



SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

The Rotations

August 22, 2012

WWW.SANTAANANORTHROTARY.ORG

“Grand Jury”

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Today, we welcomed Dennis Evans. He explained the purpose of the Grand Jury and shared his personal experience with the selection process and serving on the OC Grand Jury 2010/11 as the foreperson.

District Training occurred Aug 19. Lisa S, Lisa M, Catherine P, George W, and Jeff G all attended.

Monday, Aug 27 @ 10am at Corner Bakery at Main Place (near old M&S) David Hunt will lead “New Generations” committee meeting to discuss Interact and Roteract.

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

Victor Palacios, Orange Country Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Service (Lisa Morrow)

1) School Uniform Distribution Aug 25. Will send email reminder to volunteers. Wear your Rotary gear. Bring gently

used clothes to donate. Thanks to Alfredo for donating backpacks and shoes and for Bruce for picking up the uniforms and taking all the school supplies we were able to purchase with Club’s generation donations.

2) Rotary Angels Game is Sep 8. Sign up by Aug 24. If interested contact Lisa S.

3) Aug 18 District Training – Received template for tracking events and learned ideas for projects. Will share inventory at upcoming meeting.

Taste Event Update (John Castillo)

1) Marketing – B&GofSA completed email blast to donors. They will send 2 emails to promote the event and post to their Facebook page.

2) Tickets – NEW Paper tickets distributed. Online tickets launched at www.discoverthetaste.eventbrite.com

3) Vendors – 12 signed up. John will send out vendor list again.



Wednesdays 12:15 PM
Antonello Ristorante
1611 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Aug 29 – Raymond Foster “Writing & Leadership”

Sep 5 – Tricia Escamilla “Dream, Believe, Become”

Sep 12 – TBD

Sep 19 – Dr. Anne Turner, “Think Together”

Sep 26 – Discover the Taste Planning Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 25 – School Uniform Distribution @ First Congressional Church of Santa Ana, 10 AM – 3PM. Lunch provided.

Sep 8 – Angels Game @ 6:05 PM. Purchase tickets by August 15.

Sep 19 – Board Meeting, 6pm @ Lisa S

Sep 29 – Discover the Taste @ Santa Ana Zoo, 5pm. Tickets \$50/adult. 50% Proceeds benefit Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana.

Program

Speaker: Dennis Evans

Dennis Evans was a principal at Corona Del Mar and Newport Harbor High School for 25 years and at UCI for 15 years before he was selected as foreperson of the 2009/10 OC Grand Jury.

PURPOSE OF GRAND JURY

The California Grand Jury is unique in its function and selection process compared to other juries, including petit and trial juries and federal grand juries. Each county is required by law to impanel a body of 23 or 19 members, depending on county population (Orange County 19), to serve for a term of one year. This body is mandated to investigate and report on both criminal and civil matters within the county.

The major functions of a grand jury are divided into criminal indictments and civil investigations. While both functions are executed by the same panel in Orange County, the civil investigation portion requires the majority of time.

The civil, or "watchdog" responsibilities of the grand jury include the examination of all aspects of county government, including special districts, to ensure the county is being governed honestly and efficiently and county monies are being handled appropriately. The grand jury is mandated by law to inquire into the conditions and management of public jails.

Investigations may be conducted on public agencies, the administration and affairs of any city within the county, or to examine books and records of redevelopment agencies. It is also appropriate for any private citizen, county official or county employee to present a written complaint to a grand jury for investigation.

During its term, the grand jury may select the government affairs which it wishes to investigate. These investigations are conducted by Grand Jury committees in cooperation with the departments and agencies of the county. Committees may ask for support and advice from Superior Court, District Attorney's office, County Counsel or outside consultants.

On the last day of the year of service, the grand jury is required by law to submit all

final reports to the presiding judge of the Superior Court. These reports, with appropriate recommendations, include all studies and investigations conducted by the jury during its term. Each county entity investigated receives a copy of its individual report with a stipulation that response to findings/recommendations be made by the responsible governing body within 90 days. The public may find grand jury reports at most public libraries.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Begins by completing the application by deadline (**recruitment starts in October**) and confirming you **meeting the following minimum requirements:**

- 1) US Citizen, 18 years of age or older
 - 2) Resident of county for one year
 - 3) Possession of natural faculties, ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, fair character
 - 4) Speak/read English
- Other desirable qualifications include things like knowledge of government, good health, work well in team/group and complex reading. ***Dennis said there were over 200 applicants in 2009/10, so competition is fierce for \$50/day, M-F, year-long, no vacation, volunteer job!***

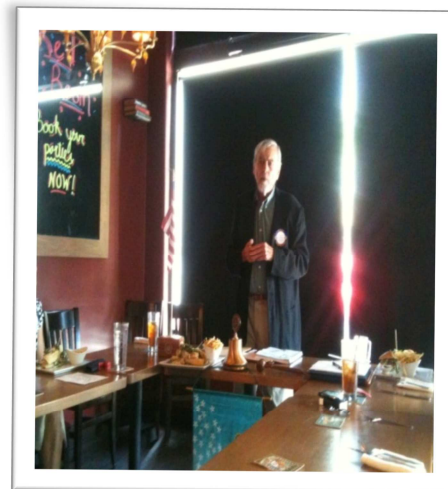
An application received from a prospective Grand Juror is forwarded to the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee comprised of Judges of the Superior Court for screening to determine the individual's qualifications for Grand Jury service. The screening process will identify approximately ninety (90) individuals who will be interviewed.

Applicants who are found to be best qualified, interested and available to serve will be given a background check by the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department. ***Dennis said they interview your neighbors...don't burn any bridges! Finalists for the list of potential grand jurors may not exceed 30 names.***

The law requires that potential grand jurors shall be selected from the five supervisorial districts in proportion to the population of those districts.

The 30 persons selected will constitute the prospective grand jury panel and are summoned to appear in court where all names are placed in a lottery draw. **The first 19 names chosen become the next Orange County Grand Jury. Dennis was lucky # 19 and selected as foreperson based on his background. The remaining names are drawn to provide alternates.**

Shortly before the beginning of the grand jury term of service, July 1 through June 30, the current grand jury and their advisors



conduct an orientation/training program. The presiding judge of the Superior Court selects the foreperson; the jury itself chooses all other officers.

SERVING ON THE GRAND JURY.

It's critical that there's "one voice" so 12/19 must agree, but generally, unanimous decision is reached. In 2009/10, Dennis recalled there were 57 criminal indictments, and 25 sent to trial.

As foreperson, Dennis responsible for swearing people in. Dennis recalled a time a man charged with dangerous crime and sat next to him and he (quickly & politely) moved the scissors in his desk drawer a little farther away.

Dennis also talked about how one witness gave a statement that they had no idea who a certain gang member was, yet when brought in and shirt was for tattoo pictures, the witness had the name tattooed on their back! Nice try.

In 2009/10 report, they also investigated the OC Great Park Financing Plan and the Santa Ana Trolley Plans to name a few. Topics included welfare fraud to conditions of jails, detention facilities, crime lab (DNA testing procedures), child abuse, and childhood obesity.

All jurors must serve on 2 committees which range from Human Resources to Transportation and Safety.

Source of information was obtained from www.ocgrandjury.org. Please visit the website to find out how you can serve.

FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Rotations

Santa Ana North Rotary
P.O. Box 11571
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1571