

CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

Newsletter



October 4, 2015

Editor: Roger Ransom , 484 2614

By providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids



Janna & Jeanette Do It Again

That is, these two J-Girls teamed up to produce a fantastic **Installation & Awards Dinner**. They do acknowledge that they got some help from the rest of the Club.



One of the highlights of the evening is pictured above. Here, **Ada Lee** presents a memento to **John** that he will surely treasure- A montage of photos of the major events of his presidential year with virtually all of the members shown, together with their congratulatory greetings. This work was primarily the handiwork of Ada Lee. Your editor would have preferred to place here a photo of Ada handing John the gavel. But, both attempts at this shot were duds, ' Sorry. On the following pages you'll find other samples of this delightful evening. First, a transcript of John's farewell message to us.

President's Final Message 2014-2015

Well, it's been a lot of fun this year and a lot of work too! I have all of you to blame/to thank for that! Without you, there wouldn't be an Optimist Club, without you there wouldn't be an Optimist Program, without you there wouldn't be a wouldn't be. All of you have made our programs and events possible and worthwhile. I want to thank all of you and give you my deepest gratitude for your loyalty and dedication in fulfilling our mission of Bringing Out the Best in Kids. What better opportunity could we ask for, than helping our youngsters, our youth, be our leaders, our business and professional people of tomorrow. And you know, that tomorrow is just around the corner!!! I want to tell all of you what "A Magnificent Job You Have Done on All of Our Projects and Programs," Thank You, Thank You, Thank You So Much!!! We have had one Fantastic Optimist Service Year, just ask Jeanette. I have appreciated seeing your display of skills, teamwork, problem solving, and hard work. You are a group of Smart and Talented Individuals. It has been my privilege to work along with you this past year. Among our accomplishments this Optimist Service Year are these: Red Ribbon Writing Essay Contest, Koeze Nut Fundraiser, Christmas Food and Gift Program for the Needy, Walk for Youth Event, Youth Awards Banquet, Youth Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner, the review of College Scholarship Applications and the awarding of scholarships at Adolfo Camarillo High School and Rio Mesa High School, the awarding of a \$1000 Student Scholarship to a promising student at California Youth Authority, the monitoring and coordination of our JOOI Clubs at our local schools throughout the year, the planning and coordination of our Youth We Appreciate Programs. We have accomplished all of this because, "We Have Worked Well Together As A Team." Our Brilliantly Written and Published Monthly Newsletter, July; our summer vacation time off; I worked hard on that, I excelled at that, Board of Directors Meetings, Budget Meetings, Awards and Installation Dinner.

Woooo, we have finished our journey and arrived at our destination. We have charted our course, maintained our direction and have come to the end of our voyage. Now, it's time to turn the helm over to your new captain. Your captain will be guiding your ship and charting your course on your next journey. All aboard mates, you are in for an exciting voyage. Remember, it's the journey and not the destination that's what's important and enjoyable. Captain Sullivan will ensure that your next journey is exciting, interesting, and enjoyable. Farewell mates, it's been good serving as your Captain!!! Come on Jenny (My Parrot), it's time to walk the gang plank!!!!!!!

Now, I would like to welcome aboard ship, your new Optimist Club President for 2014-2015 Service Year, Ada Lee Sullivan, CPA. Ada Lee, do you know what I just discovered????? What CPA means???? It means "Count People Attending." Now that

works for me, I hope that works for you, Ada Lee!!!! (Club gavel is handed over to Ada Lee). “I wish you and your team the best of success for the coming year, and into the future.”(Final Remarks),”Have you filed your taxes yet????” (Ada Lee is a CPA). “Like Allstate Insurance, You Are in Good Hands with Ada Lee!!!” Goodday Mates!!!!!!!

It’s been MY PRIVILEGE serving as your Optimist Club President and keeping our members up to date on what’s happening in The Best Optimist Club in Camarillo this 2014-2015 Service Year. Thanks to all who have been a part of this Adventure and Fun. Best Regards,

John Quick-Past President

Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club

Happy Trails to You, Until We Meet Again

Thank You for Working Hard to

Bring Out the Best in Kids



Meet our new **Lt. Governor**



Roanna Prell

and our new **Governor & Keynote Spkr**



Carol Morak

Community Appreciation Awards

Educator of Year



Daryl Meyers

Law Officer of Year



Francis Valdez

Firefighter of Year



Joseph Dullan

A most deserving **Optimist of the Year Award:**



It's frightening to think of what a shambles our club would be in without the skills, energy and dedication of **Jeanette Bassett**. And, all of it offered with a smile. She took on the office of Treasurer voluntarily. She got stuck with being Secretary because no one else would accept that work-load. She performs both responsibilities magnificently on top of other tasks such as this recent I & A Dinner and now the Red Ribbon project. She's probably trapped with it all because no one else dares to be the act that follows hers.

What follows is a slightly abbreviated transcript of President John Quick's remarks incidental to awarding

Bill and Janna Visser our **Club's LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Bill Visser joined the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club on June 1, 1986, during the presidency of Ray Abbott. Bill was a member for 29 years until his passing in July of this year. During that time he participated in almost every activity of the Club. From the beginning, Bill was the GO-TO-GUY to take care of any equipment that the club owned and to provide his labor to set up and take down for any activity the Club was involved with. In those early years he received the Nuts and Bolts Award, created especially for him. He also was hands-on with a pancake breakfast the club catered, for baseball picture day in the park. He worked the Optimist Booth at the Fiesta Days on Ventura Boulevard. That made for a very full and long weekend, as he couldn't move the equipment until 8 o'clock on that Sunday night. Later on, he co-chaired the concert in the park food booth most every year through 2012. He chaired a Bicycle Safety event in the late 80's and early 90's at Los Nogales and El Descanso Schools. For that he brought in TRIPLE "A" to check the bikes, and he got a course set up in the parking lot with stop signs, etc. During that time he also provided manpower for the March of Dimes walk which had requested our club's help. Sometime during the 90's, the Club entered a float in the Camarillo Christmas Parade. Bill was the chair and found space in an industrial area to work on the float. Bill used his van to pull the trailer. The van had to be camouflaged, so Bill designed two cardboard horses to attach to either side of the van. He helped with all the Youth Banquets and acted as MC for one of them. In the 80's and 90's Bill could always be counted on to do the heavy lifting for the Christmas Basket Program, whether at Mercury Savings or at the Boys & Girls Club and later on, at other venues. Sometime before 2001, Bill was on the Board of Directors for several years and served as Vice President for a term. He always provided labor to the annual Installation & Awards Dinner and helped to setup and Clean up for the regular club meetings. Bill signed up to work on the Optimist Club Float for the Rose Parade in 2001 and 2002. He had a ball gluing onion seeds up very high on the float and ironing on corn husks. More recently, Bill gave his time to the Golf Tournaments, Casino Nights, Red Ribbon Week events, and the Walk for Youth. In 2002, President Howard Hoover recognized Bill with the "Optimist of The Year Award" For six years, Bill provided transportation to our weekly club meetings for Club Members Bev and Martin who could no longer drive. And now you know what kind of PERSON HE WAS; **LOYAL, DEDICATED, GIVING PERSON. He was a "GIANT OF A MAN BOTH IN STATURE AND DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPALS OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS."**

Janna Visser joined the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club on September 13, 1987, during the presidency of Phil Daily. She became a Life Member in 1991. Her first assigned job was to be the Chair of the Youth We

Appreciate Program. She enlarged and improved the program by recognizing top students in the private schools in addition to those of the P.V. School District.

Janna became president of our club in 1990 and she became Lt. Governor of Zone 6 the following year. Being Lt. Governor, led to her appointment as District Scrapbook Chair and District Club Anniversary Chair. She made scrapbooks for several Camarillo Club presidents as well. During her tenure as President, she organized a blood drive and also helped recognize the Veterans from Desert Storm in addition to all the usual ongoing programs. One of those programs was the Bicycle Safety event for elementary school students and another was a Safe Driver Award Drive Along with a local police officer. The officer would "ticket" drivers for exceptional courtesy. The Club would invite them to a club meeting and present them with an award and a gift certificate for a turkey. The Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest (now called RED RIBBON WRITING ESSAY CONTEST) and even the Christmas Basket Program were first held in Mercury Savings Building at Arneill and Las Posas Roads, where Janna was branch manager. One year the Club actually entered a float in the parade which was a very labor intensive effort in which Janna, her husband and many Optimist Club members participated. A few years later, it was fun to sign up for the decoration of the Optimist Float in the Rose Parade. In 1994, Janna chaired the first of many Installation & Awards Dinners. For the last several years she has been Co-Chair together with Jeanette Bassett. She organized the 20th Club Anniversary Celebration and in 2006 the going away party for one of our former Secretary's, Ernie Merritt. Janna is and has been an active participant in all of the fundraising activities of the Club such as the Concerts in the Park Food Booth, the Camarillo Fiesta Food Booth, the Golf Tournament, Casino Night, and Walk for Youth. In 2005 she was recognized with the Optimist of the Year Award by President Howard Hoover. In 2007 she received the Dedicated Optimist Attendance Award, from President Frank Roth, for not missing any meetings that year. The truant officer never had to check on her. Janna has continued to serve the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club in many capacities, positions and chairmanships since 2007 for the benefit of her club and the Youth of Camarillo. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and her ability to get things done. We are honored and blessed to have such a loyal, dedicated, hardworking and talented member of our organization.

It is MY HIGH HONOR AND PRIVILEGE to HONOR AND PRESENT this plaque to BILL AND JANNA VISSER for the Lifetime Achievement Award. THIS RECOGNITION IS FOR THEIR LIFETIME (29+ YEARS) OF LOYAL, DEDICATED, ACTIVE SERVICE TO THE CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMISTS AND THE YOUTH OF CAMARILLO. JANNA, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE YOUR AND BILL'S AWARD. ALL OF OUR OPTIMIST MEMBERS LOVE YOU BOTH!!!

CONGRATULATIONS, BILL AND JANNA VISSER!!!



Award not awarded: He didn't get it, but he did earn it. **Sean Roth**, grandson of three of our members, has more than fulfilled all the requirements for The **Photographer of the Year** plaque.

Changing of the guard: Your editor is not really sure whether this photo is of the outgoing Board or the incoming Board. Everyone shown served/will serve on both. If it is last year's board, then Ada Lee & Howard are camera shy; they were present. If it portrays the incoming board, then again Howard & AdaLee abstained and Ruth Dersh was unable to attend the dinner.



You know who they are by now. But, for the record, we have L-R Frank R. Dave S. Janna V. Mike K. Roger R. Jeanette B. Ron K. and John Q.

Our New President's Message



I am excited to start my second term as President of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club. It has been two years since my last term ended and things have changed. We have lost members due to death and other reasons. We have some members who are recuperating from illnesses and surgeries. And, we have very promising new members. Kind of our own life cycle. I plan to remain optimistic and guide us to a successful year. I believe our new website is a really good sign.

Thank you all for this opportunity and let's continue to work hard and do good for the youth in our community.

Ada Lee Sullivan

Recent? Programs

3 Aug. Teen Challenge

Rosie Weir, Director of Ventura/Tri-County Teen Challenge; Jessica Nobles; Elizabeth La Tella; Julie Sullivan; and Amanda Buchheim.

Rosie Weir, who has been serving with the **Teen Challenge** since the late 1980's, shared some of the history of the organization and its current activities. She noted that in 1999 the Ventura Teen Challenge



moved from a two-story house in Ventura to a 143-acre former ranch property in the Ventura foothills right off Hwy 33. The program is a 12-month residential ministry for women 18 years and older who have been addicted to drug and/or alcohol abuse with a philosophy of peer-to-peer mentoring to help them. The advisors in the program help the 60 or so women in the program make adjustments essential to coping with real life problems.

The property provides a safe and peaceful place for the ladies to recover and be reintroduced into the larger community, find jobs and/or continue their education. The Ventura Teen Challenge reaches out to the surrounding communities, visiting schools and doing drama skits to share about the dangers of substance abuse. The students also participate in choir outings, doing chores on the ranch and work projects throughout the community. Two of the students shared with the Optimist Club members their very emotional and touching personal struggles with substance abuse, their recovery and future aspirations. Teen Challenge is a non-profit, faith based program that depends heavily upon fundraising projects and donations from organizations and the public. Their success rate is head & shoulders above all other similar programs. They may be contacted online through "www.teenchallenge.org" or by calling 805-648-3295.

10 Aug Today it was our good fortune to get better acquainted with a recent recruit to our club- **Ruth**



Dersh. She is a mother of 3, step-mother of 2 and grandmother of 12. She told of her childhood in Minneapolis where her family of Mother, Father & four kids had no material luxuries, but were happy to live in a safe neighborhood –never locked the door – where the kids could play in the park across the street, including ice-skating in the winter. At the age of 17, she took the train to California and immediately on arrival fell in love with the place, largely because the friend that met her was wearing white shoes in February. She was "mesmerized by the mountains, palm trees and ocean", but did miss the lakes. Before too long, she'd talked her whole family into following her to Southern Calif. But, she also had to pay the rent and put food on the table. She found employment in a variety of jobs: insurance work, civil service,

Veteran's Admin., and even a bit of Real Estate selling. At the age of 50, she entered college and studied law – "not too enthusiastically". She loved the campus life- being accepted as an equal by the 18 year olds. She had married soon after getting to CA, but that one didn't last. Her second marriage was to an electrical engineer whose consulting work involved a great deal of travel. She's lived in Seattle, Michigan, Indiana, Texas & Arizona. Overseas travel took them to Israel, Paris, Italy, Spain, London and Hawaii. They've enjoyed sailing, hiking and horseback riding. When her husband Larry died 7 1/2 years ago, she moved from Orange Co. to Camarillo to be nearer her daughter in 1000 Oaks. She has jumped right into the activities of our club, even agreeing to serve on our Board of Directors. **Ruth**, you are most heartily **Welcome Aboard.**

17 Aug. Joel McCrea Ranch

A good time was had by the 40 some attendees from **the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club**, the **Delta Kappa Gamma Organization**, spouses and friends at the **Joel McCrea Visitors Center** in lieu of the regular



Monday meeting venue. Everyone viewed a movie about the life of **Joel McCrea** which highlighted his youth, dreams of being a rancher,

long career as a screen actor and how he met and married **Francis Dee**—a very successful actress, too, in 1933.

She and Joel raised three sons on the ranch and lived a simple lifestyle as part of the community, farming the land and raising cattle. The McCrea family setup a foundation and over time sold their property and donated the ranch and family home to the Conejo Recreation and Park District in 2004. The ranch home and outbuildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over the years they lived at the ranch the family very generously donated to local organizations, churches and causes. A large part of the original ranch is now Wildlife Preserve.

Wyatt McCrea, Joel's grandson, shared some the ranch history and answered questions from the audience before the docents led groups of visitors around the ranch property. Thanks to **Jeanette** and her husband, **Bob Bassett**, **David Stone** and **Ada Lee Sullivan** money was collected for lunches, food and drinks were hauled to a very pleasant outdoor picnic area, and all the guests enjoyed the dining experience and chatting with one-another. **Wyatt McCrea** has come to the Optimist Club Youth Banquet in March for many years to deliver a congratulatory speech to all the students and award the Joel McCrea plaques to the most outstanding high school seniors from four local schools. Wyatt gave a check to the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club when he addressed the audience at the ranch.

24 Aug. "Troubled Youth" to Police Chief of Thousand Oaks

We were roundly entertained by **Tim Hagel, Police Chief** of Thousand Oaks. **Cmdr. Hagel** was born in 1960 and raised in Thousand Oaks, but he has visited and run marathons on all the continents of the world—including Antarctica and the Great Wall of China - frequently running to raise funds for causes such as the Childhood Cancer Research Organization and others. As the youngest member of a large high-achieving family—his dad was a nuclear scientist and his mother was an English professor—where all his siblings were expected to attend college and more, Tim was not stressed by high school and performed at a C+ level. He surprised his family announcing in his senior year that he was accepted at Humboldt State. He went on in his academics attend other universities in the California State system eventually graduating with a Master's Degree in Public Administration.



He began his career with the Sheriff's Office as a volunteer Reserve Deputy and was assigned the T.O. Police Station. He has worked in every Division in the Sheriff's Jurisdiction including assignments in Helicopter Rescue, four jails, and patrol services in Fillmore, T.O., and Moorpark. **Commander Hagel** is a

recipient of the Medal of Valor and the Ventura County Innovative Manager of the Year. He has accomplished very much and has held positions of great responsibility, but that has never kept him from thoroughly enjoying adventure in the great outdoors. To list all of his world travel destinations, experiences and accomplishments would require writing a long book! As Police Chief of T.O. he gets out each week at a variety of places to have coffee and chat informally with residents of the community. This is his way of getting feedback from the public on concerns and questions they may have. The Ventura County is very fortunate to have such an innovative, caring, concerned, energetic, friendly and fun law enforcement leader.

31 Aug. Sil Orlando, Director of an “Always Changing Organization”



We were very fortunate to have a visit from **Silvio Orlando, Executive Director of the Optimist Youth Homes and Family**

Services in Los Angeles. He has worked in the field of child welfare since 1970 in a number of positions: child care worker, social worker, supervisor and assistant director in Montreal, New York and Los Angeles before becoming the director in 1999. He listed many ways the **OYHFS** is changing to better serve youth in need of services. He said that although the current campus has about 85 young men that are being educated and provided many services, research

has shown that foster homes provide a better environment than institutions. The school has had many success stories with its youth. This year 14 students graduated, and some former graduates have gone on to careers in the community and military service. Some have come back to share their accomplishments and inspire others to strive for successful lives of their own. Among other new programs, **Mr. Orlando** mentioned a collaborative with a charter school that will service youth on probation and foster kids and a Special Education class to help girls. The future for the **OYHFS** looks bright and at the same time always changing and challenging. **Mr. Orlando** encourage everyone to use their website—OYHFS.ORG—to keep up with all the happenings at the **Optimist Youth Home and Family Services**.

Also on Aug. 31: Frank Roth announces the naming of **AdaLee Sullivan** as one of this year's **Donas**.

The **Pleasant Valley Historical Society** has been honoring deserving individuals of the community for being members of "Old Line Families" of the area or have been very active for more than 20 years doing things that have added to the development and character of the area which has made our community a better place to live. The Society has been doing this for over fifty years and the title that has been bestowed, upon the individuals, "**DON**" or "**DONA**" is one of the highest honors that a person can receive in the area. It is recognized and supported by various Federal, State, County and City agencies and they are named in honor of our own **DON Adolfo Camarillo**, the last **DON** of California, and his wife **DONA Isabella Camarillo**. The following is a list of present and past **Noontime Optimist** that have been so honored. We hope that you will forgive us if we have missed some one:



Gordon Cory	Howard Hoover	Bill Seaver	Larry Davis
Jean-Underwood Daily	Berta Jansen	Bob Taylor	AdaLee Sullivan
Elizabeth Daily	Martin Jansen	Bill Visser	Ray Abbott
Phil Daily	Frank Roth	Janna Visser	Shig Yabu
Stan Daily	PatRoth	Ken Wilhite	

14 Sept. Adolpho Camarillo High School



Dr. Kimberly Stephenson is the recently appointed **Principal** of ACHS, having moved up after two years as the Associate Principal. She is a graduate of Rio Mesa HS, UCLA, with PHd from Stanford. Her tasks as principal will include overseeing the transition of Camarillo High's agriculture, and business and technology academies into National Academy Foundation academies. She will also oversee Camarillo High's transition to meet new Common Core state standards. Common Core allows schools across California to adopt the same educational standards for English and math. With an enrollment of 2500 students, ACHS is ranked amongst the top 100 High Schools in the Nation. She noted that

with today's technology providing easy access to facts, the emphasis in education now, is to teach the student how to think and communicate rather than too memorize the facts.

21 Sept Water Shortage Solutions for Camarillo



Mike Morgan, long-time City of Camarillo Councilman, past mayor and current vice mayor, shared the shocking status of the California drought, how it has impacted the customers in the area, and how the City plans to protect its water supply. He noted that the Sierra snowpack water content for April 1, 2015, was only 5% of average—the lowest since records have been kept—and that most of the state is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought affecting over 37 million people!

A state drought Governor's Executive Order requested that Camarillo water customers reduce water consumption by 20% and the good news, Mike cited, is that the city customers reduced usage by 25% in June and 27% in July. However, he noted, that historically winter months have shown little water conservation—a challenge the city hopes to address. Recycled water has played a very important part in irrigating city landscape, agriculture areas, parks, athletic fields and golf courses. The savings to the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District has been \$110,000 annually. As part of future plans the "North Pleasant Valley Groundwater Desalter" that will be operational by the end of 2017 will be using reverse osmosis to remove salts from brackish groundwater and produce 4,500 acre feet of water per year. At a Public Hearing, October 14, the City of Camarillo will discuss program strategies for the future. The current water sources required 50% imported and the rest coming from groundwater pumping and recycled water. The goal by 2018 is to have 0% imported water with the groundwater desalted, conservation and an increase in recycled water providing the difference!

Customers who would like more information are encouraged to contact the City at www.cityofcamarillo.org/savewater or call 388-5373.

28 Sept County Supervisor



Jeanette invited **Supervisor Kathy Long** to our Club who shared some of her personal life, memorable experiences, accomplishments and future plans. A native of Michigan, **Kathy** moved to Camarillo in 1988 with her husband, **Randy**, and started a pest control business.

Kathy served on numerous Chamber committees and as President in 1991. Former Supervisor **Maggie Erickson Kildee** hired Kathy as her administrative assistant where she worked until being elected to the office in 1996. She noted that her son, Austin, 25, this year graduated from

college with an engineering degree from CSUN.

Kathy, whose district represents Camarillo, Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Port Hueneme, the Navy Base Ventura County, and parts of Oxnard, has decided to forego a sixth term in office. She explained that her district is diverse from the upper-income Camarillo with its money generating outlet mall to rural areas where agriculture dominates. Among many accomplishments, Kathy cited the reopening of the Santa Paula Hospital and the close personal touch she has when dealing with constituents. Assemblymember, **Jacqui Irwin**, honored Kathy as the 44th Assembly District Women of the Year for creating alliances for the benefit of health, welfare and public safety of Ventura County residents, including leading the fight to protect Naval Base Ventura.

Kathy, announced that she is not seeking a sixth term early so that others will have time to declare their intentions long before the June 2016 primary. She emphasized that she plans to serve well for the 14 months left in her term and that she has loved serving this nonpartisan district. She and her husband plan to enjoy some travel after her retirement.

Scheduled Speakers:

- Oct. 5 - Roberto Martinez - Interim CEO Camarillo Boys & Girls Club
- Oct. 12 - No Meeting - Columbus Day Holiday
- Oct. 19 - Nicole Gates, Opportunity For Learning. a charter school
- Oct. 26 - Maria Waggoner
- Nov. 2 - Jim Tancreto - Trip to Africa Presentation
- Nov. 9 - Megan Gately - Director of Education & Outreach, Ventura County Museum
- Nov. 16 - Shig Yabu - Heart Mountain Visitor Center & Tributes to Japanese Americans
- Nov. 23 - Megan Voshel, Executive Director & Svenja Schulze, Membership & Marketing Director
Camarillo YMCA
- Nov. 30 - No Meeting - Thanksgiving Holiday Break
- Dec. 7 - To Be Scheduled (Joyce is working this)
- Dec. 14 - RaeAnne Michael - PVSD Superintendent
- Dec. 21 - No Meeting - Christmas Holiday
- Dec. 28 - No Meeting - Christmas & New Year's Day Holiday

Filler

A man went to his doctor and told him that he had not been feeling well lately. The doctor examined the man, left the room, and came back with three different bottles of pills. "Here take the green pill with a big glass of water when you wake up," he said. "Take the blue pill with a big glass of water after you eat lunch. Then just before going to bed take the red pill with another big glass of water."

Worried to be put on so much medicine the man said. "Oh, Doc! Now exactly what is my problem?"

The doctor replied, "You are not drinking enough water."