

# CAMARILLO NOONTIME OPTIMIST CLUB

## News Brief

May 17, 2017



Editor in progress: Ron Klemann  
By providing hope and positive vision,  
Optimists bring out the best in kids



### Apr. 24 - Student Produces Weekly School News Video

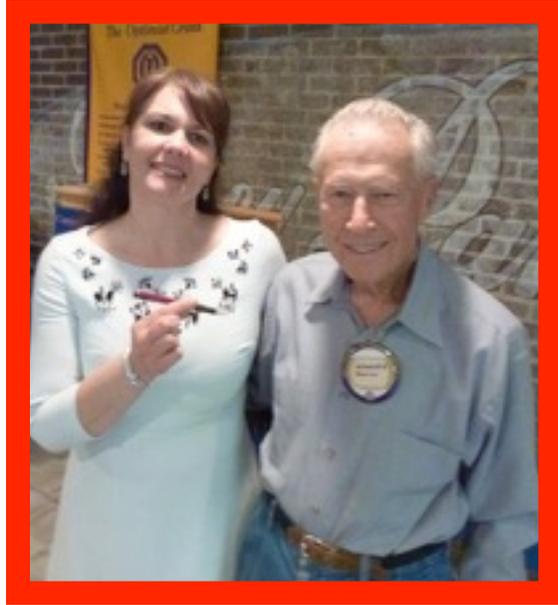
**Sophia Valencia**, a fifth grade student at Camarillo Heights STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Academy, received the **Youth We Appreciate Award** from **Chantelle Limon** of the **Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club** at their luncheon ceremony at Money Pancho Restaurant. **Jennifer Paterson**, Sophia's teacher, informed the audience that her 10-year-old student excels in all curriculum areas and is a constant role model for the school's **Junior Optimist Club**. She noted that Sophia serves on the school's news crew and produces a weekly news video using Green Screen technology. As part of her club activities she also helps in the annual holiday food drive and works with senior citizens during Thanksgiving. Of special note, she was cited for always helping others and ensuring that every single student feels included each day. She earned \$100 for her school as part of the YWA Award recognition. She was accompanied by her principal, Claudia Stepan; her mother, Anne Valencia; and grandparents, Randy and Jennifer Churchill, and Gil and Jan Valencia.

(l-r) Jennifer Paterson, teacher; Sophia Valencia, Youth We Appreciate Award winner; Claudia Stepan, principal; and Chantelle Limon, YWA presenter.



## **Dr. Penelope DeLeon, Superintendent of the Oxnard Union High**

**School District**, shared her vision of the importance of every student receiving a diploma. With her usual enthusiasm, experience and optimism she explained how each student, the Monday after their Friday graduation ceremony should have a well conceived plan and a direction for their lives, and be prepared to carry it out.



As a bilingual classroom-oriented educator with more than two decades of experience teaching, a mother of three, who holds two master's degrees and a doctorate degree in organizational leadership, **Dr. DeLeon** started teaching high school Spanish and English language development at Upland and Chaffey unified school districts before serving as an assistant principal at Riverside and Yucaipa unified districts. In 2012, she was hired as director of professional development for the Fontana district and was appointed deputy chief of secondary schools in 2014. She took over as Oxnard Union High School District Superintendent last May with

the promise to “help every single student.”

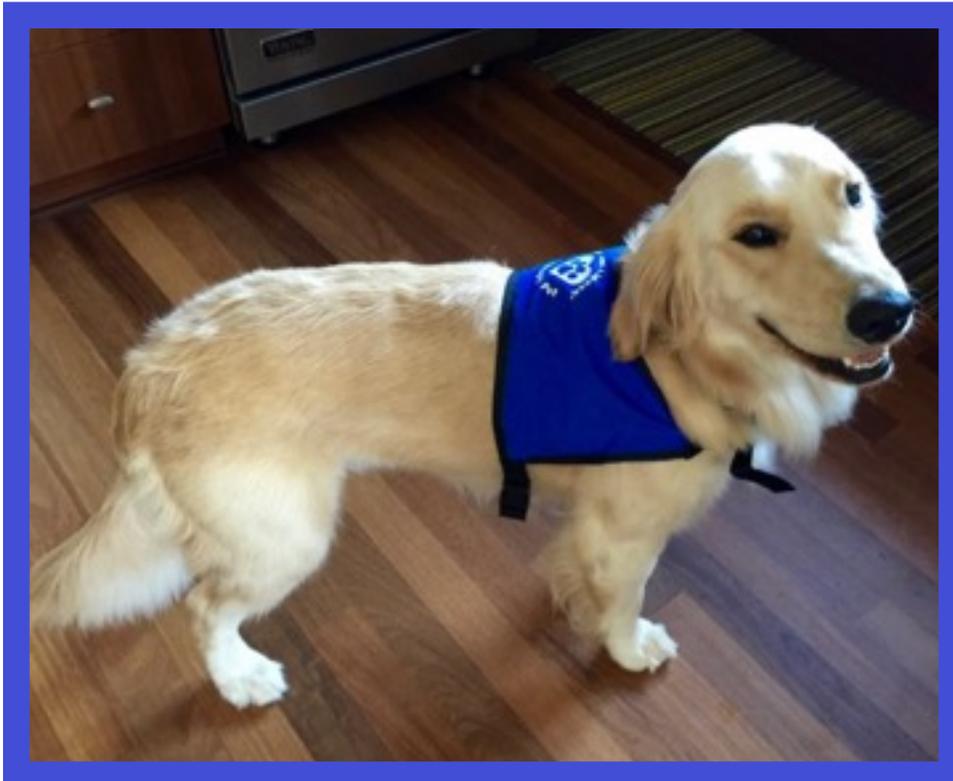
OUHSD board member, Steve Hall said, “Throughout her career she has worked to close the achievement gap by nurturing strong parent and community engagement while promoting a culture of collaboration, support and collegiality for all stakeholders.” As one of our honored guest speakers and presenters at the **Annual Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club High School Youth Banquet and Award Night** in March, **Dr. DeLeon** got all five high school student, parent and staff groups cheering and applauding when she yelled out their respective school mascot names and welcomed them to the event!



## **May 1 - “Love on a Leash Program” shared by Jeri and Clay Jennings**

gave Optimist Club members and guests an appreciation how much pets can bring comfort, happiness and healing to people. They noted that “Love on a Leash” is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an avenue for volunteer pet therapy teams to engage in meaningful and productive animal assisted therapy. Therapy teams give necessary

training and certification to pets so they can provide joy, warmth and emotional support to others through pet therapy.



At our local Camarillo Library pets are available to help kids read in their “PAWS FOR READING” program. Student readers have a nonjudgemental partner to read to. Therapy pets do not have to be a specific breed or size—any well-behaved and healthy dog, cat, rabbit, etc., one year old, with a friendly

temperament may be trained.

Many thanks to **Jennifer Conn**, our very active **Optimist Club** member, who is involved with the “Love...Program” for arranging for our guest speakers to come and speak. For more information you may contact Love on a Leash at—phone:

(760)-740-2326; email: [info@loveonaleash.org](mailto:info@loveonaleash.org); or [www.loveonaleash.org](http://www.loveonaleash.org).

## May 5 - Youth Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner

What a great event the “Cinco de Mayo” Annual Youth Benefit Golf Tournament and Dinner was! **Larry Davis** and the golf tournament committee members, friends, volunteers, and participants helped make the event an enjoyable, fun, memorable and successful fundraiser again! Congratulations to everyone for the absolutely wonderful golf tournament. The committee members that have been working for months planning, preparing and setting up the tournament and dinner were: **Howard Hoover, Jack Rotenberg, David Stone, Ada Lee Sullivan, Jeanette Bassett, Kathy Marie Haws, Ron Klemann, Luci Pommers, Stacy Roth and Ruth Dersh.**

The Golf Tournament Fundraiser, along with the other two fundraisers this year, did so well that the Optimist Club board has authorized awarding two additional June high school scholarships for a total of six! Too, several other youth budget items were



increased, and all others were fully funded! **Maria Waggoner**, a longtime member and owner of the **Mark-It-Place** and a **Par Sponsor**, helped support the tournament by way of providing trophies, gifts, prizes, etc. at reduced prices. A special thank you to **Julie Pope from the Boys and Girls Club** who helped all day long wherever needed. **Stacey Roth** brought three of her students who helped by setting up the prize tables and dinner



tables, passing out waters, and much more.

A special thank you is extended to all the sponsors and donors—**Gold Sponsors, E.J. Harrison and Sons, and Morgan Adams, Inc.;** **Platinum Sponsor, Roadrunner Shuttle;** **Silver Sponsor, Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.;** **Bronze Sponsor, DPL Enterprises, Inc.;** **Par Sponsors, Mark-It-Place and Summit Wealth Mgt.;** and other sponsors **DJ's Catering, Mark Mehrali, DDS and Craig Hoover.**

## May 8 - 2017 Optimist Essay Contest Winners

The **Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club Essay Contest** committee, under the chairmanship of **Mike Kroll**, read more than 40 papers from local high school students this year on the topic—“**Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges.**” The reading judges had to give a tie for 1st place to two Adolfo Camarillo High School juniors this year because their compositions were so well written.

**Loren Padolina and Kellie Farrell** (l-r below) read their compositions to the club members with parents in attendance for the lunch meeting. The last paragraph of



**Loren's** paper captured some of her thoughts—“...Although this year has had a rocky start in terms of politics, there are so many aspects of life to look forward to as it is important to focus on the positives rather than the negatives. By blending in optimism along with our fight for human rights and equality, among other things, the people can have the power to establish a positive impact on our people and society. The need for change is now, let's be optimistic about it.”

An excerpt from **Kellie's** paper says a lot, too—“...a great technique for increasing how optimistic you are is by

surrounding yourself with kind-hearted, positive people. Whether you believe it or not, you are a reflection of who you surround yourself with. The habits and personalities of our friends rub off on us, and the habits of your family can greatly impact your own mood and personality...”

The 2nd and 3rd place essay awards went to **Kyle Levine** and **Katie Oliver**, respectively, also ACHS students, who could not be in attendance. Many thanks to **Mike** and his team for all their time, effort and caring work.





**These are pictures of the Continuing Service Award and the letters of congratulations to the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club that were given out by the Camarillo Council of PTAs, the California State PTA and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in recognition of outstanding service to children and youth. These were presented at the Camarillo Council of PTA's 2016-2017 Honorary Service Awards and Reflections Art Program Showcase on April 25th at the Camarillo Community Center. All our members should be very proud to receive this recognition for all the years of service to youth and the community.**

## **Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club Calendar:**

**May 22 - Randy Friedman - Animal Shelter**

**And induction of new members—Dr. Penelope DeLeon and Roger Adams**

**May 29 - No Meeting - Memorial Day Holiday**

**June 5 - High School Scholarship Winners—Kaleinani Teddy Kwai-Lin Nallira and Kimberly Hernandez, Rio Mesa High School; Elias King, A.C.E. Charter High School; Veronica Bruner and Alexander Li, Adolfo Camarillo High School; and Mario Banuelos, Jr., Frontier High School**

**June 12 - Roger Ransom—“About Father”**

**June 19 - No Meeting - Father’s Day**

**June 26 - Roberto Martinez - CEO/President of the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo**

**No meetings in July—Have a great summer!**

**Filler—**

**“These are actual complaints received by Thomas Cook Vacations from dissatisfied customers:**

- 1. We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers—they were all Spanish.**
- 2. No one told us there would be fish in the water...the kids were scared.**
- 3. It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.**
- 4. The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.**
- 5. I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.**
- 6. They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax.**
- 7. My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked.”**