



SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

The Rotations

April 9, 2014

SANTAANANORTHROTARYCLUB.ORG

Boy Scouts Council OC - Rita Burgueño

Our own Rita gave us more information than I could have imagined about Boy Scouts programs in general, her history with the organization, and the OC Council in particular. Her commitment to the organization, its values and programs, shone through.

Rita interned with BSA in 1994, getting to participate in all facets. Her favorite was Learning for Life, and she worked in that program for 7 years, then spent 3 years with the Outreach program, then a "traditional" program (where the scouts' parents really run it).

She moved from the LA to OC council two years ago and currently is involved most with the after school program with Think Together, mostly 1st - 3rd graders. She is also proudly beginning a new scout program in Santa Ana, since the TT program operates in 4 Santa Ana schools but if the kids want to join Cub or Boy Scouts, the closest is in Tustin. The Santa Ana program is beginning with Cub Scouts, as they've learned that the younger the kids start with the Scouts, the more likely and longer they will remain.

Rita mentioned that in Latin America, scouting is only for the elite / wealthy. In the US, the OC Council is the 5th largest in the US and has the 6th highest number of Hispanic members (#1 is NYC, then Puerto Rico, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio - then OC). As a side note Rita mentioned the New York City Council is one of the few councils that is growing, rather than declining.

Part of Rita's job in OC is to break down stereotypes, she explained - female, bilingual, and did not grow up in scouting - though she has worked with them for 18 years, so perhaps in a sense she has. Every employee meeting begins with an invocation, and a recitation of the boy scouts' pledge and words to live by, to remind all of their common purpose and focus.

Rita had some great stories of various Scouting experience. When someone commented with trepidation on her OC assignment in Santa Ana, Rita referred to her outreach program in the projects in LA and said, "Santa Ana is like Beverly Hills compared to where I was."

We meet Wednesdays at noon
at Antonello Ristorante
3800 S Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, CA

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Apr 16, TBD. (Your editor is getting this issue out quickly, before going out of town. President Mel will let us know in his Monday meeting notice.)

Remember **NO MEETING April 30**, the 5th Weds of the month

Remember **NO LUNCH MEETING June 11**, as we're having Mel's Continuation Celebration that evening - see below

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12, District grant training for those who missed the March date

April 14 District Presidents' Meeting: Jim McClure will be honored.

May 2-4, District Conference - Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula

June 11, evening, Antonello: Not your average demotion party - we're having a **Continuation Celebration** for Mel!



Rita gave us great information about Scouting programs:

Learning for Life – as mentioned earlier, operating in 4 schools in Santa Ana in conjunction with Think Together, currently serving 740 students

- Cub Scouts (grades 1 – 5, up to 10 y.o.)
- Boy Scouts – more adventures and camping, lots more participation from dads, granddads, and uncles
- Venturing – ages 14-20 – if I understood correctly, this program is a joint venture with Girl Scouts and very effectively stemmed scouting attrition in this age range
- Exploring – ages 14-20 – geared more toward careers, so for instance an alum might go straight from there to a police academy
- Sea Scouts – ages 14-20

In 2013, OCBSA with over 10,000 volunteers served over 25,000 scouts, and the outdoor facilities hosted programs for over 50,000 youth groups, and minted over 700 new Eagle Scouts.

Rita explained that many of the OC Council's outdoor facilities and venues are open to all groups – they've hosted weddings and corporate teambuildings. We mused about some as possible sites for District picnics, and mentioned the Sea Base as a possible option for our future class grants for ocean experiences.

- Schoepe Scout Reservation Lost Valley – mostly focusing on merit badges such as cycling, horseback riding, search & rescue
- Irvine Outdoor Education Center (in Orange) – Rita zip-lined here!
- Newport Sea Base – oceanography, marine biology, boating, safety
- Oso Lake (in Rancho Santa Margarita) – catch and release fishing, camping, archery
- Aviation Exploring

BSA just celebrated its 104 year anniversary. Rita pointed out that Jamboree Road is named for the Scouting Jamboree first held there in 1953 on the site currently occupied by Fashion Island.

We presented Rita with a contribution from our club to the OC Council of Boy Scouts of America, to support their mission: "to serve more youth with a quality program", and thanked Rita for her service to our club and to Scouting.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Guests

No guests today – too bad, it was a great program.

President's Remarks – Mel El Guindy

Mel reminded us registration has opened for the District Conference to be held in Temecula May 2-4, at DaCDB or www.rotary5320.org (District website). There will be children's events and hot air balloon ride opportunities.

Also, the RI Conference will be in Sydney June 1-4.

Members are encouraged to register for and attend **District grant training** April 12. Please go online to register, at DaCDB or www.rotary5320.org (District website). Clubs are not eligible to even apply for matching grants in the coming fiscal year unless at least two club members have completed the training. Jim McClure, our incoming International Service chair, will be attending. Patrick Keyes and/or Mel will make up the second chair.

Jim McClure is being honored at the April 14 District Presidents' meeting at The Hills in Laguna Niguel (off the 5 at La Paz); please let Mel know if you'd like to attend and help honor Jim.

Ali Danta announced upcoming fundraisers by two other Rotary clubs. Tustin Santa Ana will have their annual Lobsterfest, with unlimited lobster and steak for \$75, Saturday May 12. ALSO Saturday May 12 the Brea club will host their annual wine and food fest, \$100 admission.

Mel will attend Santa Ana College scholarship presentation May 16 and on behalf of our club will present the scholarships funded by Maureen Bricken in honor of Gordon's strong support of education. We hope Maureen and Tricia will also be able to attend.