

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

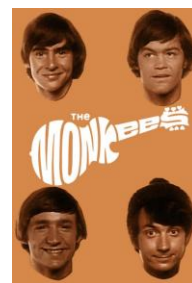
Our Co-President PAUL WENDEE must have been itching to take control once again, because he rang our bell to start the meeting a full 30 seconds early according to my watch. He moved straight down his agenda (which he actually paid attention to for a refreshing change!) by asking BOB PICKREL to lead us in the **Pledge of Allegiance** and DARREL LARSON to start us off in reciting the **Four Way Test** together.



Next he invited TOM BRAULT to the front to share some songs. Apparently on this date in history (September 12, 1966), the TV show “The Monkees” premiered, so we all joined in on one of their hits from that year - “I’m a Believer.” This tune was followed by a less rollicking number - “God Bless America.”

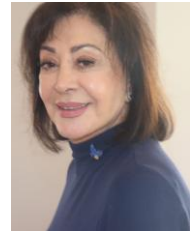


PAUL shared that back in September of 1966, there was a promotional event called “The Last Train to Clarksville” sponsored by a local radio station. The train from L.A. to Del Mar was temporarily renamed “Clarksville”, and bandmembers Micky Dolenz and Peter Tork rode the rails with some lucky fans of the brand new (and soon to become famous) group. A trip like that would make a “Daydream Believer” out of anybody!



PAUL then asked “our Assistant Governor / Secretary / Past President / and my wife” RENEE RICHARDSON to introduce our **Visitors**. Two of them were soon to become our newest members! VALERIE DOLAN and JOHN AULT were both seated at one of our front tables, along with JOHN’s wife DOTTIE and ANA MARIA FERNANDEZ from the Tijuana Rotary Club. TOM led us in singing our Welcome Song to our guests.

PAUL gave our frequent guest from south of the border ANA MARIA some airtime. She encouraged us to join their Tijuana club on Thursday, September 18 at 2 pm for their celebration of Mexican Independence Day, with a Mexican buffet luncheon and live mariachi music. She even offered to pick you up from the border to bring you right to the club, if you hold a Global Entry card.



Our **CLUB UPDATES** were not read out loud, but instead were provided to us in pink cards scattered around the tables. The announcements include:

Friday, 9/19: Board meeting on Zoom – Noon

Friday, 9/26: District Governor LUIS CARRANZA's official club visit at our regular meeting – Noon at El Camino Country Club

Friday, 10/10: Regular meeting – Supervisor JIM DESMOND

Friday, 10/17: "Grow a Brighter Future" fundraiser – 6:30 to 8:30 pm – Rancho Carlsbad (5200 El Camino Real, Carlsbad) – Admission just \$25

Friday, 10/24: Regular meeting – JERRY TROYER, Union Street Angels

Friday, 10/31: Regular meeting – JOYE LANDWEHR, Broadway San Diego

Friday, 11/14: Regular meeting – JOHN AULT, Veterans Day speaker

Saturday, 11/15: Feeding California Outreach Program – A volunteer event packaging food at the Boys & Girls Club in San Marcos

Friday, 12/12: Oceanside Rotary Holiday Party

Saturday, 12/13: Volunteer opportunity at Boat Rides with Santa fundraiser

PRESIDENTS' BUSINESS

Apparently there were no Member Birthdays to celebrate this month, but LES NEWQUIST has a big 20th **Wedding Anniversary** coming up on September 18, and he was \$20 happy about that.



Club Anniversaries in September include: ERNIE MASCITTI - \$25 happy for his 25 years in the club. PAUL WENDEE, who first said, "\$7 for 7 years", but decided to round that up to \$10 ... which had to be covered by an IOU. (Do you think he is good for it?) And last up (because it was for the shortest time in the club) was MICHAEL JENKINS, who donated \$20 for his one-year club anniversary. Congratulations to one and all who are celebrating in September!



RENEE headed back up to the microphone to handle the induction of our two newest members – JOHN AULT and VALERIE DOLAN. Handing them both their official packets and name badges and pins, she reminded us that we all have been given the opportunity to serve through



Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. (Bonus points for any members who can come up with that focus list without the aid of an internet search.) A rousing standing ovation and round of applause welcomed VALERIE and JOHN to the club!



DARREL LARSON was next up on the agenda to let us know more about the **“Grow a Brighter Future”** fundraiser coming up on Friday, October 17. This event will be held at Rancho Carlsbad. The fee for admission has been reduced to just \$25 (including music, food, and drinks), because “We need a lot of people to come!” to pump up the bidding on our fundraising auctions (with a professional auctioneer) and to spread the

word about Oceanside Rotary to a wider circle of folks. So, we are all tasked to “Be inviters.” We also were seeking some additional event sponsors, with the aim to have all the expenses underwritten in advance so that all the admission fees could go straight to profit. At this meeting, generous members (JIM SCHRODER, DAVE HALL, JANET BLEDSOE LACY, and LAURA BASSETT) stepped up to be food and bar sponsors. Desserts were already being covered by BOB PICKREL, so all the available sponsorship slots have now been filled. Woo hoo! And thanks for the generosity. Now we just need to get more and more people to attend the event to goose our auctions and boost our profits. Tickets are on sale now!

Our guest speaker PAUL DWORK was so inspired hearing about the planning for this fundraiser that he on the spot offered to donate passes to the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood as an auction item. I bet those will go for a pretty penny! The chance to visit the Magic Castle is an incredible, and pretty exclusive experience!

HAPPY DOLLARS TIME



TOM BRAULT has been out of the area for “almost two full months of heartwarming family bonding”, starting with a cross country 34 hour drive with wife Linda to the Northwoods of

Wisconsin, then a big “Christmas in July” themed family reunion downstate near Madison with 59 of his extended relations, a return to the cottage on the lake up north to spend more time with his three brothers, and ending up with a couple of weeks of quality “one on one” time with just TOM and his mother closing out the summer at the cottage. All of this was worth an IOU for \$25 to the RI Foundation.



LYN CORDER gave \$5 to share a story and a “thank you” to RENEE and the Shorelines newsletter staff. Her crush back in eighth grade in Tennessee (he played basketball while she was a cheerleader) was wondering what had become of his long-lost friend, so he Googled her name and was directed straight to an entry about LYN in our Rotary newsletter. He contacted RENEE who then relayed his contact information to LYN and, long story short, the two of them ended up enjoying a long phone call to catch up on their last 50 years since they had seen each other. Cute story, huh?

Having LYN mention the Shorelines reminded TOM to practically get on his knees and beg for members to **volunteer to serve the club by joining the team of Shorelines reporters**. With some of our regular contributors leaving town and/or otherwise becoming unavailable, we are currently down to just 5 reporters on the staff. We need to add a few new volunteers to the rotation to keep the workload more manageable for all involved (ideally and historically just one writing assignment per quarter). Many thanks to JANET BLEDSOE LACY for agreeing to come back on board starting in January, but we really REALLY could use 2 or 3 more folks to step up and share the load. Talk to TOM if you have any questions about what is involved. It is an easier task than you might think, you get plenty of support and help available to you, it is a great service to the club, and SOMEBODY has to do it - Why not you??

ROGER VANDERWERKEN presented a check for \$1,172.20 (a nice round number!?!) to ANA MARIA from the Tijuana club. When asked what the check was for, he cryptically replied, “Put \$5 in the shoe for Oceanside Rotary and I will tell you why.”



ERNIE MASCITTI confessed that we will be away from the club for the next 2 months, so he gave \$20 to the Polio Plus campaign in anticipation of October (which, you might know, is Polio Plus month in Rotary).

At this point, since DAVE HALL had generously popped for the requested \$5, ROGER revealed the backstory behind the mystery check. The members of his church had been quire inspired by the Tijuana Rotary's Three Kings Day event to which Oceanside Rotary had contributed \$500. So inspired that the church passed the plate and raised the aforementioned \$1,172.20 to contribute as well. Unfortunately, their check which had been placed in the mail got stolen, bleached, rewritten, and cashed by an unkind criminal. It took 6 months to straighten out this unfortunate mess, but now they could finally get their contribution into the right hands. Such generous and dedicated community servants at Breakwater!



TERRI HALL gave \$10 to say that her grandson JULIAN will be going to Barcelona for the first semester of this academic year, and she was very proud to report that she and DAVE as his grandparent are now on WhatsApp to be able to communicate and keep up with JULIAN's life while overseas.

DAVE NYDEGGER donated \$20 since he will not be able to attend the District Governor's club visit on September 26. But he has a good excuse. He and his "much older brother" have been invited to join an Honor Flight for veterans to be celebrated in Washington, D.C. We salute you, too, sir!



ANCHISA FARRANT had \$5 to tell us tales of her recent vacation in Alaska. She said there was a lot of rain, but that didn't stop her from getting some spectacular photos, including of whales spouting, diving, and breaching and a rare and unforgettable late-night viewing of the Northern Lights (*see the photos below in Rotarians Out and About*).

Then, when she and RON returned to the San Diego airport, they had yet another rare sighting. Arriving in San Diego at the same time, to the same baggage carousel, they ran into TOM BRAULT who was returning from Wisconsin. Small world, and serendipitous timing, no?

RENEE RICHARDSON wrapped up our Happy Dollars segment with a rather unhappy story about the rare "Non-Rotary adventure" she had shared with husband PAUL last month. Details can be read in our "Rotarians Out and About" section at the end of this newsletter, but we will tease you with this quote she shared at the meeting: "12 hours in a car with 'the Professor' could kill you!" Hearing that griping, Pastor ROGER VANDERWERKEN mentioned that his church offers free couples' counseling services.



A PRESENTATION WITH A LOT OF DUMMIES

As a preamble to introducing our guest speaker, Co Prez PAUL told us that he had shared a cabin at the spring RYLA weekend with “five old guys and one younger one.” Our speaker was one of his cabin mates. (PAUL did not confirm if it was one of the older or younger.) PAUL DWORK, a member of the Encinitas Rotary Club has for over 50 years been known to many as “Merlin” and has amazed audiences with his magic. He is a longtime member of the famous Magic Castle and the producer of the annual “Rotary Creates Magic” charity show which has raised thousands of dollars for community causes. Beyond the stage, PAUL is also a pharmacist (now retired), an inventor, and an entrepreneur. He calls himself a “Gadget Guy,” capable of making and fixing just about anything, which he demonstrated in his presentation – “The Art of Making a Ventriloquist Dummy.”



A while back, PAUL cut a cheap dummy's head open and improved the doll by replacing its simple and fragile pull string, added a wooden a post to swivel the head, as well as separate internal drawstring levers to move the dummy's mouth and eyes. He found it a challenge to keep the movable eyes oriented in their proper position and had to creatively employ springs to help with that problem.



Once others heard that he could work on ventriloquist dummies, he started getting requests for him to craft “lookalike” dolls. Using the standard head of either Groucho Marx or Charlie McCarthy, he taught himself how to customize the look by building up the nose and facial features with epoxy and adding hair and paint and accessories to match the requested subject. He showed a few examples of some of his custom clones, including, amongst others, the CEO and CFO of Ross Stores, the Hungry Howie mascot, as well as Val Young (a “Motown sensation” who the one and only Eddie Murphy wanted to see as a ventriloquist dummy.... This one required the use of silicone breast implants, complete with nipples. The likeness was quite remarkable!) When one client wanted two of his dummies to be able to roast each other, PAUL installed servos into each of the heads so that the figures could be operated by remote control. (He did tell us he was a “Gadget Guy”!)

As if the projected photos of his creations were not impressive enough, PAUL handed a number of working dummy heads and replacement eyeballs around the tables for us to see and touch and try out for ourselves.

In his closing, PAUL reminded us of the magic show that he does as a fundraiser through Rotary. This year's event will be held on February 28, 2026 at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Theater. It is a 2-hour show with a matinee and an evening performance featuring some big-name magicians. He offered the chance for our club to earn a \$30 portion of each ticket that we buy or sell. RENEE was eager to get the information from him on how we might take advantage of this as a club fundraiser. And PAUL also noted that, if we are ever in need of a last-minute speaker at a meeting, he does lots of other presentations, too. What an interesting and generous fellow!

As a thank you to PAUL D., our PAUL W. had ANCHISA come forward to bestow our speaker gift of another of her lovely succulent plant arrangements before we moved on to our:



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

With that elusive \$1,000 jackpot still up for grabs, and only 18 cards left in the deck, LAURA BASSETT was excited as heck to hear her number drawn. And she STILL was excited after she drew the 6 of spades instead of the Joker because, as she insisted, it was “fun just to get the chance to pull a card!”



And then, precisely as my watch read exactly 1:30 pm, Co Prez PAUL whipped out his gavel and gonged our meeting to a close.

MOONLIGHT LINEUP 2026

This may come as a shock, but we will need to make our decision on our annual “Rotary Night at the Moonlight” for next year MUCH earlier than has traditionally been the case. For several logistical reasons, the Moonlight will be opening up ticket sales for the next summer season of 2026 sometime just after the start of the new year. So stay tuned for the date that you will need to decide on joining us.

In the meantime, we can tell you that the lineup of hit musicals will be:

The Cher Show (May) / *Mean Girls* (June) / *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (July) / *Guys & Dolls* (August) / *Come From Away* (September)



As always, we will hold a vote to choose the show that draws the most interest from the most members. Most years, our Event Chair TOM BRAULT does not really have a preference between productions, but this time around, his highest recommendation would be for us to see the last show - *Come From Away* in September. In his opinion, it is far and away the best musical he has ever seen – the remarkably moving story of the community in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada that provided shelter and support for nearly 7,000 airline passengers who were stranded on “the rock” when planes were diverted there after the 9/11 attacks. This subject may sound dark, but the tale this show tells of an entire community banding together to be of service to strangers in need is a most inspiring and uplifting night of quality theater. When TOM saw it on Broadway, the entire audience jumped to their feet for a rousing standing ovation before the lights even went down at the end of the show. You really MUST see this show! (... But we will still officially hold a vote to make the “Night at the Moonlight” selection anyway. Look for that voting to be happening soon.)

ROTARIANS OUT AND ABOUT

As mentioned about in Happy Dollars, this information came in from RENEE RICHARDSON about their Labor Day Weekend adventure:

What! Hold On! Our Rotary Couple took a Non-Rotary Trip?

That's right! After two years running, Co-President Paul Wendee and Assistant Governor Renee Richardson ditched their Rotary travel Itinerary and hit the road just for the fun of it!

People called us crazy, but we headed for the South Rim of the Grand Canyon! Fully aware of the fires on the North Rim, we were prepared to make the most of it!

The highlight of travel day occurred when Paul took a little detour to kick back for a quick nap. After finding an unoccupied shady spot at the park, Paul got comfortable, and lo and behold, all of a sudden, a Park Ranger in his golf cart with flashing red and blue lights pulled up behind us. We were informed that to stop in the park, there was a \$10.00 fee. Of course, Paul is explaining in "detail" where we were going and that he ONLY needed a 45-minute nap. The



Park Ranger took pity on us and said, "You know what, I didn't see you!" Well, the long and the short of it, our 7-hour trip to the Grand Canyon took us 12 hours. Remember Gillian's Island? I felt like Ginger, who thought she was going on a 3-hour cruise.

Despite the lengthy road time, the Grand Canyon was, as always, breathtaking. We did not experience any smoke from the fires on the North Rim, and the weather was beautiful. It didn't seem like a holiday weekend, as there were so few visitors. We had nice walks and enjoyed a music festival right inside the South Rim.

We returned on Sunday, going through Sedona and Jerome. How many hours did it take us to get home? Our kids placed bets on their predictions of: 10 hours, 11 hours, and 13.5 hours. Actual time? 14 hours. From an experienced traveler to another, if you decide to take a long road trip with a professor, be prepared!

And here are the promised photos from ANCHISA's trip to Alaska!



COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Friday, September 19th – Board Meeting via Zoom at 12:00pm.

Friday, September 26th – Regular Club Meeting at El Camino Country Club.

Distinguished visitor and speaker will be our District Governor Luis Carranza.

Friday, October 10th - Regular meeting – Supervisor JIM DESMOND

Friday, October 17 - “Grow a Brighter Future” fundraiser – 6:30 to 8:30 pm –

Rancho Carlsbad (5200 El Camino Real, Carlsbad) – Admission just \$25

Friday, October 24th - Regular meeting – JERRY TROYER, Union Street Angels

Friday, October 31st - Regular meeting – JOYE LANDWEHR, Broadway San Diego

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

Saturday, November 15th - Feeding California Outreach Program – Packaging Food – Boys and Girls Club, San Marcos

Friday, December 12th - Oceanside Rotary Holiday Party – Evening social

Saturday, December 13th - Boat Rides with Santa Fundraiser - Volunteer opportunity at Oceanside Harbor. Help make some Christmas magic happen!