

Ventura Sunrise Optimist Club

Newsletter April 8, 2017

<http://www.venturasunriseoptimist.org>

ROBOTICS TEAM DINNER

Velma Lomax, who heads Ventura's Robotics team, and two of her star participants, Kiernan Rickard and Nick de la Cruz, spoke to us about their experiences Wednesday at China Kitchen.

Kiernan and Nick are two of about 60 students from Ventura high schools who participate in the Lomax's Robotics class, which is part of the Ventura County Career Education Center. The class meets twice per week from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The team won two regional competitions this year, including one last month at Ventura College and the other at the University of California, Irvine.

Velma pointed out that Robotics students frequently continue their education in college studying STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) following their Robotics experience. Some are working engineers today. About half of the Robotics students either go to college or directly into manufacturing.

"This team has become my entire life," said Nick, a senior who is in his second year with the Robotics team. He's planning on attending Illinois Institute of Technology, which has offered him a \$35,000-per-year scholarship. He says the scholarship is "almost exclusively thanks to what I did in Robotics."

But the Robotics team provides much more than just hands-on experience in engineering.

"What Robotics does," said Velma, "is not just about robots. It creates friendships."



Velma Lomax, Nick de la Cruz and Kiernan Rickard (left to right) from Ventura Robotics team.

In addition to building the robots that have won the competition, the Robotics team also does outreach to schools and Boys and Girls Clubs in Ventura. Sunrise Optimist Club presented Velma and the boys with a check to help defray the cost of the program. They have fund-raised to the tune of \$70,000 this year.

SEASIDE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SPONSORS STILL NEEDED!

Marie Atmore reminds us that time is running out for all of us to get sponsors for this year's Seaside Basketball Tournament. The tournament is by far the Sunrise Optimist Club's biggest fund raiser, providing us with the majority of our annual budget, which we turn around and give back to the youth of our community in the form of scholarships, Student of the Month awards and donations to worthy recipients . . . like the Robotics team, Ventura County Medical Center's youth oncology program and a high school United Nations team.

If you have a favorite plumber, electrician, restaurant, auto mechanic, realtor or other business, see if they'll make a contribution. Marie points out, the worst thing that can happen is they say no. The more money we raise for the tournament, the more money that comes back to us. Also, sign up for a shift (or two) for the tournament, which is Friday through Sunday, April 28, 29 and 30. Marie sent an email sign-up sheet the other day.

KIDS AND FAMILIES TOGETHER GIFT-AWAY

Kim, Kaitlyn, Sean and Lennie recently worked the Spring Kids and Families Together Gift-Away, helping nearly 140 children in the process. Lennie coordinated an arts and crafts project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12 — Board Meeting in the evening at location to be announced.

April 19 — Student of the Month breakfast celebration at Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 7 a.m.

May 6 — Pacific Southwest District Conference at the Optimist Club Youth Home in Eagle Rock. Sunrise Optimist Club contributes to the Youth Home. This is an event that never disappoints; it is heart-warming and validating. More information will follow at the event nears.

May 17 — Student of the Month breakfast celebration at Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 7 a.m.

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your Peace of mind

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize

others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit

the presence of trouble