



# ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP – ARTS - BUSINESS - SERVICE FABS

## This Week's Program

**Wednesday, August 2**

**The Evolution of Healthcare and  
Its Impact on Long Beach Residents**

**Blair M. Kent, CEO  
Long Beach Medical Center  
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach**

**12:00 Noon - LUNCH  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Program**



**Blair Kent** is a senior executive with more than 20 years of healthcare leadership experience. Prior to joining MemorialCare as Chief Executive Officer of its Long Beach hospitals in January 2023, Kent held top executive roles with Intermountain Healthcare throughout his tenure with the organization, including Chief Executive Officer of the health system's flagship enterprise, Intermountain Medical Center in northern Utah.

Under Kent's leadership, Intermountain Medical Center received numerous awards and high ratings from third-party organizations for clinical excellence. In addition, the medical center was recognized for its strong commitment to the community and its service to both insured and underinsured populations. It was also named an LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader in the National Healthcare Equality Index, earning the highest possible score of 100 points for building a culture of inclusion and equality.

Kent is driven by a core set of values and is a visionary leader with a demonstrated history of success. Kent was honored to join MemorialCare earlier this year and to have the opportunity to lead the Long Beach hospitals into their new and exciting chapter. Kent looks forward to continuing MemorialCare's legacy as an innovative and nationally respected health system with a long tradition of driving high quality care and value for patients and the community.

After hours, Kent is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys fly fishing, golf, community service and family activities with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

## Birthdays



**George L. Bell**  
August 1st



**Gabrielle Canale**  
August 3rd



**Mary Sophiea**  
August 7th

## Club Leaders



**Michele A. Dobson**  
President



**Gail B. Schwandner**  
Assistant to the President



**Jean Bixby Smith**  
Assistant to the President



**Marcelle H. Epley**  
Vice President



**Joseph Wayne Hower PE, DEE**  
Vice President



**Debra Kahookale**  
Vice President

## What's Ahead?

By Michele A. Dobson, RCLB President #107



Now that you have your RotaryGram out, pull up your calendar and add our upcoming Rotary meetings. For the month of August, we will start on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with a visit from our District Governor Roy Jefferson and our speaker will be Long Beach Memorial Hospital Chief Blair Kent. On August 9<sup>th</sup>, we will host Duke Givens of Care Closet as our speaker; August 16<sup>th</sup> our speaker will be Patty Civalleri, Co-Author of *Becoming Trader Joe*; on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, our featured speaker will be our newly elected Mayor; and finally on August 30<sup>th</sup>, Carolyn Caldwell from St. Mary's Medical Center will be our speaker. Thank you to Vice President Marcelle Epley for her diligent work booking speakers for the Club this quarter..

Of each of these meetings, we need your help with our August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Author Patty Civalleri has asked that in honor of her book, *Becoming Trader Joe*, everyone wear Hawaiian Shirts to the meeting. All of us who shop at Trader Joe's know about the Hawaiian Shirt uniforms of the staff. We will make sure we get a picture of the room full of Rotarians in Hawaiian shirts with Mrs. Civalleri. Finally, if you would like, we hear Trader Joe's has some pretty decent wines so if you would like to share your favorite Trader Joe's wine with the Club, bring it August 16<sup>th</sup> to the meeting.

In case you missed it, we have an exciting new charitable program called "Bikes for Kids" wherein Rotarians will donate bikes to deserving Long Beach Unified School District 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who participate in an essay contest. Rotarians can also participate in helping to fit the kids to their bikes and outfit them with their safety helmets. Our Community Service Avenue Chair, Robyn Gordon-Peterson and Bikes for Kids Committee Chair, Tina Barry, are hard at work. Reach out to them if you would like to help with the Long Beach Rotary "Bikes for Kids" Program.

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being great sports by letting the Rotary Family celebrate at our meetings with you on your birthdays and when something wonderful happens to you. Sergeant-at-Arms Theresa Cornwell has been busy scheduling Rotarians for these celebrations. As you know, the birthday and recognition donations go to our Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation and next year, I get to Chair the Charitable Foundation Board. This is the Board that financially supports our Rotary charitable programs, International Projects and Rotary grants to our Long Beach community. Rotarians are great sports and do not mind a little ribbing from the podium. As fines are levied, those fines also go to our Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation. That being said, we are grateful for your generosity and my competitive spirit is in overdrive to raise as much as we can this year for our Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation. Past and Future Presidents beware, this will be the year to beat on Rotarian charitable giving.

## Welcome New Rotarian...

By Olivia Maiser



To know about **Melissa Evans** professionally is to know Melissa personally. She has always been, and she will always be a journalist. It is what she is, and it is who she is.

Melissa is a reporter, writer, and editor. She has won numerous awards and edited projects that recently earned honors from the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

During Melissa's 25-year journalistic career, the news business has undergone enormous changes. She has not only survived but thrived during these changes, adjusting while at the same time staying firmly rooted in the principles of journalism.

Five years ago, she made the leap from print journalism to digital. She left the print/digital Press Telegram where she was the City Editor and went to the online-only news publication, the Long Beach Post. I believe that many years from now, as students look back on this time, journalists like Melissa will be seen as trailblazers.



**Sumer A. Temple**  
Vice President



**John E. Romundstad**  
Secretary  
Treasurer



**Theresa Cornwell**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Shel-lee Davis**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Shelley Hanks**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Debbie Thorpe**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Denise Dahlhausen**  
CCO-Club Comm.  
Offcr



**Rayne Sherman**  
Career Service  
Director



**Robyn Gordon-Peterson**  
Community  
Service Director



**Stephen B. Shaw**  
Club Service  
Director



**Lisa Finn**  
Fellowship Service  
Director



**Matthew L. Kinley**  
International  
Service Director



**Sarah Soriano**  
Membership  
Service Director

**Conor Kenneth Weir**

Melissa is well-respected in her field. Recently, Honorary Rotarian Rich Archbold told me that he highly respects her work and professionalism -- and former Club member David Sommers said he considers her to be an exemplary media executive and leader.

Currently Melissa is the Executive Editor of The Long Beach Post, the online publication we have come to rely on as an important source of local news. She manages a 15-member editorial staff and oversees video, interactive graphics, photos, investigative reporting, and all aspects of news and arts coverage.

Melissa is also a teacher. As a lecturer at CSULB, she teaches multimedia journalism, reporting, writing, and literary journalism. She is giving back to the next generation of journalists.

I have known Melissa since she participated in the Leadership Long Beach Class of 2015. Since then, I have come to know that she has high ethical standards, both in her professional work and in her personal life. She understands this community. And she is selfless. She has the spirit of a Rotarian.

Please join **Matt Kinley** and me in welcoming new Rotarian, **Melissa Evans**.



**Youth Service Director**



**Alfredo Velasco**  
iPast President



**Steve M. Hockett**  
President-Elect



**Kelly Ruggirello**  
President-Nominee



**Donald E. Cochran**  
Rotary Foundation Chair

## Events

August 2nd, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Blair Kent - Memorial Medical Center;

**Subject:** "The Evolution of Healthcare and its Impact on Long Beach Residents"

+ **District Governor Roy Jefferson**

August 9th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Duke Givens - Care Closet

August 10th, 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

August 12th, 8:00-9:00 AM  
**Centennial Park Clean-up**

Rotary Centennial Park  
Monthly clean-up

August 15th, 4:00-5:15 PM  
**RCLB Board of Directors Meeting**

August 16th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Patty Civalleri  
**Subject:** From Herd Travel to Nerd Travel

August 16th, 5:00-7:00 PM  
**5 O'Clock Somewhere**  
Monthly afterhours mixer  
**3rd Wednesday this month** - usually 2nd Tuesday/month; location varies

August 23rd, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Mayor Rex Richardson  
**Subject:** Developments and Opportunities in the City of Long Beach

August 24th, 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

August 30th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Carolyn Caldwell  
**Subject:** St. Mary's 100th Anniversary



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**Rotary Club of Long Beach**  
meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon  
**THE GRAND**  
**4101 E. Willow Street**  
**Long Beach, CA 90815**

*LB Skyline Photo Credit*  
*Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau*

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[District 5320](#)  
[Rotary International](#)

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