	<p align="center">ROTARY CLUB OF OCEANSIDE</p> <p align="center">SHORELINES</p>			
<p align="center">2025-2026</p>	<p align="center">Tom Brault Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p align="center">Janet Lacy Photographer</p>	<p align="center">Dale Maas Reporter</p>	<p align="center">CO-PRESIDENTS Roger Vanderwerken Paul Wendee</p>

October 31, 2025

Fellowship, Service, and a Touch of Broadway Shine at Oceanside Rotary



The afternoon began with the cheerful buzz of conversation and laughter as members enjoyed their lunches, fellowship, and some goofy Halloween Costumes. Co-President PAUL WENDEE called the meeting to order precisely at 12:30 after some gentle guidance from Club Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON.



PAUL kicked things off by having FILIPPO VIOLA lead the pledge and TERRI HALL started the recitation of the 4-Way Test. BILL DERN took to the mic to lead the group in a karaoke rendition of “*Monster Mash*” with the lyrics and some spooky images displayed on the screen. The performance started strong — the chorus was surprisingly solid — but somewhere between “It was a graveyard smash”



and “He did the mash,” the lyrics took a detour. The verses became a jumble of mumbles and good-natured laughter as the group tried to find the beat.

“Not bad on the chorus!” someone laughed, as BILL wrapped it up. “The rest... well, maybe next year.”

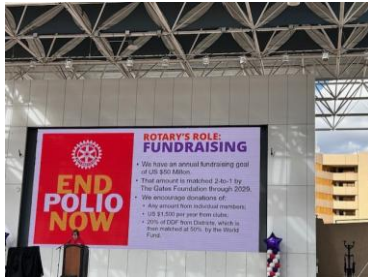


BILL redeemed the “meh” musical moment by announcing it was the U.S. Navy’s Birthday this month. He invited the fellow Navy veterans present (TOM BRAULT, ROGER VANDERWERKEN, and LES NEWQUIST) to join him in leading the

club in a rousing rendition of “*Anchors Aweigh*.” This time, everyone knew (most of) the words — and sang them proudly.

The Zone Institute: A Rotary Experience Like No Other

RENEE took the floor next, beaming. “I wasn’t here last week,” she began, “but I have to tell you — the Zone Institute was probably the best Rotary experience I’ve ever had.” (And since she has had a LOT of Rotary experiences, that is saying a heck of a lot!)



“Better than the convention?” someone teased.... “Much better,” she laughed. “It’s hands-on. You’re in workshops, talking with leaders, learning what Rotary really means on the ground. I learned more in four days than at any convention — and that’s after thirty-six years in Rotary!”

The room buzzed with impressed nods as Renee shared that District 5340 ranked third overall out of thirty districts, earning ten awards spanning public image, membership, global grants, Foundation giving, and PolioPlus participation.

“The highlight,” Renee added, “was a stadium full of Rotarians in red PolioPlus shirts. We listened to a polio survivor’s story and then watched an aerial violinist perform on silk scarves. It was incredible.”

Someone in the back chuckled, “Only Rotary!” RENEE grinned. “And yes — Bill Gates is *still* matching our PolioPlus donations, so keep them coming!” She added with pride, “I even got a photo with our incoming RI President from Uganda — OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA. That alone made the trip worth it.”

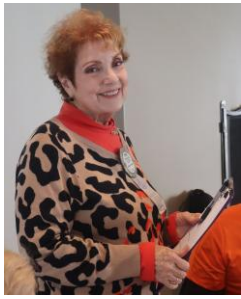


Service Season in Full Swing

“Alright,” Co-President PAUL said, taking the mic again, “let’s talk service.”

RENEE began with a reminder about the Joint Service Project with the San Marcos Rotary Club, The Outreach Program California, and the San Diego Food Bank on November 15 to assemble meals. “We need seventy-five volunteers total,” she said. “It’s only an hour and a half, and there’s a job for everyone — sit-down, setup, or hands-on.” Register for the Feed America Project at:

<https://give.classy.org/NorthCountyRotary>



Next, TERRI outlined our plans to help with the Thanksgiving dinner for the VisTAY Youth Home in Vista which serves young adults who've aged out of foster care. A clipboard with a signup list to provide specific items was passed around. "We've got stuffing and mashed potatoes covered," she said, "but we still need vegetable dishes, some bread and rolls, and desserts for about thirty-five people."

"Don't skimp on the rolls," someone joked. "Those kids will eat them all!" (*Latest update: The signup sheet found lots of willing helpers that day, but a few more desserts would be nice. Contact TERRI to add your name to the list.*)

TERRI confirmed that this dinner will take place November 20 at 5 p.m. and your items should be dropped off at the VisTAY house (727 Ascot Drive, Vista) on that day. (If you need to deliver food the day before, bring it to RENEE's condo (720 Silver Drive, Vista). If your food needs to be warmed, make sure that you bring it in disposable aluminum pans. Feel free to stay to help serve the meal and mingle with the house guests during the gathering, if you would like.

Next came the Nichols Leadership Academy Food Drive. "The SNAP program may be changing," RENEE explained, "so we want to help their pantry to stay stocked — canned goods, boxed stuffing, instant potatoes, pumpkin, all the classics." Bring your items to our November 14 meeting.

JANET BLEDSOE LACY chimed in "Good news! The courts said SNAP stays funded — at least for now. Thank God for lawyers!" The room had to laugh about that one. RENEE smiled and said, "Perfect. We'll keep collecting. The need's always there."

DALE MAAS then turned to one of the club's favorite traditions — the Women's Resource Center Holiday Gift Drive. "Our fourth year running," he said, "and we want this to be our biggest yet."

"This year's even easier, The WRC created a Wish List — Just click on the link on the drive flyer to see the list of needed items." This drive runs from November 3 through December 5, with all donations due by December 6. Drop off your donations at DALE's office, or bring them to our next meeting on November 14. And gifts should be unwrapped, so the WRC staff can sort them by age and need.

“We usually fill a few truckloads,” DALE reminded the room. “Let’s do it again.”

Happy Dollars and Happy Stories

Co-President PAUL kicked off the next segment with a sheepish grin.

“I owe this,” he said, holding up a five-dollar bill. “Last week, at exactly 12:26 p.m., I got a text from RENEE — in all caps: ‘*START YOUR MEETING ON TIME!*’ So here’s my fine.” The room erupted with laughter.

BILL DERN followed with \$20 happy dollars celebrating his brother JOHN’s visit from Longmont, Colorado.



TOM BRAULT promoted the next performances of the Carlsbad Playreaders at the Dove Library – the intense *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* on November 3 as well as the hilarious *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)* on December 1, and then added \$25 for his daughter GERILYN, who will play *Mrs. Puff* in

SpongeBob Squarepants, the Musical at Cygnet Theatre next year. Applause and a chorus of “Oh, SpongeBob!” filled the room.



ROGER contributed \$10 happy dollars for his church’s Halloween event — complete with a “Dunk the Deacon” booth. (Pastor ROGER apparently got wet enough last year to last him a while, so he delegated this opportunity to the Deacon!)



DANA ALBERT shared \$5 happy dollars as he reported Oceanside High’s 22–0 win over El Camino at the annual rivalry game. (Since DANA is actually a El Camino fan, they really were sad dollars.)



TERRI topped it off with \$10 happy dollars in recognition of DANA’s wonderful youth presentation at the recent Grow a Brighter Future fundraiser. The kids were articulate and inspiring!

Youth Service Revives at Oceanside High

DANA took the floor with updates and enthusiasm. He shared that the Oceanside High Interact Club is officially active again — and he's working hard to man the programs and keep things running smoothly.

He and the youth team also met with the school principal to discuss reviving several long-standing Rotary initiatives:

- **Model UN**
- **Speech & Debate**
- **Four-Way Test Contest**
- **Youth Instrumental Music Program**

Contests will begin around Valentine's Day, move to regionals in March, and conclude with district scholarships later that month. He invited other members to volunteer to help with these events.

"We're getting the next generation involved," DANA said. "And there's a role for everyone — judging, mentoring, or cheering them on."

Broadway Comes to Rotary

Finally, RENEE introduced the guest speaker, JOEY LANDWEHR, Education and Outreach Associate for Broadway San Diego.

"Hi, I'm JOEY," he began with a grin as his photo was being taken. "And I know how to pose." The laughter told him he had the crowd.



JOEY shared Broadway San Diego's history — from its 1976 beginnings as the San Diego Playgoers to its current home at the Civic and Balboa Theatres. He played a six-minute promo video showcasing the remainder of their 48th season lineup: *Hell's Kitchen*, *Water for Elephants*, *MJ*, *Six*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Notebook*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

“How do you turn a circus story into a Broadway show?” he asked. “With puppets, aerial stunts, and a lot of magic.”

Then he shifted to what drives him most: inspiring young audiences. “My goal is for every student in San Diego County to see a Broadway-level show before they graduate,” he said. He explained that students can see professional productions for as little as \$25 through their program Broadway Bridges as well as special Theater Thursdays invitations to schools for group showings.

Broadway San Diego’s Highlights & Outreach Programs

- Triple Threat Training – crash courses taught by touring cast members - covering acting, singing, and dancing
- The Biz by the Pros – after-show Q&A sessions with performers and crew
- Behind the Magic – backstage experiences where students watch semi-trucks unload and full sets go up before their eyes
- Broadway for Beginners – introductions on how to enjoy and understand theater
- Jimmy Awards Program – a national high school competition that’s launched careers; Broadway San Diego has already produced two national Jimmy Awards winners

“Theater changes young people’s lives,” JOEY said, sharing stories of students who found confidence and careers on stage. He also discussed ways to donate to these programs, adding, “Community partnerships make it all possible.”

Joey closed with a personal reflection: “I grew up in a small town in Missouri — the first in my family to graduate high school. Theater gave me direction and purpose. It changes lives. It even saves them.”

After a few questions and some positive feedback from members who are subscribers to Broadway San Diego, the crowd gave him a warm, extended round of applause.

Opportunity Drawing & Closing Notes

With very, very few cards left on the table to choose from, DAVE HALL had a very good chance at the \$1,000 jackpot, but unfortunately the 6 of Hearts did not make it happen for him.



As 1:28 p.m. rolled around, PAUL thanked everyone for their generosity, good humor, and community spirit. Members lingered, still chuckling about their musical “Monster Mash mishap.”

“Only at Rotary,” PAUL said with a grin, “can you sing *Monster Mash*, fund scholarships, and learn about Broadway — all before lunch.” And with that, the meeting adjourned — the sound of laughter and *Anchors Aweigh* echoing faintly as members headed out into the sunny Oceanside afternoon.

STILL DESPERATELY SEEKING ASSISTANCE.....

YOUR SHORELINES NEWSLETTER IS IN *DESPERATE* NEED OF HELPERS!!

WE WILL KEEP PESTERING YOU WITH THIS PLEA UNTIL AT LEAST A COUPLE OF MEMBERS STEP UP TO SERVE THE CLUB IN THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT WAY

Our roster of reporters is currently down to a critically low number. So low, that we could barely cover the assignments required in this very slow quarter with lots of holidays and dark meetings. Continuing to produce the newsletter in the more normal months coming up after the start of the new year could prove to be an unsustainable burden on our current staff.

We have asked several times in the past, but we really now do need to BEG of you. As the old saying is paraphrased – “Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their Rotary!” If we do not add a few new additions to our lineup, the burden on the remaining reporters could lead to burnout and, in the worst case scenario, **our newsletter might simply cease to be produced**. So please search your heart and ask yourself – “Could I plan on being an Oceanside Rotary hero by agreeing to take notes and write up a record of what happens at just one meeting every three months?” That is the manageable workload per person that we are aiming for. Plus you would go into this job with the confidence of knowing that a managing editor and a crack Double Checker squad is in place to review and help to polish your prose after you submit your first draft, making your final product shine – You don’t have to be a Hemingway. **This task would take just a few hours of your time once every few months**, but it provides a GREAT service to all of your fellow members.

No one at all responded to our plea in the last newsletter, so Managing Editor TOM BRAULT is getting understandably nervous about the future prospects for Shorelines. Contact TOM if you might be willing to give reporting a try starting in the first quarter of 2026 (January to March), or even if you just have questions about what would be expected. **We could really, REALLY use your help!!**

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Saturday, November 8 – Foundation Seminar – 10 am to 12:30 - See the District website for information and to register (<https://rotary5340.org/event/district-5340-foundation-seminar/>)

Saturday, November 8 – Day of the Dead Celebration with Tijuana Rotary Club

Friday, November 14 - Regular meeting – JOHN AULT, Veterans Day speaker –

Bring canned goods for Nichols Leadership Academy Food Drive and Toys for Women's Resource Center Holiday Gift Drive

Saturday November 15 – 8 to 9:30 am - A volunteer event to assemble meals -

Boys and Girls Club of San Marcos (1 Positive Place)

Thursday, November 20 – Early Thanksgiving Meal at VisTAY house (727 Ascot

Drive, Vista) – Bring food and/or help to serve the meal. Contact TERRI HALL for information

Friday, November 28 – DARK for Thanksgiving

No Regular Meetings in December, due to holidays and holiday party

Friday, December 12 - OCEANSIDE ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 13 – Boat Rides with Santa – Volunteer at fundraiser

Friday, January 9 – Club Assembly meeting

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