

	<b>ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</b>  <b>SHORELINES</b>			
<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>Tom Brault</b> Editor-in-Chief	<b>Anchisa Farrant</b> Photographer	<b>Dale Maas</b> Reporter	<b>CO-PRESIDENTS</b> <b>Janet Bledsoe Lacy</b> <b>Paul Wendee</b>

*April 25, 2025*

The latest meeting of the Oceanside Rotary Club was packed with energy, updates, and forward-looking enthusiasm. Members gathered for another dynamic session, welcoming guests, sharing announcements, and celebrating upcoming events that highlight the spirit of service and fellowship.



### **Co-President Elect Roger Kicks Things Off**

The meeting began with a warm welcome from our yet-again-acting-president RENEE RICHARDSON. After our recitations of the pledge and the Four Way Test, and a few songs led by DAVE HALL (including the “Theme to The Flintstones,” and “Oceanside, My Oceanside,” written by our very own JAY CRAWFORD), the microphone was handed off to ROGER VANDERWERKEN. With attendees going back to enjoying their meals, he began the day's announcements with a touch of humor and camaraderie.

### **RYLA and Paul's Weekend in Service**

We heard that Co-President PAUL WENDEE is spending the weekend volunteering as a facilitator for RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) up in Idyllwild with a group of 11th-grade students. Immersed in the full experience—sleeping bag and all—PAUL is truly embodying the Rotary spirit. While he couldn't be present at our meeting, the group expressed our thoughts and good wishes for him, joking, “He's surviving so far. As they say in church, pray for us sinners... and for the children.” *(Here are a couple of photos from RYLA)*



## Upcoming Events and Travel Highlights

Several important dates are on the Oceanside Rotary calendar:

- **May 1–4:** PAUL and RENEE attended the District 4100 Conference in Tijuana, Mexico.
- **May 9:** Regular Meeting - Mark Skousen will give a presentation on Benjamin Franklin during the Wednesday "Hyper Housing" meeting.
- **May 15:** RENEE will be back on the road, visiting clubs in Rosarito and Tijuana in one day. She will be the featured speaker at the Rosarito club, discussing the contributions of pioneering women in Rotary.
- **May 16:** Board Meeting at noon via Zoom. Interested members can request a link.
- **May 17:** “Goat for Joe” Mental Health Fair & Golf Tournament begins at 10 a.m. Members are encouraged to arrive around 9:30 a.m. The event includes a petting zoo, family activities, and a raffle—Raffle prize donations are needed. Prizes should be practical and meaningful. Oceanside Theatre and Stretch Labs San Marcos have already contributed. (DALE MAAS and ROGER are organizing an Oceanside Rotary Club Golf Team—golfers are invited to join them to form a foursome for a lighthearted round of tree-hitting fun!)
- **May 23:** No meeting in observance of Memorial Day.
- **May 24:** PAUL and RENEE will be participating in a fundraiser in Tijuana for a project benefiting children who need hearing aids.
- **May 30:** Regular meeting - Oceanside’s new Chief of Police, Taurino Valdovinos, will be the guest speaker.
- **May 31:** Board retreat and brunch at RENEE’s house. All board members are encouraged to attend.

## Welcoming Returning Guests and New Faces

The club welcomed several visitors and returning friends:

- **David Wyaman**, a returning guest and friend of the club, was warmly acknowledged. David was instrumental in supporting a Paul Harris Fellow recognition previously and often visits while in Carlsbad.

- **Hector Rodriguez** from Frontwave Credit Union joined as a guest. He is exploring ways to connect with and serve the community, perhaps through Rotary.
- **Jorge Garcia and Jillian Underwood Jenkins**, the day's guest speakers, were also welcomed.
- **Laura Bassett** was introduced as a visitor for the last time (see below)



DAVE HALL, making another appearance, was humorously reminded that participation includes leading the welcome song—"You can't sit down and eat just yet!"



### President Stuff- Renee

**New Member Induction** A warm welcome was extended to LAURA BASSETT, who was officially inducted as a new member. A lifelong Oceanside resident, El Camino High alum (Class of 1985), USC graduate, and professional real estate broker and fiduciary, LAURA embodies the spirit of community service. Proposed by DANA ALBERT, LAURA received her member packet and was encouraged to pursue her Blue Badge with enthusiasm.



**Volunteer Opportunity** Rotarians were invited to support the San Marcos Rotary's "Rotarians at Work Day" on April 30 at Casa de Amparo for their Pinwheel & Pantry event.

**Launch Oceanside Entrepreneur Program** With its first meeting on May 6 from 5:30 to 7 pm, this initiative will offer classes for local entrepreneurs and seeks

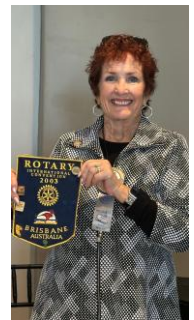
volunteer mentors. The kickoff meeting will be held at the Hacienda Mission San Luis Rey.

### Save the Dates

- **June 27th:** Demotion Dinner, El Camino Country Club 5:30pm
- **June 28:** Oceanside Independence Day Parade 9am
- **July 11:** Rotary Social at JIM SCHRODER's House, 6 pm, featuring entertainment by DARREL LARSON.

**Happy Dollars and Updates** Members shared personal milestones and Rotary reflections:

VICKIE PROSSER presented a throwback club banner from way back in 2003. Former president TOM MORROW was given this banner from a Rotary Club from Melbourne Australia. She was \$5 happy to share this blast from the past.



DAVID NYDEGGER donated \$100 to Rotary Foundation just because he was very happy, and that he didn't have the correct change for his phone going off during the meeting.

BILL DERN was \$5 happy. He expressed gratitude for upcoming life changes, including a temporary move to Las Vegas to be closer to family. He also mentioned downsizing to one vehicle and offered to donate a portion of car sale proceeds to Rotary causes if our club helps him find a buyer.



JAY CRAWFORD was \$5 happy that his better half, Anita will be home from her trip to Vietnam soon.

TERRI HALL was \$5 happy that her guest David W. was at the meeting.



ANCHISA FARRANT was \$10 happy to be home. She enjoyed a fantastic trip to Thailand and brought home many gifts to share with our club.



**Guest Speakers: Oceanside Library** Jorge Garcia and Jillian Underwood Jenkins from the Oceanside Public Library spoke about the library's programs, outreach, and efforts to serve the community with educational and cultural resources. With decades of combined experience, they shared this us their insight into how the library is evolving to meet modern needs.



### **More Than Books: Oceanside Public Library Enriches Community with Creativity, Literacy, and Access**

The Oceanside Public Library continues to redefine what a library can be. As a cornerstone of the community for over 120 years, they serve thousands of residents not only with books, but with free educational programs, creative engagement, literacy initiatives, and home delivery services. From book clubs to spice kits, citizenship test prep to crafting circles, there's truly something for everyone.

### **Exploring the World Through Taste: Spice Club**

One of their most beloved programs is **Spice Club**, where participants receive a sample of a featured spice each month—often tied to the season or a cultural event. They love choosing lesser-known spices that invite home cooks to explore new flavors and cuisines. Each kit includes a spice sample, historical background, DIY spice blend instructions, and multiple recipes. This program fills up every month and continues to spice up kitchens across Oceanside.

### **Crafting Community: Twisted Stitches**

For those who love to knit or crochet—or who simply want a welcoming space to work on their projects—they offer **Twisted Stitches**, a drop-in crafting group at the Civic Center Library. This social club draws a regular group of around 20 attendees each month. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned crafter, all are welcome to join and connect over shared creativity.

### **Education and Enrichment for Adults**

They regularly host **educational workshops** through AARP, covering a variety of topics relevant to older adults. For the creatively inclined, the **Artsy Adults** program offers a chance to get hands-on with crafts in a friendly and supportive environment—no tech or book discussion required!

## **Building Literacy, One Learner at a Time**

**Oceanside READS**, the Library's adult literacy program, plays a vital role in supporting adults with reading, writing, and English language learning. Funded entirely by grants, READS offers:

- **One-on-one tutoring** in reading, writing, English conversation, job readiness, technology, and even DMV or U.S. Citizenship test preparation.
- **Customized learning plans** based on individual goals.
- **Flexible scheduling**—typically twice a week—with a six-month minimum volunteer commitment for tutors.
- **Quarterly gatherings and training** for volunteers.

Their most popular READS program is **Cafecito**, an English conversation class designed to improve speaking and listening skills. Held five times a week at locations throughout the city, Cafecito welcomes all English levels in a relaxed, drop-in format. It's a beautiful example of our city's diversity in action—bringing together people from Germany, South America, Asia, and beyond to learn together.

## **Volunteering Makes It All Possible**

Much of what the Library does wouldn't be possible without the generosity of community volunteers. READS tutors are matched based on their skills and learners' needs, and they play a transformative role in the lives of adult students. Interested volunteers can reach out to Sherry Noel or Chelsea, the READS coordinator, for more information.

## **Jane & Eddie's Bookstore: A Community Treasure**

If you've passed by the Civic Center Library recently, you may have noticed **Jane & Eddie's Bookstore**—a charming resale shop operated by the **Friends of the Oceanside Public Library**. This offshoot of the in-library bookstores accepts donations and resells gently used books. All proceeds go directly to supporting library programming. The store has become a local favorite, and you'll also find the Friends of the Library at the weekly farmers market and inside library branches.

## **Access for All: No Fines, Just Opportunity**

The library is truly **open to all**. They welcome everyone—including people experiencing homelessness. Overdue fines have been removed to reduce barriers to access. Eliminating fines also led to a significant return of long-overdue materials and helped many patrons re-engage with library services without fear of penalties.

To protect the collection, they do work with a gentle materials recovery agency, which has helped to recover many lost or unreturned items. However, the focus remains on inclusion and accessibility.

### Home Delivery for Homebound Patrons

For Oceanside residents unable to visit in person, **home delivery service** brings the library to their doorstep. After signing up for a library card and placing holds online or by phone, patrons simply select “Home Delivery” as their pickup option. One of the Library’s friendly team members will reach out to schedule regular delivery (Tuesday through Friday, by district). Returns are as easy as leaving items out for pickup when your next delivery arrives.

### Get Involved

Whether you want to join a crafting group, learn a new language, discover a new spice, or volunteer your time—the Library would love to welcome you. Oceanside Public Library is more than a building—it’s a thriving, dynamic center for lifelong learning and community connection.

For more information about programs or volunteering:

- Contact **Jillian Jenkins** (Adult Services Librarian)
- Reach out to **Sherry Noel** or **Chelsea** (READS program coordinators)
- Visit [oceansidepubliclibrary.org](https://oceansidepubliclibrary.org)

### Meeting Wrap Up

RENEE gave our amazing guests our traditional succulent arrangement. They were very appreciative.



RENEE then transitioned the meeting into a light-hearted segment when we not only held the traditional opportunity drawing but also gave away a long list of gifts from Thailand. VICKIE PROSSER was the lucky attendee who got the chance to try to pull the elusive Joker for the \$1,000 jackpot. Unfortunately, she pulled the 6 of diamonds instead, but she was happy with her consolation prize, which she donated straight back to the Club.



Several other prizes were drawn, including a packet of cookies from Hacienda San Luis Rey, and T-shirts and luggage tags donated by the district governor from Thailand. This was a fun part of the meeting. By the end of all the giveaways, there

were more winning members in the front of the room to take a photo than there were non-winners (we would never think to call them “losers”) remaining in their seats.

Thus, the meeting ended on a high note with attendees showing excitement for the giveaways.





## COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Regular meeting – Speaker - MARK SKOUSEN giving a Benjamin Franklin presentation.

Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - Club Board meeting via Zoom at noon. Contact RENEE for the link to join in.

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual “Goat for Joe” - Goat Hill Park Golf Course, Oceanside. Mental Health Fair and Family and Children’s activities from 10 am to 1 pm. Shotgun start golf tournament starts at 1 pm. Dinner and entertainment to follow. For more info, visit: <https://birdease.com/goatforjoe>

Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Dark for Memorial Weekend

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - Regular meeting – Speaker - Oceanside’s Police Chief TAURINO VALDOVINOS.

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> - Board Retreat and Brunch from 9:00 – 12:00 at RENEE’S place.

Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - Demotion Dinner, El Camino Country Club 5:30pm

Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> - Oceanside Independence Day Parade 9am

Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> - Rotary Social at JIM SCHRODER’s House, featuring entertainment by DARREL LARSON