



ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP – ARTS - BUSINESS - SERVICE FABS

Birthdays



[Mark A. Kachigan](#)
December 14th



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)
December 17th



[Natalie Hale](#)
December 19th



[Tony T. Chi](#)
December 20th



[Dawn McIntosh](#)
December 20th



[Laura Doyle](#)
December 21st



[Cathy Wieder](#)
December 21st



[Jeremy Harris](#)
December 24th



[Dan Garrett Jr.](#)
December 28th



[Dorian Bolick](#)
December 28th



[Joseph Wayne Hower](#)
[PE, DEE](#)
December 28th



[Goran Reil](#)
December 29th

This Week's Program

Wednesday, December 13

â€œElfing Around the Queen-Mas Treeâ€



[Robert G. Foster](#)
January 1st

The Queen Mary - Queen's Salon

LUNCH - 12:00 Noon

Reservations CLOSED - Wait List Only

PROGRAM - 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Master Magician
Jeff Parmer

Special Participatory
"Name That Tune"



White Elephant
Gift Exchange

To Participate
Bring a Wrapped Gift
\$20-\$30 (Value)

Naughty Santa Appearance



Program Entertainment
Long Beach Camerata Singers



NEXT Rotary Club of Long Beach MEETING - January 10, 2024 @ THE GRAND

Wonderful Years Ahead!

By Steve M. Hockett, President-elect



Mark Gray
January 3rd



Mary Zendejas
January 7th



Robert W. Latimer
January 9th

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



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. Officer



Rayne Sherman
Career Service Director



Robyn Gordon-
Peterson
Community Service
Director



Stephen B. Shaw
Club Service Director

President-designate **Wayne Slavitt** - President-nominee **Kelly Ruggirello** - President-elect **Steve Hockett**

I hope everyone had fun with this year's reveal.

Fun is the optimal word here as we seek to

Meet our Community's Service Needs with Fun and Fellowship!

I thank each of these great Rotarians for agreeing to serve and remembering the Rotary Call to Action - When a Rotarian asks, you can't say no!

I wish everyone a fantastic holiday season!

Hockett #108

Thank you

2024-2025 Rotary Club of Long Beach (RCLB) Board of Directors



Steve Hockett
President



Kelly Ruggirello
President-elect



Wayne Slavitt
President-nominee



Michele Dobson
Immediate Past President



Kay Cofield
Assistant
to the President



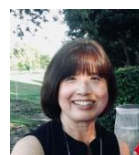
Braden Phillips
Assistant
to the President



John Romunstad
Secretary
Treasurer



Don Cochran
Rotary Foundation
Liaison



Madrid Zimmerman
Club Executive Director
Executive Secretary



Rich Gibson
Vice President



Lance Kenyon
Vice President



Linda Rahn
Vice President



Mike Rivard
Vice President



Roger Civaleri
Sergeant-at-Arms



Lisa Finn
Sergeant-at-Arms



Randy Kemner
Sergeant-at-Arms



Dan Tapia
Sergeant-at-Arms

Service Directors



Nancy Zwiers
Career



Tim Aldrete
Club



Lisa Ramelow
Communications



Leslie Wiberg
Community



Paul Kaminski
Fellowship



Matt Kinley
International



Sarah Soriano
Membership



Debbie Thorpe
Membership



Conor Weir
Youth



Lisa Finn
Fellowship Service
Director



Matthew L. Kinley
International Service
Director



Sarah Soriano
Membership Service
Director



Conor Kenneth Weir
Youth Service Director



Alfredo Velasco
Past President



Steve M. Hockett
President-elect



Kelly Ruggirello
President-nominee



Donald E. Cochran
Rotary Foundation
Chair

Welcome New Rotarian

By Steve M. Hockett, President-elect





Stu Ledsam’s family emigrated from Australia and became Naturalized U.S. Citizens. He was raised in Beaumont, a town of 4500 people. As a boy, he worked on ranches, picked fruit, and cleaned horse stalls. Later, Stu’s parents moved into the city so the boys could attend a university. He began by attending junior college where he excelled in wrestling and studied Chemistry and Mathematics. From there, he earned his way into UCLA, found rugby, and was on the team that won 2 national championships. In 1974, he moved to Long Beach and founded the Belmont Shore Rugby Club, now the best USA team.

In 1983, he started his business and was one of the first contractors in California to earn his Hazardous Materials Certification. He worked for numerous large corporations and the US Army Corp of Engineers to clean up military bases such as Marine Corp Training Depot, Camp Pendleton, Joint Forces in Los Alamitos, Camp Roberts, Hamilton Field, Naval Air Station North Island, POLB, POLA, etc.

In 2018, Stu married Paula, the most wonderful woman on the planet. They have four children: Kyle, Amanda, Hilary, and Kendra. The girls were a little stressful, but he survived. The girls have made up for the torment by delivering six grandchildren.

Stu has been on the Los Altos YMCA Board for 7 years, was its Fundraiser for 4 years, and led the campaign raising a total of 1 Million Dollars.

To add to Stu’s fundraising resume, in 2022, he decided to create long-term funding for the Belmont Shore Rugby Club and by year-end raised \$350,000.

Please join me in WELCOMING our newest Long Beach Rotarian, STU LEDSAM!

Welcome New Rotarian

By Jeff Levine



When I think of **Donna Wajid**, I am reminded of Proverbs 22:9. It states, “Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.”

While we usually think of eyes as being beautiful, a bountiful eye is one that sees the inherent dignity in, and intrinsic value of others. Donna sees people in this way and has a heart that is activated to do whatever she can to see others flourish. Whether it is her daily food distribution to the most vulnerable of our community or her outreach efforts to areas of our City where many of us would never go, her life embodies service over self.

Donna is the CEO of Watchitgrow, a non-profit organization providing recovery and transitional housing services.

She has already been regularly attending our weekly meetings. Join me in officially welcoming Donna to the Rotary Club of Long Beach.

Welcome New Rotarian

By Randy W. Gordon, Past President #88



Jon Mesko was born in San Antonio, one of 9 children. He spent most of his early years in Traverse City, Michigan where he graduated from high school and then onto Davenport University in Grand Rapids earning a Business degree. Jon’s dad was in the Army serving and wounded in the Korean War. Jon got involved in Bike racing and was the Junior National Downhill Mountain Bike Champion at 18 years old and Captain of the US Junior team at the World Championships.

Jon moved to the Southern CA beaches in 2002 to pursue a professional beach volleyball career at age 28. In 2006 he was a Nominee for AVP Rookie of the Year. He continues to play on the professional circuit today. Jon is also a former Commercial Pilot.

Jon is currently the Executive Director of the nonprofit, Long Beach Blast, which was founded 22 years ago on the dream of providing academic and personal mentorship to the most disadvantaged youth in Long Beach. They work year-round to help over 1,000 youth to learn basic life skills, goal setting, and character development.

Prior to arriving at Blast 18 months ago, Jon was the first and largest Franchisee of six Rock and Brews restaurants and worked with rock star Gene Simmons of the band KISS. They were successful in building a Rock and Brews in 100 days. He also opened Serve on Second in Hermosa Beach.

When not playing volleyball he likes to watch his 16 year old son, Logan, play football at Rolling Hills Prep. He lives in Hermosa Beach on the Strand near the famous Mesko courts—always ready for a pick up game.

His favorite movie is *Ace Ventura* and is a world class expert on any line from the TV series *Seinfeld*! He is also a solid poker player.

Come Ring the Bell!

By Stephen B. Shaw, Club Service Director



Hi Fellow LB Rotarians,

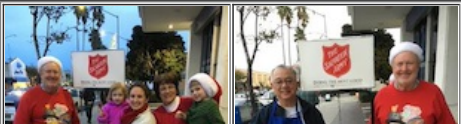
We are Ringing the Salvation Army’s Bell on **Saturday, December 23rd** in front of the **Chase Bank**, located at **5200 E. 2nd Street, Long Beach, (Belmont Shore)**.

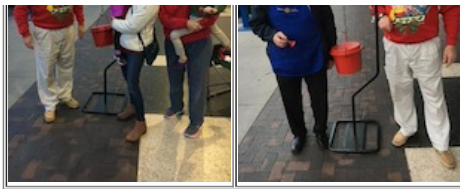
We need at least **two people for each 1 hour slot**, starting from **9:00am until 6:00pm**. Feel free to bring your friends and family. The more the merrier. The assignment will be the first one who emails back to Steve Shaw. It’s a fun event that the Rotary Club of LB has been doing for decades.

If you have questions feel free to contact:
Steve Shaw (562) 453-5202; Email: steve.shaw47@aol.com
Dan Garrett (619) 715-5172; Email: dan.garrett@usw.salvationarmy.org

Ho Ho Ho!!!
Steve
steve.shaw47@aol.com

TIME	RINGER 1	RINGER 2
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Natalie Hale (2)	Natalie Hale (2)
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Lori Dwight (4)	Lori Dwight (4)
11:00 - 12:00 NOON	The Shaw Family (6)	The Shaw Family (6)
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Mike Rivard (4)	Mike Rivard (4)
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Doug Coleman	Diane Donaldson
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Conor Weir - Interact	Conor Weir - Interact
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Conor Weir - Interact	Conor Weir - Interact
4:00 - 5:00 PM	John Graham	
5:00 - 6:00 PM		





RoToastados

by John Graham, RoToastados President



RoToastados A Rotary Toastmasters Alliance Club

Special Event December 14th, 2023 2pm Pacific

RoToastados is pleased to offer the first of a speaking series on "Rotary Visions". This event will feature speeches by Roy Jefferson, Rotary D5320 Governor and Dr. Henry Fung, Rotary Club of Long Beach. Roy will present his vision for D5320 collaboration with Toastmasters and Henry will present a process for creating vision for the Rotary Club of Long Beach. If you are a member, please sign up for your role today <https://vor.toastmastersclubs.org/>. If you are a guest, please register at <https://bit.ly/roto5320-registration>. Join us Thursday online at 2pm.

We are proud to say that in less than one year we have not only been chartered but have achieved **Distinguished Club** status. Our meetings are fun, educational and give our members opportunities to work on projects and speeches important to their professional, Rotary, and personal lives. We are focused on Clubs in Rotary District 5320 but are open to all. We believe that improving your communications and leadership skills are the best way to improve Service Above Self in our communities.

We meet online the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, with variations due to Holidays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time. The Zoom link is open 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after for questions and business issues.

Come join us at our next meeting and experience firsthand RoToastados. We are always looking for best practices and suggestions from all.

John Graham, DTM
RoToastados
2023-24 President

Leadership and Communications Excellence is Key to Effectiveness in Our Communities

<https://gmail.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=322386b0ffe39abfd24840603&id=f4deebb8b6&e=c286a12f4a>

Thanks to Area E Director Patrick Verebely DTM and District Director Keith Jackson, DTM

Happy Holidays!





Calendar Events

December 11th, 9:00-10:00 AM
Bikes for Kids - Ceremony
Bikes for Kids - Awards Ceremony

December 19th, 4:00-5:15 PM
RCLB Board of Directors Meeting
CANCELLED for December

January 3rd, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
DARK - No weekly meeting this week

January 16th, 4:00-5:15 PM
RCLB Board of Directors Meeting

December 12th, 2:15-4:00 PM
Bikes for Kids Giveaway/Safety Check
Bikes for Kids Giveaway/Safety Check
Winners are fitted with their bikes

December 20th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
DARK - No weekly meeting this week

January 10th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal -
"Combining Business and Politics"
1st meeting of 2024

January 17th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Ron Gastelum
Subject: So Cal Water Issues

December 13th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
Annual Holiday Luncheon
Plus Long Beach Camerata Singers

December 23rd, 9:00-6:00 PM
Rotary Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army




January 11th, 2:00-3:00 PM
RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club

January 18th, 5:00-7:00 PM
5 O'Clock Somewhere and Rotary Connections
Afterhours mixer with Rotary Connections
Gathering/meeting for prospective members

December 14th, 2:00-3:00 PM
RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club

December 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM
Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting
DARK - No weekly meeting this week

January 13th, 8:00-9:00 AM
Centennial Park Clean-up

 CREATE HOPE in the WORLD	<p>Rotary Club of Long Beach meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon THE GRAND 4101 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815</p> <p><i>LB Skyline Photo Credit Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau</i></p> <p>December 13, 2023 - Vol. 107, Issue 22</p>	<p>Club Office 400 Oceangate, Suite 470 Long Beach, CA 90802 562-436-8181 Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org</p> <p>Visit Long Beach Rotary District 5320 Rotary International</p>	<p>Visit our Social Media Pages</p> <div></div>
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