

	<p style="text-align: center;">ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE SHORELINES</p>			
<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p>Anchisa Farrant Photographer</p>	<p>Dan Wilson Reporter</p>	<p>CO-PRESIDENTS Roger Vanderwerken Paul Wendee</p>

August 8, 2025

OPENING: At precisely 12:30 pm, the ever-punctual **RENEE RICHARDSON** rang the bell and brought the meeting to order by asking, “You’re probably wondering why I’m opening this meeting?”
*{*Note: I would bet money that practically no one was wondering that, as we’re all so used to **RENEE** running the show! Sorry, I digress.}*
RENEE then proceeded to introduce our newest co-President team of



ROGER VANDERWERKEN and **PAUL WENDEE** for Rotary Year 2025-26 and, before turning over the meeting to them, handed each of the co-Presidents a piece of paper with the emblems of the respective military branch they served in – **ROGER** in the Navy and **PAUL** in

the Army. She then asked each of them to lead the club in singing their service hymns or songs. **ROGER** led the way by singing a beautiful rendition of “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” which, being used to hearing the more familiar “Anchors Aweigh”, I must admit I had never heard before. Next up was former Army artillery officer **PAUL**, who proceeded to load and fire a...dud. Sweating profusely and stammering that he couldn’t remember the words (which were on a piece of paper in his hand), **PAUL** was saved by a few other Army vets in the audience, including our treasured Korean War Army veteran **BOB PICKREL**. As much as I hate to admit it, on this day at least, Navy beat Army. Do pushups, **PAUL!** **RENEE** then reminded everyone who was really in charge by having everyone sing the Marine Corps Hymn to finish up the opening and finally allowed **ROGER** to proceed with the meeting.

PLEDGE: **ROGER** asked your erstwhile Shorelines reporter to lead the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.



FOUR WAY TEST: DANA ALBERT led the attendees in reciting the Four Way Test.



CLUB UPDATES: ROGER began by observing that he had been given the symbol of his office, the gavel, which brought to mind another meeting he had once attended where the guest speaker went over his allotted speaking time. Told he had 20 minutes for his presentation, when the speaker hit 30 minutes the President tried to catch the speaker's eye but failed, and when the speaker hit 45 minutes the President stood up and pointed to his watch, but the guy ignored him and just kept talking. At the 60-minute mark, the President finally ran out of patience and threw his gavel at the long-winded speaker. Unfortunately, the President's aim was off, and the gavel hit one of the club members sitting near the front. The poor guy winced, but quickly recovered and said to the President, "Hit me again, I can still hear the guy talking!" (ba-dum-tss!) Great to see our new co-President starting off his first meeting with a little humor, but don't quit your day job, **ROGER!** 😊

Other club updates included:

Friday, August 15th – Board Meeting via Zoom at 12:00pm.

Friday, August 22nd – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club.

Featured program is Meals on Wheels.

Friday, August 29th – DARK for Labor Day.

Friday, September 12th – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club.

Guest Speaker is Paul Dwork.

Friday, September 19th – Board Meeting via Zoom at 12:00pm.

Friday, September 26th – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club.

Distinguished visitor and speaker will be District Governor Luis Carranza.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS: Before turning over the microphone to **PAUL** for introduction of guests, **ROGER** unleashed our Sergeant at Arms **ANCHISA FARRANT** to both reward and punish those members who were either wearing or forgot to wear their Rotary pin. Those members who were wearing their Rotary pin received an extra ticket for the opportunity drawing while those who forgot were fined \$1. While I love both this new tradition and the return of fines, it should be noted that even with the extra ticket, your reporter has still never won an opportunity to draw for the joker and the big prize. Maybe two extra tickets would help?

ED PARISH introduced his frequent club meeting date and familiar guest, **ANNE SPERAW**.

RENEE introduced three guests seated at her table, but began by reminding everyone that the Rotary International theme for this month is “Membership” and calls for all members to introduce at least one person to a Rotary Club meeting or service project. She then asked us to welcome **ESTHER SANCHEZ**, Mayor of Oceanside; **VALERIE DOLAN**, a 25-year resident of Oceanside and retired Family Law attorney; and **ARIEL REYES**, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Resource Center. Welcome to all of you!



WELCOME SONG: **ROGER** then informed us that **VICKIE PROSSER** was supposed to lead us in song at this meeting but unfortunately was involved in a serious accident a few days ago on Camp Pendleton. As most of you probably already know, **VICKIE** suffered some serious injuries that could have been much worse, and we are all thankful that she is relatively “okay” and already on the mend. We’re all thinking of you, **VICKIE**, and wish you a speedy recovery! *{LATEST UPDATE: By the time that this newsletter was ready to publish, VICKIE had already progressed to the point where she could be transferred from the hospital to a rehab facility – Pacific Villas Post Acute at 3200 Thunder Drive – and she is more than up for visitors. Call her at 760-717-7744 to wish her well and/or set up a time to drop by!}*

DAVE HALL jumped in to fill **VICKIE’S** absence nicely with a rousing rendition of our club standard, “Welcome to Oceanside.” Thanks, **DAVE!**



PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: RENEE called **JANEY BLEDSOE LACY** forward for a special presentation of her recently earned Past President badge. This was **JANET's** first meeting back after suffering a serious illness back in December, and remarked that she was so happy to finally be back. We're glad to have you back too, **JANET!**



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS: Unable to be present but still celebrating 58 years of matrimony this month is **VICKIE PROSSER**. Also, congratulations to **JANET** and **STEPHEN LACY** celebrating 51 years since they both said, "I do!"

Still enjoying family time in Wisconsin but celebrating a Rotary milestone this month is **TOM BRAULT**, who has been a member of our club for 35 years. We'd also like to congratulate **BILL DERN**, who is splitting time between here and Las Vegas as he celebrates his 27th year in Rotary, as well as **RICHARD JENNINGS** who just hit his one-year anniversary in the club. Thanks to all of you for your Service Above Self!

Celebrating birthdays this month are **VICKIE PROSSER** on August 2nd, **TERRI HALL** on August 21st, and **DARREL LARSON** on August 25th. **TERRI** combined her birthday and wedding anniversary that she missed in June by donating \$140 to the Oceanside Rotary Foundation, while **DARREL** was \$64 happy for his upcoming birthday. Happy Birthday, Rotarians!



WHO AM I: New member **LAURA BASSETT** gave an outstanding "Who Am I" presentation to the attendees. **LAURA** was born and raised in Oceanside and graduated from El Camino High School. She then went on to attend the University of Southern California and earn her degree in Accounting. Returning home, she discovered that accounting really wasn't her thing, but soon got a little busy raising six kids (five girls and a boy), and while homeschooling them, discovered that she could both raise her family and have a rewarding career as a real estate

agent. After doing that for several years, she joined her mom, **COLLEEN O'HARRA** (who just recently retired at the age of 88!) in the fiduciary business and in 2021 became a fully licensed fiduciary. **LAURA** specializes in trust and probate administration, as well as power of attorney and bill paying services. If you need help in one of those areas, you should give her a call!

LAURA also shared that, following in the footsteps of her mom and great-uncle, she decided to run for elected office on the Oceanside City Council in 2024. While she did not win, **LAURA** said that it was a great experience, and she really enjoyed getting to meet the people of her district and listening to their stories. The upside of not winning the election was that she gets to spend a lot more time with her year and half old granddaughter who is her "Mini Me". Sounds like a victory to me!

Finally, **LAURA** shared that her youngest daughter just left for the Dominican Republic where she will be teaching English, and that she just returned from a trip to Ireland where one of the highlights was touring the Titanic museum in Belfast. Welcome to the club, **LAURA**! It's wonderful to get to know you and you sound like you personify the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self"!

HAPPY DOLLARS: BOB PICKREL led off by being \$5 happy to have **JANET** back with us.

LAURA BASSETT was \$10 happy for her upcoming 40th reunion at El Camino High School.



ED PARRISH was \$5 happy to simply be at the meeting.

And last but not never least, **DAVE HALL** was finally \$57 happy to the Oceanside Rotary Foundation for his wedding anniversary back in June. No word on whether the reason for the delay was that he had to think about it. Kidding, **TERRI**, kidding! ☺



ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GUESTS AND CLUB MEMBERS: **RENEE** reminded everyone about the trip to the Moonlight Amphitheatre on August 15th, starting with dinner at her and **PAUL'S** place at 6:00

pm. She asked that everyone attending RSVP so she knows how much food and drink to order.

PROGRAM: In lieu of our normal guest speaker presentation, today's meeting was our semi-annual Club Assembly where the President, or in this case the Co-Presidents, give(s) what could also probably be called their "State of the Club" speech. Co-President **ROGER** did an excellent job of laying out where we are, and more importantly where we are going to go over the next Rotary year. Thanks to **RENEE**, each attendee was handed a very detailed packet to provide details on what would be talked about today. Hopefully that packet will be attached to this newsletter and I will hit the highlights here:

ROGER began by asking each Rotarian to think about, discuss, and bring ideas for the following question: "How can we sustain and grow this club, and continue to make an impact in our community well into the future?" Great leading question, **ROGER**, and it will be interesting to hear what our members come back with!

ROGER then turned the microphone over to **RENEE**, covering for Foundation President **BILL DERN** who is away living with family in Las Vegas, to give an update on the Oceanside Rotary Foundation. **RENEE** highlighted both the purpose of the Foundation, which is a separate and distinct entity from the club, and clarified how monies can be donated to the Foundation. The first is to the Endowment Fund, where only the interest is used to support charitable efforts. The other way to donate is to the Supplementary Fund, which is used for immediate impact projects, causes, or emergencies. **RENEE** reiterated that if you don't designate which fund you want your money to go to when you donate, it will go into the Supplementary Fund. She also mentioned that club members who donate \$1000 or more to the Endowment Fund are honored as President's Fellows and are then eligible to serve on the Foundation Board. Last, all donations to the Oceanside Rotary Foundation are 100% tax deductible under 501(c)(3) guidelines.

Using the 2025-26 budget as a framework, **ROGER** then highlighted several specific areas of the budget with the help of a few other key members of the club. He mentioned the money that we pay to Rotary International in dues, and the programs that have such a tremendous impact around the globe including our polio eradication efforts and the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. He also touched on the budget line item to send the President to the Rotary International

Convention, which this year will take place in Taipei, Taiwan. Instead of going to Taipei, **RENEE** will attend a Zone 25/26 get together in New Mexico which she described as four days of Rotary on steroids and will include things like a “Shark Tank” style of event where people will present various ideas for global grants.

Next up were the more boring budget line items of the stipends for the club’s Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the fees we pay for using Club Runner. **ROGER** described the stipends as “chump change” and doesn’t begin to cover how much they do for the club. **RENEE** also jumped in to remind people that if they’re not receiving regular emails from her, then they probably haven’t set up their Club Runner account. It’s easy to do and can be done quickly from the Member section on Club Runner.

Turning to some of our key fundraising events, **ROGER** talked first about our annual “Boat Ride with Santa” event coming up in December and then produced an audible gasp from a few in the audience by unmasking our own **DARREL LARSON** as **SANTA CLAUS**! Come on, **ROGER**, some of us still believe! Seriously though, **ROGER** then recounted the day when **DARREL** literally saved Christmas (or at least our Christmas boat ride fundraiser) by finding a costume and becoming Santa in about 30 minutes when the original Santa was a no show at the harbor.

Keeping **DARREL** in the spotlight, **ROGER** then turned to our “Grow a Brighter Future” fundraiser that will take place on October 17th. **DARREL** talked about the fun that was had last year, the great professional auctioneer that will return this year, the great prizes people can bid on, and that the key is to get as many of our friends and acquaintances there to participate in the event as possible. To encourage that, tickets prices will be much lower this year, probably in the \$25 range.

Next up was the outstanding annual Goat for Joe golf tournament and mental health fair that **DANA ALBERT** started while a member of the San Marcos Rotary Club. **DANA** said that the event was moving a week earlier on the calendar this year to avoid competition with the plethora of other events which normally occur later in May. This year the event will occur on May 2nd, so mark your calendars!

Moving to our impact in the community, **ROGER** highlighted several long running programs that will continue into the next year. **DANA** talked about the LEAD and RYLA leadership camps where we sponsor 8th graders (LEAD) and 11th graders (RYLA) to grow their servant leadership, and **PAUL** mentioned the great experience he had as a RYLA mentor this past year and encouraged others to get involved. **DANA**, as the new Youth Programs Committee Chair, also highlighted his desire to start an Interact Club at Lincoln Middle School. Great idea, **DANA**!

TINA ORTIZ spoke briefly about the impact of our annual contribution to the MiraCosta College Medal of Academic Merit Fund, and how that helps the college recognize the best of the best of their student body. **JANET** mentioned that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship that we support every year is entering its 32nd year of supporting deserving kids in Oceanside, while **ROGER** observed that he and Martin Luther King, Jr. not only share the same birthday, but the same theological ordination!

Finally, **PAUL** mentioned our Launch Oceanside initiative which we started in the last Rotary year to encourage budding entrepreneurs, and was proud to report that we just recently completed our very successful first seven-week cohort. That group has moved into the mentorship phase, and **PAUL** stated that we could use more mentors willing to share their business or leadership experience. He also talked briefly about our growing partnerships with Rotary clubs across the border, the great programs they put on such as the Day of the Kings event in Tijuana, and how they always feel safe and secure travelling across the border to visit our friends in Baja.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: With only ten cards remaining in the deck, anticipation was high that someone might finally win the \$1000 prize. Mysteriously though, when the winning ticket number was called, no one came forward to claim their prize. Perpetual winner **ANCHISA** gave her tickets several looks before concluding that today was not, for once, her lucky day. There was also speculation that our very own absent-minded professor, **PAUL**, might have had the ticket and not realized it but in the end, it was decided to draw another



number. On the second try, **ANNE SPERAW** held the winning ticket but drew the Queen of Spades, so the deck is now down to nine cards! Might be worth buying extra tickets at the next meeting!

ADJOURNMENT: Following an outstanding and very informative meeting, we can forgive **ROGER** for adjourning the meeting a few minutes late at 1:34 pm. Great job guys! We all look forward to the exciting Rotary year ahead for us!

ROTARY DAY AT THE RACES

Co-President Paul Wendee and Secretary Renee Richardson joined the Del Mar Rotary Club and 50 other Rotarians from the District 5340 for a Day at the Races. The weather was perfect, and the fellowship opportunities endless. The day included raffle opportunities as well as an online auction! Your club Secretary lost on all accounts!

“Outbid on the auction items, lost the raffle drawing, and my bets on my horses went south! Despite all that, here I am with a big smile, enjoying a Rotary day, not planning, not running a meeting, not organizing.”



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, August 15th – Board Meeting at Noon via ZOOM – All are invited to see what happens behind the scenes for the club. Contact RENEE for link

Friday, August 15th - “Rotary Night at the Moonlight” for the classic show “Fiddler on the Roof” – Pizza, Beer, and Wine before the show at RENEE and PAUL’s home.

Friday, August 22nd – Regular meeting – Noon – Program: THERESA BERRY, Meals and Wheels San Diego County

Friday, August 29th – DARK for Labor Day

Friday, September 12th – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club. Guest Speaker is PAUL DWORK – “Magic of Merlin”

Friday, September 19th – Board Meeting via Zoom at 12:00pm.

Friday, September 26th – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club. Distinguished visitor and speaker will be our District Governor Luis Carranza.