



2025-2026

**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES



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February 13, 2026

CORRECTIONS

In our last newsletter we reported that no one at the January 30 meeting knew the answer to Co-President ROGER VANDERWERKEN's mini-quiz question "What country is our current R.I. President from?" Actually, not everybody was stumped, for LOLA SHERMAN correctly had named "Italy" as Rotary's head honcho's homebase. (Of course, had ROGER mentioned that the President's name is "FRANCESCO ARREZO," more of us might have been able to chime in with the answer.)

Also, in our last newsletter and on our Club Updates handouts, the Magic Show scheduled for February 28 was listed as being on a Friday. However, February 28 is a Saturday and that is in fact the confirmed day and date for the event.



To kick off our meeting precisely at 12:30 pm, Co-President ROGER VANDERWERKEN called on one of our newer members JOHN AULT to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then ROGER tabbed "the person with the longest tenure of anyone in the club" JIM SCHRODER to help us to recite the Rotary Four Way Test.



Then it was time for quick commercial. It's that time of the year, and local Girl Scout JULIANA and her Mom stepped forward to offer the chance to buy a box or two (or six) of your favorite cookies. JULIANA's goal is to sell 3,000 boxes this year. Someone asked the obvious follow-up question: "How many have you sold so far?" She replied, "I don't know" ... But Mom knew! At 1,377 boxes, she is well on her way to achieving her goal. Well done, young lady!



ROGER then noted that in the past week, we lost a former member, perennial guest, and “an institution”, RUDY VAN HUNNICK who passed away at the age of 95. Many of us remember the documentary film that was screened at one of our meetings describing RUDY’s upbringing in Holland when U.S. forces liberated them from the Nazi occupation. ROGER opened the floor for members to share some stories and remembrances of our friend. Several of them centered on RUDY’s unique driving style, others on his legendary generosity to the club and to the community. One comment was actually a joke: “How do you make copper wire? ... Have two Dutchmen fighting over a penny.” Before moving on to the rest of the meeting, we all observed a moment of silence in honor of our friend RUDY.

Today’s Songleader “Miss VICKIE” PROSSER warned us that, not only had she been tasked to draft members to serve as song leaders at our meetings going forward in the year, but that whenever SHE would be up front for songs, she might pull one or more of us up to help her out. On this day she selected her “#2 Husband” JIM SCHRODER to be her co-leader in song as we celebrated Valentine’s Day with a rendition of “You Are My Sunshine”, followed by a second song “God Bless America” which she dedicated to BILL DERN since it is always, always one of his favorites.



CLUB UPDATES once again were printed out for our reference and Co-Prez ROGER invited us all to look at the “chartreuse ... or is it teal?” half sheets on the tables. (Everyone else agreed that the papers were actually pink.)

Upcoming Events

Saturday February 28 2PM Rotary Creates Magic Fundraiser at the Carlsbad Cultural Art Center (3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad). Get your tickets at: <https://www.pauldwork.com/upcoming-events> Then click on “Buy Tickets” Be sure to scroll to select Oceanside Rotary under “Choose your Rotary Club” so we can receive credit and a portion of the ticket price. (Tickets cost \$60, but \$36 of that price will come right back to our club.) There was some discussion on whether this event was already sold out, but we double checked and they still are available.

Friday March 27 - Iron Man Service Project (Noon - 5PM). Rotarians of any age can help with the registration process of this event.

Saturday March 28 - Rotary District Training (San Diego) - 8AM to Noon

April 24 to 26 - Multi District Conference

Saturday May 16 - Operation Appreciation to honor the military. Volunteers needed to serve food. This event will take the place of Rotarians at Work. Contact RENEE RICHARDSON to get signed up to serve.

Saturday May 30 - Goat for Joe Golf Tournament

Friday, September 18 – Annual “Rotary Night at the Moonlight” has been set, with 13 of us planning to see the heartwarming musical *Come From Away* at Vista’s Moonlight Amphitheatre at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday February 27 - SCOTT ASHTON, Executive Director Oceanside Chamber of Commerce

Friday, March 13 – LESLEE GAUL, Visit Oceanside

Friday, March 27 – *DARK (No meeting) – Volunteering at Iron Man*

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Our one and only guest was former member BRUCE DE SOTO, who had run into a couple of our members around town recently (RENEE at a winery and ANCHISA at Applebee’s), and both had invited him to come to a meeting for a visit. VICKIE led us all in singing our Welcome Song, especially for BRUCE.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Our one and only February birthday member present at the meeting was DANA ALBERT, who will be celebrating “The Big 5-Oh” this year. LYN CORDER also has a birthday this month, but she wasn’t with us to enjoy hearing us sing “Happy Birthday.” That song had to be restarted and reset since Songleader VICKIE’s voice “disintegrated” after the first line, but in “take two”, the song came off very well.



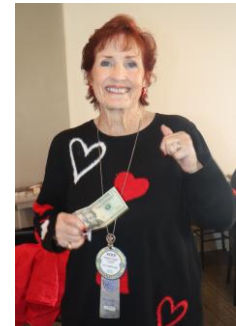
Three members have their CLUB ANNIVERSARIES in February. VICKIE PROSSER has been in the club for 24 years and said that she would roll her recognition of that into her Happy Dollars contribution later. JAY CRAWFORD adamantly claimed to have been in Rotary for 43 years, even though Rotary

International lists him joining 41 years ago. Regardless, JAY told us, “The check is in the mail.” And JIM SCHRODER gave \$48 in honor of his club anniversary. When it was pointed out that he has been in the club almost as long as DANA ALBERT has been alive, JIM grumbled, “That just made my day.” His contribution was collected in a Red Solo Cup, since our traditional shoe was nowhere to be found. Someone joked, “Maybe RUDY took it,” which got a laugh from the crowd since Dutchmen are known to be fond of wooden shoes.



HAPPY DOLLARS

VICKIE followed through on her previously promised Happy Dollars, giving a total of \$40, noting that she was happy to be with us after such a long absence from meetings, and thanking everyone for the visits and prayers during her convalescence.



RENEE RICHARDSON gave \$10 to tell us about attending the Foundation dinner with about 200 guests in attendance – a “night of gratitude” and a “well run event.” On this night, the members of our club who have signed up as Rotary International Bequest Society members (RENEE, NANCY RUSSIAN, and TINA ORTIZ who have all added the R.I. Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills) and TERRI HALL as a Major Donor were honored. And RENEE also mentioned that she will be attending her SEVENTH President Elect training in what is now called “PELS” (President Elect Learning Seminar), perhaps to avoid Rotarians being confused with dogs, cats, rabbits, etc. at a “PETS” event.



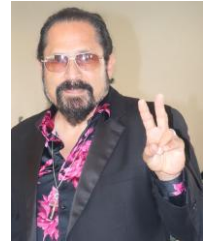
TOM BRAULT handed over a check for \$25 to the R.I. Foundation to crow about the show which he will have a featured role in from March 6 – 15 at Palomar College’s Theatre. The Sondheim musical *Into the Woods* is being directed by his daughter GERILYN, and TOM recommends getting a ticket at <https://www.palomar.edu/palomarperforms/> since the show will be very fun and the cast is very talented.



DAVE NYDEGGER was \$10 pleased to see several of his former colleagues (SCOTT ASHTON and LESLEE GAUL) lined up as guest speakers coming up soon, and also was proud that he had co-

founded the Operation Appreciation event with the editor of the Blade Tribune after 9/11.

Guest BRUCE DE SOTO contributed \$20 to be with such “wonderful people and to see familiar and kind faces.” He added, “God bless you for your efforts. And don’t let the good that you do make you weary.” Amen to that!



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$5 glad that she had run into BRUCE at Applebee’s, but also sorry that she won’t be able to attend the night at the Moonlight, which she always enjoys, since she and RON will be on a Canada cruise on that weekend. She also is looking forward to seeing a Past District Governor from Thailand who will be coming to stay for a visit soon.

JOHN AULT is \$10 happy that he actually will be home for a change on Valentine’s Day to celebrate with his wife of 33 years DOTTIE. JOHN also announced that he has been selected to serve as the chief chaplain for the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, overseeing the spiritual care for 26,000 souls.



Our punctual Co-President ROGER called DANA ALBERT up at precisely 1 pm to provide the meeting’s PRESENTATION. DANA marveled that, at age 50, he still is considered “a young man” in our club. (It is a fact, though, that having him as a member does lower the average age of our roster of Rotarians.) He let us know that he has done a “Who Am I?” talk at Rotary twice before (2010 at the Shadowridge club and 2017 at San Marcos) and noted that he would be outlining his life over three main sections.

The first section was his Formative Years period. He was born in Encinitas in 1976 to parents whom he described as “Hippie Christians.” In what might have been “T.M.I.,” DANA described being “born on a toilet ... Mom thought she had to go to the bathroom, but it was me!” His family included an older brother, a younger sister, and a half sister.



In 1979, the family moved to the Fire Mountain area of Oceanside. Mom was a hair stylist who would experiment on the looks of her kids and Dad was a real estate broker. His parents divorced in 1981 and he was raised by his Dad, attending Palmquist Elementary, then Lincoln Middle School, and El Camino High. As a lad,

he described himself as a “major band geek” who played clarinet in Advanced Band, eventually working his way up to being the marching band’s drum major and earning the prestigious John Phillip Sousa Award in his senior year. DANA loved boogie boarding and baseball, but found that he was too small to make his mark in baseball, so he quit that sport and picked up a golf club instead. This led to the second period of his life – the Golf Years.

Nobody in his family had been to college, and after graduating from high school, he enrolled in a two-year program in Golf Management at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert. His father dropped him off at age 18 at the 107-degree desert with just a backpack, his golf clubs, and a farewell “Good luck, son!” He scrambled to land a job as a caddie at the exclusive Vintage Club in Indian Wells. It was here that DANA learned how to talk with and learn from successful people (like Bill Gates and Eli Callaway whom he met on the course).

After completing the golf management program, he had planned to go home to attend San Diego State, but as fate would have it, he met his wife and plans changed. Instead of SDSU, they had their first child in 2000 when he was not even halfway through his education. He worked at The Bridges at Rancho Santa Fe as an assistant pro – another great experience for leadership and making connections with influential people.

He spent 12 more years in golf and had twins in 2010. As DANA described it, “I did my life backasswards – Had a kid, bought a condo, THEN went to college.” Around the time of the Great Recession, he saw the handwriting on the wall as the golf business was starting to go down the tubes, so he went back to school to earn his M.B.A. while working in management at Shadowridge Country Club. When five different people independently told him, “You’d be good at stocks and wealth management”, he took it was a sign to segue into the third period of his life story – the Successful Businessman Stage. He completed his M.B.A. in 2012, taught business management at the Golf Academy of America for a while, and then in 2014 he chose Merrill Lynch for his career in wealth management, moving back to his stomping grounds of Fire Mountain. DANA has four people on his business team, managing \$1.5 billion in assets.

The twins are now 16 years old and will get their drivers licenses this summer. At that point, DANA is looking forward to no longer devoting so much of his time to chauffeuring the kids everywhere and he will be able to scale back some of his commitments.

Checking his watch, DANA noted that it was 1:26 pm and a good time wrap up his remarks. We applauded his presentation, as well as his life well lived. ROGER in particular congratulated DANA by commenting, “I never saw anyone hit a golf ball so far and so straight!” before moving on to the **OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**. The lucky ticket was held by TOM BRAULT and, with just 9 cards left on the table and the Joker still hiding there after so very many failed attempts to find it, TOM drew a 10 and had to settle for just the \$10 consolation prize. And so the \$1,000 jackpot still waits for someone to get lucky ... maybe at our next meeting... and maybe you!



ROGER reminded us all to leave a tip for our server before we all left to start our weekend and look forward to the very rainy week ahead.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT MATCHING GRANT

PP DAVE HALL and PP TERRI HALL delivered a \$500 check to GRACIELA GUTIERREZ at Lifeline Community Services to support their “Stay-in-School” program. The funds will go toward a lei made of 50 one-dollar bills for each high-school graduate this year who participated in their program. Oceanside Rotarians will have an opportunity to participate in the ceremony giving each of these graduates their lei, so stay tuned!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Wednesday, February 20 - 22 – PELS (*Formerly “PETS”*) Training for President Elects in L.A.

Friday, February 27 – Regular Meeting – El Camino Country Club – Speaker: SCOTT ASHTON, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, February 28, 2:00 PM – Rotary Creates Magic Fundraiser, Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center, 3557 Lancer Way Carlsbad – Tickets: <https://www.pauldwork.com/upcoming-events> -- Buy Tickets – scroll to Oceanside Rotary

Friday, March 13 – Regular Meeting - El Camino Country Club – Speaker: LESLEE GAUL, Visit Oceanside

Friday March 27 – (Regular Meeting Dark) - Iron Man Service Project - Noon to 5 PM – volunteer for registration

Saturday, March 28 – District Training (San Diego) – 8:00 AM – noon

April 24-26 – Multi-District Conference

Saturday, May 16 – “Epic Day of Service” - Operation Marine Corps Appreciation – volunteer to serve food to servicemembers and their families

Saturday, May 30 – Goat for Joe Golf Tournament – volunteer to help run this annual fundraiser

Friday, May 22 – Regular Meeting Dark for Memorial Day

