the Job Shadow drivers to please provide feedback, both positive and negative to Chuck Yuncker.

Happy dollars: Monte Widders, Carol Marquez-Olson, Ron Polito, Deborah Perkins, John Borneman & Bob Pazen.

Terry McBreen then conducted our raffle and the lucky winner of the \$50 Trader Joes gift card donated by Dick Gallagher was Jan Lindsay!

Deborah Perkins then introduced our speaker.

Jim McDermott, a member of the Board of Directors for the Ventura County Tax Payers Association and a partner at the law firm of Ferguson, Case, Orr, Paterson, LLP, gave a presentation on the state of the Ventura County Pension Plan System.

The Ventura County Taxpayers Association studied the system for approximately three years and recently released its findings. The County pension system faces a \$1.3 billion deficit. This means that the pension plan is only 66% funded.

Until recently, County employees paid nothing into the system. The employer was paying 25% into the system. The remaining 75% was supposed to be generated through investment returns. Pension



Deborah Perkins gave our Inspirational Message.

calculations assume the rate of return will be 8%. The 2008-2009 stock market collapse exposed the downside of optimistic market return estimates. The pension plan does not have a contingency plan for failure to meet the expected market return.

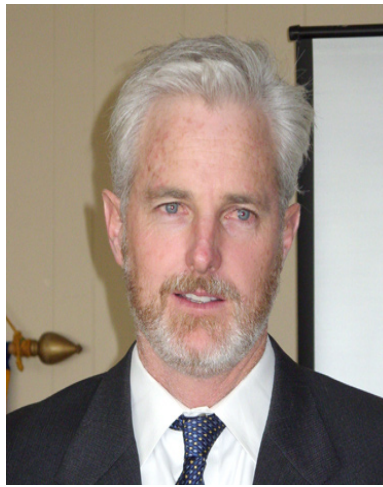
The amount of a person's annual pension benefit is calculated based on the amount of compensation that person receives in his or her last year of employment. Compensation includes many things in addition to a person's salary. It includes things such as reimbursement for the cost of uniforms and equipment, the amount paid for a 401(k) match, and an automobile allowance.

Since non-salary items are included in the calculation, the annual pension amount for many retired employees is higher than their last year's salary. For example, a person who earned \$148,000 in his last year of employment now receives an annual pension benefit of \$235,000.

The Ventura County Tax Payers Association made several recommendations to the County to revamp the pension system. Those recommendations include: eliminating the annual leave redemption for management, capping pension payouts to a max percentage of salary, increasing the retirement age to 55 years, using a five-year average for the salary calculation, and having employees pay the full portion of their contribution to the plan.

Additional information on this issue may be obtained from the Ventura County Taxpayers Association's website at www.vcta.org.

Thank you, Mr. McDermott, for a very interesting presentation.



Jim McDermott spoke about the County Pension System.

Rotary Club of Ventura-East

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Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm ... As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

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Wendy Pazen

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Foundation sets up disaster fund for Japan

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International News -- 15 March 2011

In response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March, The Rotary Foundation has established the Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands Disaster Fund, which will support long-term recovery projects in affected areas.

Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate online. Clubs and districts can contribute cash and District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations to the fund.

The 9.0-magnitude quake, Japan's largest in history, and the tsunami that followed it caused widespread devastation, paralyzing much of the northern coast. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and thousands are missing. Millions have been left without clean water or power, and at least 550,000 people have been forced from their homes.

A series of explosions at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, damaged reactors and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands. The Japanese government is working to contain the situation. Damage from the earthquake and tsunami is estimated at US\$170 billion.

RI President-nominee Sakuji Tanaka, of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, was in Lisbon, Portugal, on Rotary business during the disasters. He was able to reach his wife, Kyoko, on the phone to confirm her safety.

Japan, cont'd on page 6



People carry their furniture from their ruined home 15 March in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, four days after an earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan's northeast coast towns. AP Photo/Kyodo News

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Weekly Raffle

Our weekly raffle was a \$50 Trader Joes gift card donated by Dick Gallagher.

We raised \$113 this week bringing our total to \$3,593 for this Rotary Year!

Our lucky winner was Jan Lindsay! Congratulations Jan.

Remember, all proceeds from the weekly raffle go directly to help fund college scholarships for Buena High School Seniors.

Again, thank you to Dick Gallagher for his generous donation and congratulations to Jan Lindsay!



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“She said it was the most horrifying experience she’d ever had,” says Tanaka. “The northern region of Japan is still in chaos. We are unsure when this chaos will end or when things will get better. However, I am most thankful to know that Rotarians around the world care for us.”

Japanese RI directors Masaomi Kondo and Masahiro Kuroda, as well as staff at Rotary International’s Japan office, are confirmed to be safe.

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing efforts to bring urgently needed aid to victims.

“I’ve received many messages from Rotarians all over the world,” says Noriko Futagami, the Public Image Resource Group coordinator for Zone 2. “I also have reports that Rotary clubs have begun to start planning projects for immediate help. Unfortunately, there are many Rotarians and families who haven’t been able to be contacted. Rotarians in Japan worry for their safety.”

Group Study Exchange team safe

Rotarian Robert Blackburn was leading a Group Study Exchange team in Japan when the earthquake struck. The five team members from Illinois, USA, were in a hotel in Tokyo, getting ready for a farewell dinner with their hosts.


“It was our last night in Japan. I felt the whole building shake,” says Blackburn, a member of the Rotary Club of Westmont. “It was not just a mild tremor. My hotel room was shaking from side to side. It felt like forever. I have never been so scared in my life.”

Blackburn says the earthquake lasted at least two minutes. He used a laundry cart outside his hotel room for protection. After the tremors stopped, he walked 18 floors down to the lobby, where the rest of the team congregated.

“The airport was temporarily closed, so I told everyone on our team that we might have to be here for a day or two longer,” he says. “Thankfully, the airport reopened. Our hosts were incredible and were able to get us to the airport on time for our flight.”

Tanaka says he is grateful for the warm support of Rotarians worldwide.

“The great thing about Rotarians is that we share everything, including each other’s joy and sadness. They have the ability to put themselves in the position of others and act to help,” says Tanaka. “Despite the unthinkable hardship we’re experiencing now, the people of Japan will not give up on efforts to rebuild their communities.”




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District 5240

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