





# The Wheelbarrow

The Bulletin of the North Stockton Rotary Club

Meeting Tuesday at noon at the Stockton Hilton

2024-2025



## Upcoming Speakers

01/14/25	Jason Perry	GM of ASM for Ball Park, Event Center & The Fox	Stockton Hilton
01/21/25	CEO Scott Watkins	Stockton Symphony and Peter Jaffee Conductor	Stockton Hilton
01/25/25	Mel Hansen Memorial	Outstanding Rotarian in every way. Saturday 10am	DeYoung Shoreline Chapel

### Sunshine Bucks:

**Frank Ferral:** Eager to promote the Chambers new STAART APP to help fight Shoplifting. Through the app they now have 3,000 eyeballs watching for retail theft with 370 incidents reported already. Arrests are being made!

Click ere to join: [STAART](#)

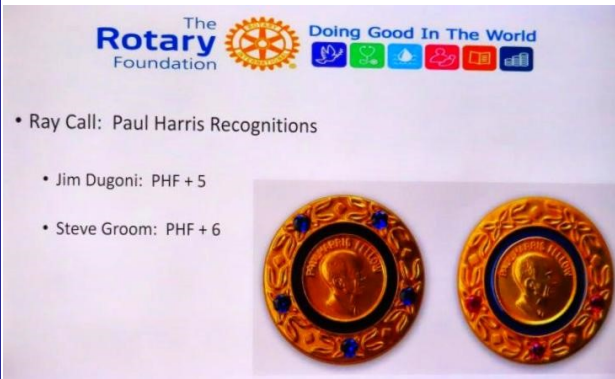
**Jamie Sanchez:** echoed Diane's sentiments and is eager to get started!

**President Andy** gave us an update on Bill McDonald's health. There's not much new to report. The medicine is helping the Covid symptoms and the rheumatoid arthritis. His will visit an oncologist today to discuss treatment options.

### Future Highlights:

**January 20:** Our Annual Speech Contest at Lincoln High.

**February 25:** Rotary Read in. Sign up with **Jim Dugoni**.



The Rotary Foundation  
Doing Good In The World

- Ray Call: Paul Harris Recognitions
- Jim Dugoni: PHF + 5
- Steve Groom: PHF + 6

### Rotary Foundation:

**Ray Call** awarded **Jim Dugoni** his +5 Paul Harris Pin and **Jim** received a well deserved Standing Ovation!



### January 7th in History:

**President Andy** pointed out that Jan. 7th is



“Happy Orthodox Christmas Day” and “I am a Mentor Day”. Not to be outdone, he added it's also, “National Flatulence Day”. I kid you not, this is what I have to work with... Also George Washington was unanimously chosen to be the first President of the United States in 1789.



### Select Facts about the Coopers Hawk **Andy** saw in his back yard:

The Coopers Hawk is very hard to distinguish with their smaller cousin the Sharp Shinned Hawk. They prey on rodents and small birds and can be seen in urban areas by dumpsters and bird feeders. They are a species of special concern, but their numbers are increasing due to the banning of DDT and their adaptation to urban areas.

After so many years of bending over backwards to help everyone, **Richard Carr** had to go to Stanford for back surgery. Please keep **Richard's** recovery in your thoughts and prayers. And now on to our Speaker.



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North Stockton Rotary Club  
Chartered: March 11, 1957  
District 5220  
Mailing Address: PO Box 7184  
Stockton, CA 95267-0184

[www.northstocktonrotary.org](http://www.northstocktonrotary.org)



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Carol Ornelas speaking to NSR

Our Speaker today is **Carol Ornelas**, founder of **Visionary Home Builders**. Started 40 years ago as a dream, they have built over 1600 affordable homes all over California. She has 85 employees. A big goal of hers is to dispel the myth that affordable housing means rundown tenement in 5 years. She says the key is to have diligent qualifying, enforcement of the rules and excellent property management. Their mission is to create and advocate for healthy, vibrant, safe communities through the development of affordable housing and educational opportunities for families, seniors and individuals of low and moderate income.



Grand View Village on Minor Ave, Stockton

OUR VISION is a community where every child and adult have access to **Safe, Decent, Affordable Housing**, along with educational and training opportunities. We believe a home is the foundation which builds a healthy community where families can grow, strive for their dreams and hope for their future.

A non-profit developer, [Visionary Home Builders](#) most significant achievement was its emergence from a small group of farm workers in 1983, whose sole purpose was to improve the living environment for farm workers in public housing into a prominent leader in the development and renovation of housing in the Central Valley region.



Carol standing at the Grand View Village site.

Visionary Home Builders' development of a year-round housing community for farm workers is a vision that began 40 years ago. Starting with the construction of nine self-help homes, and what we've built today, a 70-unit multi-family development known as Casa de Esperanza stands as our shining jewel. This housing community was distinctively designed to house 70 large families in a beautiful environment that includes Head Start, a health clinic, job placement, classes to teach English as a second language and many other services. Living out our vision for **Purposely Built Housing**, Visionary Home Builders is a multi-cultural agency. Our dreams of a small group of farm workers has never been forgotten. We build housing and strengthen communities in the toughest neighborhoods that no other developer would consider. Our road to success has not been an easy path to take but it is rewarding to be recognized along the way.

The housing crisis has been a very difficult time for many of the homeowners in the communities we serve. Through our Homeownership and Rental Center, we play a key role in helping thousands of homeowners who have struggled through the foreclosure process, as well as those seeking loan modifications. The Homeownership and Rental Center has been a great asset to those who are looking to buy a home, avoid foreclosure and assist customers to find rental housing. She stressed they use local contractors and services, and only rent to local qualified tenants. The idea is putting it all back into the community and helping tenants to become home owners. Also, she doesn't build anything she wouldn't live in! Well done and thank you **Carol!**



Andy, Diane, Carol and Valentino

**President Andy** had her sign a children's book and rang the bell at 1:21pm.



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