



(turns out she looks exactly like this, only a little taller)



District Governor 4240 Antonieta (c), Assistant Governor 4240 Diana (l), and some guy.



Our newest members John and Robin (c), District Governor Antonieta (r), and two randos.

Camaraderie doesn't happen by accident; developing a strong sense of trust, accountability, and togetherness around team goals requires intentional effort.

--Don Yaeger

Meeting Highlights

It was wonderful having **District 4240 Governor Antonieta and Assistant Governor Diana** (one of three for our district). They are making the rounds and spent this week's meeting with us. Afterwards, Diana pointed out that of the meetings they've visited so far, ours was the best attended. So kudos to us.

Antonieta's presentation was the highlight of the meeting. She shared her philosophies...

- Work to make ourselves better Rotarians before working to make the community better
- Look to make a lasting impact rather than transient changes in our community

...and then her goals for her one-year term.

- Modernize the administrative organization of District 4240 with a comprehensive review of the constitution.
- Looking to increase membership quality as well as quantity.
- Endeavoring to inspire and motivate all the clubs in the district.

She spoke of Nolan's work with Mas Millas Menos Polio—when you donate towards Rotary's polio campaign, be sure to use Nolan's links so that our club gets credit.

She also encouraged our attendance at the **annual district conference** in San Salvador, El Salvador on **January 22/23, 2027**. It will mark the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in Costa Rica and El Salvador. In addition to the usual conferences (some in English!), there will be *fiestas* (and something about open bars). Early registration is \$295 if by September 30. I was unable to find more information on myrotary.org. Eric or Lynn should have it. (But do go to your MyRotary.org—lots of good information there).

While you're at it, check out AtenasRotary.org. See Joe if you didn't get Lynn's memo on how to access that site. Do this and Lynn promises fewer texts and emails.

More Meeting Highlights

The other meeting highlight was the induction (by the Governor, no less) of our two newest members, **Robin and John**. What I personally know of these fine individuals lends credence to Governor Antonieta's point of adding quality and not just quantity. Robin is our new head of the fundraising committee. John brings an expertise that will help with our desk project.



Officers & Committee Chairs

President

Eric Snyder

President Elect

Russell Herold

Treasurer

Rosie Olds

Secretary

Lynn Snyder

Sgt-at-Arms

Holly Herold

Foundation Chair

Chris Toal

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Membership

Lynn Snyder

Bulletin and general mayhem

Joe Rossi

PR/Website

Shannon Farley

Programs

Leslie Mueller

Sunshine Committee

Betty Van Putten

Fundraising

Robin Sabine

Club Events

Mary Beth Clark

Service Projects

Joe Rossi

Outreach

OPEN POSITION

Following the induction of Robin and John, we had the following reports for the Governor's benefit (and to shorten our after-meeting meeting).

- The on-again-off-again water project with the asada in San Isidro is on-again. We think. Stay tuned.
- Desks are coming to Escuela Jesus. We hope to have a mock-up and first desk by our next meeting. Come see it.
- We're up to 19 members, with 2 more—Chris and Ingrid—on their way. Maybe they'll come with the desk.
- Fundraising goals for 2026/27
 - Two big events (bingo and a cultural fair highlighting Costa Rica's indigenous population).
 - Three smaller events with local Atenas fairs in the park.
 - A new tent and banner for our smaller events so that we can attract new members.
 - Possible partnering with local restaurants, hoping to increase their business and get them to donate to Rotary Atenas
 - Overall, the Fundraising Committee is striving to lay a foundation to facilitate future projects. It's a good time to join this committee.
- Shannon is knocking it out of the park with our social media presence. Look for us on Facebook (Atenas Rotary) and share with your own social media sites. Spread the word. Did you know Rotary International membership is down in the last five years? Please take a look at PDG Antonio's most recent Sunday Newsletter for ideas to reverse the trend.

Member News & Happy Dollars

Today's guests:

- Kenny came to our meeting in place of his wife Katja, who couldn't make it. Hopefully, we'll see her next meeting.
- Chip is newly located to Atenas from Pennsylvania.
- Denis is a Rotarian from Belize, who is also relocating to Costa Rica.
- Pat is John's wife. She's going to be involved in our club too, even if she never joins. And she's fluent in Spanish. John and I already dragged her to Guacima to talk to a sandblaster (turns out he speaks better English than I do).
- District Governor Antonieta and Assistant Governor Diana, of course.

All joined the usual cast of reprobates: Eric, Lynn, Chris, Everett, Joe, Robin, John, Nancy, Leslie, Shannon, MaryBeth, Fabricio, and Russell.

Happy People

- Eric, Lynn, Leslie, Nancy, Chris are always happy
- Denis—yeah, guest Denis—is happy just to see our happy club
- Antonieta and Diana—more happy guests. Antonieta specifically mentioned our club's camaraderie.

Upcoming Events

If you're reading this, you've missed the first weekend of Nolan's **Mas Millas Menos Polio** (follow him on Facebook for more information). Eric and Lynn went because...well... they're better Rotarians than we are. But the good news is there are still two more weekends for you to attend. The first is in September. Shannon has these great PDF files (that I cannot reproduce here) that tells you everything. *Maybe* they're on our Facebook site?



Sept 19-20

From Tres Equis to Matina

Stage 4: Tres Equis - Siquirres

Sep 19



Stage 5: Siquirres - Cimarrones

Sep 19



Stage 6: Cimarrones – Estrada

Sep 20



MaryBeth hosts Gringo Bingo every Wednesday at 1130 at Restaurante Casona Michoacana in Los Angeles. Proceeds go to the **Hogar de Ancianos**.

Nancy is collecting donations for a gift for Dave Mullins. She hopes to brighten his spirits with a lap desk. (Joe wants you all to know how much he's struggling to not make a lap dance joke).

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Nancy (who's clearly a better person than Joe) is also collecting donated **clothes for the adult daycare center** next to the Red Cross. Look in your closets and get them to her by October 2.

Next Meetings

- September 3rd **Lucy Jackson**, a nurse practitioner with hospice experience, will be speaking about aging gracefully.
- September 17th **Denise Gillen**, a former senior zookeeper at the San Diego zoo, will be speaking about animal conservation in Costa Rica.
- Both of these September meetings afford us a great opportunity to invite guests and recruit! We hit 19 people this past week. Maybe we can get more than that. Use your social media.

And finally...

Did you know that Rotary International's president is Olayinka (Yinka) Hakeem Babalola of Nigeria?



if you know, you know