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

MAY 29, 2026

Members of the Rotary Club of Oceanside gathered in the Garden Room at El Camino Country Club for the final regular luncheon meeting of the Rotary year. Co-President PAUL WENDEE called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests before leading another enjoyable afternoon of fellowship, service, and Rotary spirit.



To start off our meeting in our usual manner, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by RENEE RICHARDSON followed by TOM BRAULT leading members in reciting the Rotary Four-Way Test. But then the choice of the song for us to sing together ended up being quite unexpectedly unusual.



TERRI and DAVE HALL had the lyrics for what we normally think of as an upbeat and perky tune (“You Are My Sunshine”) printed out for us on the tables. Most of us never knew just how dark and depressing this song actually is, and TERRI’s choice of a very low key to sing it in made it all the more somber. Here are the words, which might surprise you:



*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
 You make me happy when skies are gray
 You’ll never know dear, how much I love you
 Please don’t take my sunshine away.*

*The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
But when I awoke, dear, I was mistaken
And I hung my head and cried*

*I'll always love you and make you happy
If you will only say the same
But if you leave me to love another
You'll regret it all some day*

*You told me once, dear, you really loved me
And no one else could come between
But now you've left me and love another
You have shattered all my dreams*

*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
You make me happy when skies are gray
You'll never know dear, how much I love you
Please don't take my sunshine away.*

Once we were done wiping our tears and asking each other, “Can you believe those lyrics??”, the meeting then moved into announcements and updates regarding several **upcoming events and fundraisers**.

May 30 – Goat for Joe Golf Tournament
Goat Hill Golf Course

June 12 – Demotion Dinner
El Camino Country Club – 5:30 pm - \$55
Contact RENEE RICHARDSON to reserve your spot

June 27 – Independence Day Parade
Downtown Oceanside – Meet at 9 am – Parade starts at 10 am

July 24 – Bingo Fundraiser - *Details below*

August 14 – Evening Social Potluck
JIM SCHRODER’s house – 6 pm

August 28 – Away Meeting
Frontwave Arena – 12 pm

September 11 – Regular Club meeting
El Camino Country Club – Wounded Warrior Foundation speaking

TERRI HALL gave us the details on the club’s upcoming Bingo Night fundraiser on July 24 at the home of TERRI and DAVE HALL. Members were encouraged to invite friends and family and potential new Rotary members for an evening of fellowship, dinner, and bingo, all in support of Oceanside Rotary’s service projects and charitable efforts.

DANA ALBERT shared information regarding the Goat for Joe Golf Tournament which was scheduled to take place the following day. He reflected on the event’s origins and the personal loss which inspired its creation, while emphasizing the tournament’s mission of supporting mental health awareness and behavioral health initiatives. Members expressed appreciation for the tremendous success of the event and its continuing impact on the community. Here are a few photos ANCHISA sent from the event:



RENEE RICHARDSON reminded members about the upcoming “Transition” Dinner honoring the end of the Rotary year of our Co-Presidents PAUL WENDEE and ROGER VANDERWERKEN. Members

were encouraged to RSVP so final attendance arrangements could be completed.

ROGER VANDERWERKEN then **introduced visiting guests**. NANCY RUSSIAN welcomed her guest, MERLE MYERS, and members extended a warm Oceanside Rotary greeting. Other guests from Oceanside High and our guest speaker would be introduced later.

A special highlight of the meeting was the recognition of DEREK RIPPY. Members welcomed DEREK back to Oceanside Rotary. He was presented with a new Rotary lapel pin and RENEE let him know that a replacement Paul Harris pin is on order to symbolize his generous support of The Rotary Foundation.



The club also welcomed several students who recently attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), accompanied by their Interact Counselor and Honorary Oceanside Rotary Member CATRINA STONE. Students DAVID MUNOZ, CHARLIE BINITIE, and AVA MOODY shared reflections on their experiences at RYLA and spoke about the leadership skills, confidence, friendships, and sense of community they gained through the program. The students once again impressed members with their maturity, enthusiasm, and commitment to service. Rotarians expressed appreciation for the opportunity to sponsor local students and witness firsthand the lasting impact RYLA continues to have on young leaders throughout our community.



The meeting then moved into **Happy Dollars**.

TERRI HALL contributed \$10, expressing how pleased she was to have TONYA DANIELLY speaking to the club and how much she enjoyed learning more about the history and mission of IVEY RANCH. She was also happy to see members of the Interact Club in attendance.



JAY CRAWFORD contributed \$23 in honor of his 23rd wedding anniversary with ANITA. He explained that he missed the previous meeting because he and ANITA had taken a 36-hour train trip to Seattle. Much laughter followed as JAY repeatedly emphasized the length of the journey and joked about spending so much time together in close quarters and their comical bunk bed situation.



DAVID NYDEGGER contributed \$10 and humorously admitted that he had fallen asleep during a recent meeting, causing him to miss hearing his opportunity drawing ticket being called. (Good thing he was awoken, because that drawing earned him the \$1,000 jackpot.)



ANCHISA FARRANT contributed \$5 and was happy to see NANCY RUSSIAN. She also shared that her husband, RON,





while traveling to Washington, D.C. for a veterans' Honor Flight, recently met a woman who had spoken at our club and who runs the Honor Flight program. The individual immediately remembered receiving one of ANCHISA'S succulent arrangements following her presentation to the club.



DANA ALBERT contributed \$26 in celebration of his oldest daughter graduating from California State University San Marcos on May 26.



NANCY RUSSIAN contributed \$100 toward her Paul Harris Fellow commitment along with an additional \$20 in Happy Dollars. She expressed her appreciation for the RYLA students, her excitement about her daughter ROXANNE'S upcoming visit, and her gratitude for having MERLE MYERS join her at the meeting. NANCY also shared that ROXANNE had become somewhat of a local celebrity after appearing in this year's Ironman program.



PAUL WENDEE contributed \$10 celebrating the completion of his book on private capital after years of work and procrastination. He also proudly shared that his grandson had recently turned two years old. RENEE quickly joked that she should be "one million dollars happy" now that PAUL had finally finished "that damn book," drawing laughter throughout the room.

RENEE RICHARDSON followed with \$10 and shared highlights from a recent trip to Rotary International Headquarters in Chicago alongside members of the Tijuana Rotary Club. She described visits to two Chicago Rotary clubs, the exchange of Rotary flags, and several memorable experiences from the trip.

LES NEWQUIST rounded out Happy Dollars with an \$80 contribution in celebration of his 80th birthday.



The featured speaker for the afternoon was TONYA DANIELLY, Executive Director of IVEY RANCH PARK ASSOCIATION.



TONYA provided an inspiring overview of the organization's mission and history. Founded in 1981, IVEY RANCH has become one of North County's most impactful nonprofit organizations, providing programs and services that improve the quality of life for individuals with and without disabilities.

Today, IVEY RANCH serves approximately 225 clients each week and cares for a herd of 30 horses that support a wide range of equine-assisted programs. Services include therapeutic riding, equine-assisted activities, adult day programs, vocational training, after-school programs, respite care, and support services for military families, veterans, and individuals with special needs.

TONYA explained how horses provide unique therapeutic benefits by helping participants improve balance, coordination, confidence, communication skills, and emotional well-being. Through partnerships with universities, healthcare professionals, and community organizations, IVEY RANCH continues to expand its evidence-based programs and serve an increasingly diverse population throughout North County.

While celebrating the organization's many successes, TONYA also discussed ongoing concerns regarding the future of the property occupied by

IVEY RANCH. She emphasized the importance of community support as the organization works to ensure long-term stability for the thousands of individuals and families who benefit from its services.

Members also learned about IVEY RANCH'S annual Western Hoedown fundraiser scheduled for October 10. TONYA invited Rotarians to volunteer and participate in the event.

In response, we learned that Oceanside Rotary had voted to contribute \$500 toward sponsorship of the Western Hoedown dunk tank and committed to staffing and operating the attraction during the event. RENEE RICHARDSON presented the contribution on behalf of the club.

Following enthusiastic applause, TONYA was thanked, with a succulent prepared by ANCHISA, for her presentation and for the extraordinary work being accomplished every day at IVEY RANCH.



The meeting concluded with the Opportunity Drawing and final announcements. NANCY RUSSIAN held the winning ticket and selected the Two of Hearts rather than the elusive Joker, allowing the jackpot to remain available for another week.

Members departed, encouraged by the remarkable work being done at IVEY RANCH and looking forward to celebrating another successful Rotary year at the upcoming Transition Dinner.



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, June 12 – Noon meeting DARK – Demotion Dinner in the evening
\$55 per person – RSVP ASAP to RENEE

Saturday, June 27 - Annual Oceanside Fourth of July parade.
Meet at 9 am to prep for the 10 am parade start.

Friday, July 24 – Bingo Fundraiser – 6 pm

DAVE & TERRI HALL's home (4285 Sunnyhill Dr, Carlsbad)
Fellowship, Dinner, and Bingo – Bring family and friends

August 14 – Evening Potluck Social – 6 pm

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

August 28 – Away Meeting

Frontwave Arena – 12 pm