



ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP – ARTS - BUSINESS - SERVICE FABS

This Week's Program

Wednesday, September 20

**Equity Begins With Us:
The Positive Impacts of Programs & Philanthropy**

Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn
CSULB Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

12:00 Noon - LUNCH
Starting Early 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. - Program

Reading by 9 Fundraiser with Frank Newell



Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn joined California State University, Long Beach as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs in July 2021.

Before coming to CSULB, Dr. Scissum Gunn served as an Associate Vice President in Academic Affairs at Cal State Fullerton since 2017. She provided leadership for initiatives to bolster inclusive excellence and equitable outcomes for all students, with an emphasis on retention, graduation, time-to-degree, and elimination of opportunity gaps. With a passion for student success and a mission to serve the campus and community, she has developed an impressive track record as an academic leader and innovative administrator.

Previously, Dr. Scissum Gunn spent over 20 years at Alabama State University in Montgomery, where she served as Professor, Department Chair, Dean, Associate Provost, and Provost. During her tenure, she spearheaded major academic initiatives and instituted enrollment management, virtual learning, and development. Additionally, she successfully led an institutional accreditation reaffirmation and reporting process and expanded faculty and student equity and inclusion.

Under her leadership, she garnered \$54.5 million in federal funding from NIH, NSF, USDA, and U.S. Dept of Education to support scientific research, student training and STEM faculty development, and state capital funding for a new instructional and research facility. She has produced more than 30 articles and 50 presentations and has authored three STEM degree programs. Dr. Scissum Gunn earned both her Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Cell Biology from Tuskegee University and her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from Auburn University.

As Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Scissum Gunn is responsible for directing nearly 4,000 faculty and staff members in the Division of Academic Affairs, the largest unit within the university. She oversees eight academic colleges including the College of Professional and International Education and the University Library.

Birthdays



[Tanya Adolph](#)
September 20th



[Don Rodriguez](#)
September 21st



[David Clark](#)
September 21st



[James A. Ahumada](#)
September 21st



[Michael M. O'Toole](#)
September 23rd



[LaVerne Davis](#)
September 24th



[Jill Baker](#)
September 25th



[Melissa Erin Evans](#)
September 25th

Club Leaders



[Michele A. Dobson](#)
President

[Gail B. Schwandner](#)
Assistant to the

Rotary Membership Service

By Sarah Soriano, RCLB Membership Service Director



Have you heard the saying, "An organization is only as good as its people?" Basically, the people in an organization should understand and help carry out its mission. With a non-profit membership such as the Rotary Club of Long Beach (RCLB), this could not be a truer statement. We value our members, their participation and engagement are paramount to our success. RCLB members want to give back to their community and make Long Beach a better place to live.

What does the RCLB Membership Committee do? Our goal is to work together to make our Club everything we promise it to be. Rotarians are dedicated to service, friendship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. Rotarians make a difference in our Long Beach community by focusing on youth and education. "This year, the Membership Committee has adopted the slogan, "Rotary, where I belong!" We want everyone to feel that sense of belonging. The Membership

Committee works to develop the pipeline of prospective members, facilitating Red Badge members in earning their Blue Badge and providing care for members going through hardship *via* "Rotary Cares."

We divided our group into two teams, **Team One** and **Team Two**.

Team One focuses on prospective members and guests, follows up with sponsors, and plans Rotary Connections events.

Team Two focuses on newly elected members, helps them earn their Blue Badge, and assists them to find ways to become engaged in the Club's activities.

How can you help?

1. **Introduce New Members** – by inviting and bringing guests to our weekly meetings or bringing interested individuals to our events (Rotary Connections, 5 O'clock Somewhere, etc.). You would be helping build our community of active volunteers to accomplish our work done in Long Beach and beyond. If you have a prospective member, consider sponsoring them to join.
2. **Serve on the Membership Committee** – if you have not selected an Avenue of Service yet, join us! We are a fun group who really want to see our Club grow, not only in numbers, but in engagement of our members. We want to ensure that members feel connected, committed to serving, and excited about Rotary, so they would want their friends to join.

I am excited for this membership year and the opportunity to work together with the fantastic volunteers on the Membership Committee. Join us!

"Rotary, where I belong!"

Welcome New Rotarian...

By Dennis C. Smith, RCLB President #105



Greg White has been a friend of mine since 1981 when he was a freshman and I was a sophomore at Pitzer College. While he has changed a bit since then, the core of what is Greg has not.

After college Greg worked for American Funds as a wholesale representative, in which capacity he co-



President



Jean Bixby Smith
Assistant to the President



Marcelle H. Epley
Vice President



Joseph Wayne Hower PE, DEE
Vice President



Debra Kahookele
Vice President



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

sponsored Leslie Wiberg and fellow Rotarian Craig Cross. Seeing the other side of the business, Greg made the transition in 2005 to becoming a Financial Consultant with Schwab, where he continues to consult as a Vice-President with CFP and CWS designations.

From college through his career, with his work in the community, Greg has always exemplified the 4-Way Test. When his son Zack, a recent graduate from Rivier University, became a Scout, Greg immediately jumped in to volunteer. Even though his son has not been a Scout for several years, the Long Beach Boy Scouts still see Greg showing up to help at events.

Besides son Zach, Greg and his wife Maria have a daughter Julianna who is a junior at Cal State Fullerton. Greg is a willing partner to join a group playing a round of golf, or just to get together and enjoy each other's company. When you have a chance, find the big guy with the big smile, and introduce yourself to our newest Rotarian, **Greg White**.



[International Service Director](#)



[Sarah Soriano](#)
Membership Service Director



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)
Youth Service Director



[Alfredo Velasco](#)
iPast President



[Steve M. Hockett](#)
President-Elect



[Kelly Ruggirello](#)
President-Nominee



[Donald E. Cochran](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

Have you voted?

ELECTION COMMITTEE VOTE (the 7 will select the 2026-27 RCLB President)

- Ballots sent via email/snail mail **must arrive in the office by 10:00am - September 20**



Service Club Month - A Message from our President

By Michele A. Dobson, RCLB President #107

On Tuesday September 19th, the City of Long Beach will issue a proclamation in recognition of **September as Service Club Month**.

Join us at the City Council meeting
411 W. Ocean Boulevard Civic Chambers
on September 19th at 5PM
to show our support for this item.

Thank you for **Councilwoman Zendejas**,
Vice Mayor Allen and **Councilmember Kerr**
for leading on this recognition!



Reading By 9 Celebrates 25th Year on September 20th

By Frank R. Newell, RCLB President #83

Please mark your calendar and join us this Wednesday, **September 20th**, at Rotary to be part of our 25th year of fundraising! As the meeting date approaches, we will provide more information on this year's programs being supported, matching grants, examples of what your donation will accomplish and how to donate if you are unable to attend on September 20th. Don't be surprised if I, or one of the other 20 Literacy Committee members, encourages you to attend and support the Reading by 9 Program. You can be assured that the Literacy Committee will work hard to maximize the effectiveness of your donation to provide books; support preschool, TK (transitional kindergarten), and K-3 students, teachers; and nonprofit and community literacy programs, focusing on putting books in the hands of children, especially in underserved areas.



Last year, a fundraising record of nearly \$130,000 was set by more than 120 Rotarians and guests contributing to our success at our Club's 5,000th meeting. This enabled more than **\$1 Million** raised since the program's inception. There have been more than **350,000** books and ebooks donated to Long Beach students, classrooms, libraries and literacy programs. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary we are committed to maximizing our fundraising efforts and identifying programs that address early education and literacy needs in our community. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000, maximize matching donations, and increase as close to 100% Rotarian participation as possible. We realize these are lofty goals, but as we emerge from a pandemic which adversely affected reading progress, it is more important than ever to provide books to especially lower income and at-risk students and support early literacy endeavors.

We look forward to your participation in Wednesday's program to raise funds and celebrate the 25th year of our **READING BY 9** Program. New Rotarians, this is always a fun and inspiring meeting as - in a few minutes - you will see the generosity of our members as hands are raised in the air and thousands of dollars are donated to support having students reading at grade level by age 9. We are glad to be at The Grand to again raise funds to benefit students in the Long Beach community!

Thanks to all for your past support. We hope you will again consider a generous donation to benefit our community's students as we celebrate 25 years of the Rotary Club of Long Beach's Reading by 9 Program.

Frank Newell, On Behalf of the Literacy Committee including...

Tina Barry	John Graham	Solimar Salas
Don Cochran	Stephanie James	Dennis Smith
Kay Cofield	Laura Knapp	Sarah Soriano
Theresa Cornwell	Brett Lewis	Jennifer Stout
Shel-lee Davis	Braden Phillips	Debbie Thorpe
Diane Donaldson	Brian Russell	Nel Varenas
Dan Garrett	Judy Ross	Leslie Wiberg

New Member Proposals

The following are being proposed as members of the Rotary Club of Long Beach. Their names are hereby submitted to the membership for a 10-day period as required by the Bylaws. Any comments can be addressed to the President or the Executive Director of the Club during this 10-day period.

Ryan Antes - Partner - Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck LLP

Proposed Classification: Attorney - Civil Litigation

Proposed by: Steve Keesal and Gail Schwandner

Manisha Patel Dhanak - Consulting Director of Operations, Transformational Living Homes

Proposed classification: Consultant - Small Businesses and Start-Ups

Proposed by: Dana Buchanan and David Lott

Jeff Kellogg - Owner, 10R Recruit

Proposed classification: Construction - Recruiting and Consulting

Proposed by: Richard Dempsey and John Mulvey

September 19th, 4:00-5:15 PM
RCLB Board of Directors Meeting

September 20, 12:00-2:00 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Dr. Karyn Scisum Gunn - CSULB Provost
Subject: "Equity Begins with Us: The Positive Impacts of Programs & Philanthropy"
Plus: Reading by 9 Fundraiser with Frank Newell

September 21st, 8:00-9:00 AM
Business Breakfast Roundtable : in person
Speaker: Business Insurance with Lori Dwight
\$10/person for breakfast
Subject: Everything You Need to Know About Business Insurance with Lori Dwight of State Farm

September 22nd, 5:00-7:00 PM
Mozambique: An Evening with Justin Arana
Speaker: Justin Arana - Water Underground
Subject: Catch up with the Progress of the Water Well Systems in Mozambique
RSVP required through Matt Kinley

September 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM
ROTARY ROOTS Lunch Program - Fall 2023
Rotary Roots - individual member hosts

September 28th, 2:00-3:00 PM
Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club

October 4th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Congressman Robert Garcia
OFFSITE: The Growing Experience Urban Farm

October 11th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Meredith Tekin
Subject: Long Beach an Autism Certified City?

October 12th, 2:00-3:00 PM
Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club

October 11th, 5:30-8:00 PM
Rotary Sunset Cruise
Annual Sunset Cruise and LBYC Dinner

October 14th, 8:00-9:00 AM
Centennial Park Clean-up

October 17th, 4:00-5:15 PM
RCLB Board of Directors Meeting



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

September 20, 2023 - Vol. 107, Issue 11

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Social Media Pages**

