

	ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE			
	SHORELINES			
2026-2027	Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief	Janet Bledsoe Lacy Photographer	Tom Brault Reporter	PRESIDENT Renee Richardson

JULY 10, 2026

We had been promised a very different style of meeting for our first Oceanside Rotary gathering in the summer season, and this day certainly lived up to that promise. From the very first moment when members started to assemble on the country club's patio we were blessed to have our conversations at the tables underscored with some amazing live background music. Our own



DARREL LARSON kept rolling out hit after hit, strumming his guitar, singing at the mic, and accompanied for some numbers by prerecorded added instrumentals and/or background vocals. DARREL has had lots of practice in performing like this, often appearing at Oceanside's Sunset Market, entertaining the crowds there for up to 4 hours without repeating a single song. Today, like a human jukebox, he captivated us with some of the greatest hits from our favorite groups from the past several decades. We couldn't help but take breaks from our conversations to applaud him between the numbers, and we really and truly enjoyed and appreciated the upbeat vibe that he brought to this afternoon together. Thanks, DARREL!

Our special meeting's menu followed the summertime theme with the buffet tables laden with grilled burgers with all the trimmings, potato salad, chips and for dessert – tres leches cake. If you left this meeting hungry, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Our Once and Future President RENEE RICHARDSON probably felt like blaming all of us for, when she tried to get the actual meeting underway, she simply could not get anyone's attention. Her confusion as the crowd's

conversations just kept on going as she tried in vain to call us to order, occasionally asking, “Can you hear me??” with no response at all. Then after about 3 minutes (which must have felt to her like hours), it dawned on her that this inattention was all preplanned. Instead of following our club’s longstanding tradition of having all of the members get up and leave the room when the new President started to speak, this time (since RENEE had already experienced that particular ritual so many times before) we had all conspired in advance to simply ignore her for as long as we and she could stand it. When she finally figured out what was happening and why, she shook her head and exclaimed, “That was quite the walkout!” We all laughed then and settled into the start of RENEE’s reinstated reign over Rotary.

Her first announcement was that we can all look forward to hearing DARREL sing for us again, as he will be our featured entertainer at our August 14 evening social at JIM SCHRODER’s house.

RENEE then asked Past President ROGER VANDERWERKEN to get something from the other room as LAURA BASSETT was called to the front of the assembly. Since LAURA had missed our recent Demotion dinner, we had to catch up on bestowing upon her the club’s New Member Award for 2025-26. Quite a few folks chimed in to beg ROGER to not drop the shiny new trophy *again*, since he had fumbled it hilariously on his way up to the podium at the demotion. Luckily, he kept a firm grip on it this time around, and LAURA was pleased and proud to receive it.



We then marched through the Club Calendar of Events which had been printed out for us to take home and update our schedules. Coming up in the start of this Rotary year:

July 24 – 5:30 pm – Polio Plus Bingo Fundraiser at TERRI & DAVE HALL's house (4285 Sunnyhill Dr, Carlsbad). TERRI invited us all to take a couple of flyers with us to invite friends, family, and potential new Rotarians to join in this fun fundraiser.



August 14 – 6 pm – The aforementioned Summer Fellowship Social Meeting at JIM SCHRODER's home (4020 Wooster Drive, Oceanside). Plan to bring a potluck dish and your own adult beverage(s) to that event.

August 28 – Noon – Away Meeting at Frontwave Arena (3475 Hero Drive, Oceanside). Enjoy a private tour our fine local sports facility, followed by a No-Host lunch at Junkyard Sports Bar & Grill (3617 Ocean Ranch Blvd #100, Oceanside)

September 11 – Noon – This “regular” meeting will be special and will feature an extended presentation provided by the Wounded Warriors program. (We expect to not have time for Happy Dollars at that meeting.)

September 18 – 7:30 pm curtain with Dinner beforehand – Our annual Rotary Night at the Moonlight Amphitheatre to enjoy the Tony Award winning musical “Come From Away”, featuring TOM BRAULT's daughter GERILYN in the cast.

September 25 – Noon – Official Visit of District Governor JEB BAKKE. Be there so we can have a great crowd for our new D.G.!

As you can see, our Board has tried their best to pack the summer season (which traditionally has lighter attendance due to members' travels) with some extra fun stuff. We will reconvene in September back to our more traditional Rotary routine.

At this point, President RENEE asked all of the Past Presidents who were in attendance to stand up and be recognized. Quite a large number of leaders rose to their feet. Then RENEE asked all of our Paul Harris Fellows to join

them in standing, followed by our Shorelines reporters, and our club's board members. By now, the vast majority of the crowd were standing tall and proud. This was RENEE's way of pointing out that a whole lot of people are involved in keeping Oceanside Rotary going and growing and that "It takes a village to run the club."

Since we had not held a regular meeting in June, we had to play catch up on Birthdays and Anniversaries from both June and July. JANET BLEDSOE LACY was our only member born in June, but July was well represented by TOM BRAULT, JAY CRAWFORD, and TINA ORTIZ. When asked "How happy are you?",



JANET declared that she would lump her birthday and anniversary together into one \$100 check to the Oceanside Rotary Club Foundation. She was pleased that she somehow felt as if she "got a year back" this year and noted that, as a former family law attorney, her husband STEVEN probably decided to stay married all these years because "he knew that he couldn't afford to leave me!"

JAY gave \$90 since "That will be my age in a couple of days", adding, "If I had known that I would live that long, I would have taken better care of myself!" ... TINA didn't specify her exact age, but noted cryptically that her \$65 contribution to our Club's Foundation endowment was "rounding up" a bit. And TOM echoed JANET's \$100 combined donation (his went to the R.I. Foundation) to celebrate both his milestone (... or is it "millstone") 70th year on Earth, having hit his 21st birthday on the auspicious date of 7/7/77, as well as his 46th anniversary with his beloved bride LINDA. RENEE offered this toast to all four of our birthday boys and girls: "May your coffee be strong, your cake be calorie free, and your candles not require the fire department!"



RENEE was impressed to note that all of the members present at the meeting who have had wedding anniversaries in these past two months have been married for at least 43 years. Wow! "Congratulations!" RENEE said, "and

thank you for showing us what commitment, patience... and selective hearing can accomplish!" We had already heard from JANET and TOM, but joining them with June or July anniversaries were DARREL LARSON at 43 years as well as TERRI and DAVE HALL who just happen to coincidentally share the same June 22, 1968 anniversary date, which made each of them \$58 happy. TERRI asked, "DAVE, would you do it again?" After pausing and thinking long enough to draw a laugh from the crowd, DAVE answered, "Sure!"

In keeping with her goal to have our summer meetings be more focused on fun, then RENEE pulled out a list of "One Sentence Rotary Questions" to put some of the members on the spot to come up with a response.

DAVE HALL was asked, "If Rotary had a theme song, what would it be?" DAVE blurted, "Smile!"

JIM SCHRODER: "What was the best meal you ever had at a Rotary meeting?" ... Joker JIM replied, "I'm still waiting!"

ROGER VANDERWERKEN: "What is the best excuse you heard for missing a Rotary meeting?" ... "The meals are too cheap!" (Yeah, right!!)

TINA ORTIZ: "What brought you to Rotary?" ... "A friend."

JIM SCHRODER (again ... I guess he is one of RENEE's favorite targets): "What makes Oceanside Rotary special?" ... "The members, their personalities, and their stories."

JANET BLEDSOE LACY: "What keeps you coming back to Rotary?" ... "The members, the variety of people, and the good that we do."

Then RENEE shifted from singling out individuals and asked anyone who wanted to chime in and share their answers.

"What is the best part of our Rotary meetings?" ... Programs / Fellowship / Happy Dollars.

"Why would you recommend Rotary to a friend?" ... To have someone to drive you here! / Doing good around the world.

"What is the best project that our club does?" ... Working with kids in our local schools / Dana's efforts to encourage the Interact Club at OHS.

Some great questions. Some fun answers. And some serious reflections on what it means to be a part of Oceanside Rotary. Thanks to RENEE for touching on these topics.

Before the meeting came to a close, RENEE wanted to extend the club's appreciation to some key folks who helped out with Oceanside Rotary's participation in the Independence Day parade. Thanks to JANET BLEDSOE LACY for once again bringing the coffee and donuts / to DEAN ANDERSEN for providing the pop up to have shade on the float / and to the Interact Club members who took the lead on decorating the float.

The flyers on the table promoting the event on Saturday, July 18th from 10 am to 1 pm to commemorate Heritage Park's 50th birthday were brought to our attention. Over the years, Oceanside Rotary has held several events and service projects there, and we have helped to spruce up the Blade Citizen building.

Another change coming up for the club: For our two meetings in September, we will be moving on a trial basis back to the Broken Yolk Café (2434 Vista Way, Oceanside). Each member will be paying the restaurant on their own separate tabs, and there will be 4 menu items (including a drink) to choose from for just \$20, plus an 18% gratuity. This will substantially reduce the cost for our meal, and we will ask for member feedback to judge the pro's and con's of that venue vs. the country club before any final decision is reached.

RENEE reminded us that you can keep up with Rotary here in Oceanside as well as around our District by plugging into the Club Runner system online. She would be happy to help you get connected to that great resource for Rotary information.

As she brought the meeting to a close, RENEE asked if anyone had any suggestions to share with the club. LAURA BASSETT wondered if a midweek evening mixer might bring in some new energy and possibly new members. TERRI HALL agreed that younger folks whom we might want to

recruit often find meetings in the middle of a workday to be a problem. She suggested that we could schedule a “little service project” (like a beach cleanup event) in place of a meeting now and then.

And thus, at 1:27 pm, our first kinda sorta regular meeting of 2026-27 came to a close. See you for more summer fun in the weeks to come!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, July 24 – “Backyard Bingo Bash” Fundraiser – 5:30 pm

DAVE & TERRI HALL’s home (4285 Sunnyhill Dr, Carlsbad)

Fellowship, Dinner, and Bingo – Bring family and friends (12 and up)

\$25 per person includes sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, beverages, and one bingo card. Additional bingo cards just \$5 each. Bring your own adult beverages...

August 14 – Evening Potluck Social – 6 pm

JIM SCHRODER’s house (4020 Wooster Dr, Oceanside)

Bring a potluck dish and your own adult beverage(s)

August 28 – Away Meeting – 12 pm

Frontwave Arena - (3475 Hero Drive, Oceanside)

No-Host Lunch to follow at Junkyard Sports Bar & Grill
(3617 Ocean Ranch Blvd #100, Oceanside)

September 11 –Regular meeting – Noon – Broken Yolk Café (2434 Vista Way, Oceanside) - Program = Wounded Warriors

September 18 – Rotary Night at the Moonlight Amphitheatre for “Come From Away” - 7:30 pm showtime, with Dinner beforehand

September 25 – Official Visit of District Governor JEB BAKKE – Noon – Broken Yolk Café (2434 Vista Way, Oceanside)