

 2025-2026	ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE SHORELINES			 CO-PRESIDENTS Roger Vanderwerken Paul Wendee
	Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Lacy Photographer	Laura Bassett Reporter	

January 9, 2026

At our meeting on Friday, January 9, 2026, we met in our usual spot for lunch in the Garden Room of the El Camino Country Club. With beautiful views of the golf course, we started with a buffet lunch which included salad, veggies, rice, fish and beef stroganoff plus rolls and, of course, decadent chocolate cake for dessert. At this particular meeting we filled up four tables and there was great conversation during the first half hour.

Co-President PAUL WENDEE banged the gavel promptly at 12:30 to begin our meeting as usual. MICHAEL JENKINS led us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by FILIPPO VIOLA helping us all recite the 4-Way Test. We were then led in song by DAVE HALL with rousing renditions of “Button Up Your Overcoat” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”



After the usual formalities, RENEE RICHARDSON came up to talk about the success of the **Boat Rides with Santa** event in December and was presented with a check to the club for \$2,000 from Captain Sean from Oceanside Adventures, who hosted the event. RENEE also shared feedback from those who attended with such comments as “Pleasantly



Surprised,” “Boat was clean and comfortable”, and “Santa was amazing.” Pastor ROGER VANDERWERKEN even had some Breakwater Church members who came and sang carols to help get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Overall, it was a great event and fundraiser for our club, and a good time was had by all who attended.

After this, **guests and visiting Rotarians** were introduced. We welcomed ROXANNE GOOLSBEE from Escondido Rotary, SEAN VARGAS (RENEE’s guest and a potential member), AUDREY ALLEN (sister of ERNIE MASCITTI), and JAY CRAWFORD brought his son DAVE CRAWFORD from Montana who also belongs to the Bozeman Rotary and commented that his club doesn’t usually sing at their meetings. He also got a kick out of the fact that we sang “Button Up Your Overcoat”, a song he’s never sang even though he lives in a very cold place. After guests were introduced, we all joined in the welcome song led by DAVE HALL.



We then celebrated several **birthdays** from December and January...RENEE, ROGER, JIM SCHRODER (celebrated the big 80 with an \$80 donation), MICHAEL and FILIPPO all came forward and took a group photo around the birthday frame. We then all joined in to sing “Happy Birthday” to all of them. (Sorry ... no candles to blow out this time.)



After the birthday celebration, we went into **Happy \$\$\$\$**.

JAY's son DAVE led us off with \$10 since his team had just won a championship.



DAVE HALL then followed with \$20 to celebrate his new book getting approved for public release.

TINA ORTIZ was next with \$5 to commemorate welcoming in a calm new year.

ERNIE then gave \$50 since his sister paid for his lunch. (This was the first time anyone had ever paid his lunch!).



TERRI HALL was next with \$5 to celebrate holidays with the family.

LAURA BASSETT gave \$20 in honor of her son starring in an Off-Broadway show and her announcement that she is running for State Senate.



Lastly, ANCHISA FARRANT gave \$5 and told stories of her adventures on a cruise to Mexico. Lots of happy people in the club!

In lieu of an invited speaker, RENEE led a **“Club Assembly”** which showed all the wonderful opportunities we served and things we accomplished over the past year and what we have to look forward to.

Here is a list of all the activities of the club in 2025:

- *The Oceanside Independence Parade with other local Rotarians
- *Donated over 76 backpacks to the Salvation Army as a service project
- *Grow a Brighter Future Fundraiser

*Packed 10,000 meals in 75 minutes with Feeding America for local charities

*Boat Rides with Santa (again, raised \$2,000 for the club!)

*Nicholas Leadership Academy Food Drive

*Thanksgiving meal support at VisTay

*Delivered 2 truckloads of toys to the Women's Resource Center

*Oceanside Rotary Holiday Party - very large turnout (we have photographic proof!)

*RENEE and PAUL attended the Tijuana, Mexico English Lab Holiday Tamale Party - PAUL teaches English there on a regular basis

*Rotary Rose Parade Float (RENEE and PAUL helped decorate the front of the float.)

Wonderful first half of the Rotary year giving and serving! Thanks, RENEE, for all your hard work and diligence keeping us going!!

Here is a list of the activities we have planned for the first half of 2026:

*Day of the Kings (Jan 17) - we will be making a \$500 donation; RENEE and PAUL will be helping

*Rotary Creates Magic at the Magic Castle (Feb 28) - tickets are \$60 and \$36 goes back to our club

*Iron Man Service Project (Mar 27) - need volunteers from Noon - 5 pm

*District Training (Mar 28)

*RYLA (Apr 11) - PAUL is again attending

*Multi District Conference (Apr 24-26) at Gaylord in Chula Vista

*Goat for Joe Golf Tournament (May 2) - more details to come

*Epic Day of Service (May 16) - either our own project or join another club's. We need a volunteer to coordinate this event

*Demotion Dinner (Jul 10) - moved due to scheduling conflicts

At the end of the presentation, RENEE expressed the need for someone to **volunteer and get our social media presence set up and enhanced**. A robust discussion then turned towards building membership. A lot of feedback was given including looking into other venues, timing, cost, lunch vs. optional. There's definitely a desire to attract additional younger members and much discussion on how to do that. RENEE assured everyone the board would consider everything and report back.

Before we finished off with our usual raffle, RENEE gave health updates for the following club members: MIKE CURTIN is home recovering; NANCY RUSSIAN doesn't need surgery, but is wearing a boot and is able to get out and do things; BOB PICKREL is home recovering and is on oxygen; LOLA SHERMAN fell earlier in the morning that same day and either broke or sprained her wrist. Lots to be thinking about and praying for.

To finish up our meeting, the raffle prize winner was ERNIE's sister AUDREY ALLEN who drew the 5 of Hearts and donated the \$10 consolation prize back to the club. PAUL banged the gavel again and all was finished a little after 1:30.

p.s. As usual JANET BLEDSOE LACY dutifully took lots of photos to make sure we have a visual record of all we did!



TIME TO CHOOSE OUR MOONLIGHT MUSICAL FOR THE SUMMER!

If you would like to join in the fun of a night of fellowship at a spectacular production of a musical at the Moonlight Amphitheatre this summer, get a message to Event Chair TOM BRAULT to let him know your list of any or all of the following shows you would be up for buying a ticket for, noting which of them would be your first and your second choice. We will pick the show that has the highest level of interest from the group.

May 1: *The Cher Show* – A dazzling musical celebration of the legendary superstar’s life and career, featuring three actresses portraying Cher at different stages of her journey and packed with her biggest hits, stunning costumes, and unstoppable spirit.

June 12: *Mean Girls* – A hilarious and sharp-witted Broadway musical that follows teenager Cady Heron as she navigates the cutthroat world of high school cliques and learns that being true to yourself never goes out of style.

July 10: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - A whimsical Broadway musical that follows young Charlie Bucket as he wins a golden ticket to explore Willy Wonka’s magical chocolate factory, where imagination, morality, and pure delight collide.

August 21: *Guys and Dolls* - A rollicking, romantic romp through New York’s underworld, where high-rolling gamblers, sassy showgirls, and one unlikely love story make for a wildly fun musical adventure.

September 18: *Come From Away* - An inspiring, true-story musical about the kindness and unity that emerged when the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, welcomed 7,000 stranded airline passengers after 9/11.

Normally TOM does not try to influence the voting on the show choice, but this year there is a clear winner in his mind of which one would be most appreciated by our gang of theatre-goers. *Come From Away* is a simply amazing show that he feels everyone ought to see at least once. He personally has already seen it three times (on Broadway, in L.A. and in San Diego), and is looking forward to seeing it once or twice more at the Moonlight. But he would not be offended if the group selects another one of the shows for our event. You can’t go wrong with any of them, and the Moonlight productions are always well worth seeing!

Let TOM know your interest and preferences ASAP so we can be prepared to buy our block of seats on the first day they become available.

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Saturday, January 17 – Dia de los Reyes – Tijuana – 8 am to noon

Friday, January 23 – Regular Meeting – El Camino Country Club – Speaker:
KRISTI HAWTHORNE, Oceanside Historical Society

Friday, January 30 – Regular Meeting – El Camino Country Club – Speaker: BILL
BONDSHU, SNAP San Diego