



The Rotations

April 23, 2014

SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

SANTAANANORTHROTARYCLUB.ORG

Legal Aid Society - Jennifer Miramontes

Jennifer packed a huge amount of great information into her time with us! She also brought us goodies, which we always appreciate. Jennifer wears many hats within her organization and we'd love to see her join ours, as well.

This is just a tiny bit of the information Jennifer shared; much more is available for your perusal online.

Legal Aid Society OC is a 501(c)3 organization serving low income residents of OC and southeast LA county. Their focus is on civil legal issues, with a lot of family law (divorce, child custody, domestic violence – many of which often overlap with a single client). Jennifer also mentioned special education provisions, evictions, and health issues. All services are completely free; some cases end up with an attorney referral service with participating attorneys offering "low bono" rather than entirely pro bono work, after an initial free half-hour consultation.

The goal is to help people be financially stable and prosperous. They have a number of innovative programs and

have come up with inventive ways to most effectively deal with the huge call volume – effective in terms of the group's financial and personnel resources, and effective in getting clients the assistance they need.

Jennifer mentioned an "incubator program" where someone has passed the bar and qualified as a lawyer but doesn't yet have the skills and knowledge for a legal practice.

They've also focused on technology for client assistance – and they train the clients how to find the info they need online, so the clients also gain or augment their computer literacy. They also established a "self help" filing for small claims court.

They offer quite a number of group classes so that instead of providing the same information one-on-one to endless clients, they can more time-effectively provide the same information to many at once.

They also offer low-income taxpayer clinics, as tax problems can often be part of a larger legal situation (e.g., for parolees).

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

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

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

May 7, OC Community Housing Corp, Nora Mendez and Juan Sandoval

Future meeting programs info pending

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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!



Generally, eligibility for assistance from Legal Aid is based on (low) income. However, different programs have different funding sources and eligibility criteria. Some have higher income (and asset) thresholds, and some are based solely on age.

In her role as director of fund development, Jennifer told us about a May 31 Wine Festival at the Great Park in Irvine (in Hangar 244), from 2-5 p.m. with beer and wine from about 40 providers, and about 10-15 restaurants. There will also be live music, a silent auction, and an opportunity drawing.

NOTE their event postcard ad lists as a sponsor, **Knobbe Martens, Intellectual Property Law**. Would that be our Lou?

Tickets are \$75 through May 12 and \$100 thereafter, with a designated driver ticket available for \$20. For more information go to www.greatwinefestival.com

CLUB ANOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

President's Remarks – Mel El Guindy

Mel reminded us about the District Conference to be held in Temecula May 2-4.

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

Mel distributed an org chart for the club for our coming fiscal year, so we are all clear on what we've committed to. Thanks to all our members for volunteering for the many facets of club service.

Jeff Garcia stopped by for a brief visit before the meeting started. It was great to see him. He reported that he's settling into his new store and getting ready to transfer his membership to a local club there.

Ali Danta reminded us of upcoming fundraisers by two other Rotary clubs. Tustin Santa Ana will have their annual Lobsterfest, with unlimited lobster and steak for \$75, Saturday May 10. On the same date, Saturday May 10 the Brea club will host their annual wine and food fest, \$100 admission.

Ali also provided an update on the discussions regarding changing our club name. District Governor Rae Shirer expressed concerns that "Greater Santa Ana" would imply overlap with other clubs' areas. Members offered various rebuttals and differing viewpoints, while noting that we all like and respect and support Rae. Ali will continue this conversation on our behalf and we're very grateful for her active involvement at the District level, in general as well as specifically on this point.

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.