

Roosters Crow Newsletter

Over Forty Years of Friendship & Community Service
Ending Childhood Hunger
Volume 153, December, 2023



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

President's Message Gary Draper, President

2023 President, Roosters & Roosters Foundation

Dear Roosters Community,

I am thrilled to share with you the incredible success of our recent endeavors. The Roosters community has truly rallied together, and I am pleased to announce that, when the final numbers are tallied, we anticipate meeting or even exceeding our ambitious goal of \$150,000. Your unwavering dedication to supporting children in need has made a profound impact, and I am grateful for each and every one of you.

During our November board meeting, we approved an exciting addition to our calendar—an upcoming Wine Tasting event on June 22nd. To enhance the experience, we will be introducing beer and spirits to the menu. It promises to be a delightful occasion, and I encourage you to mark your calendars.

Our December Luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at Michael's on Naples in Long Beach, is shaping up to be a memorable event. Join us for an outstanding luncheon, complete with entertainment, as we reveal the recipients of our 2023 grants selected by the dedicated Charity Committee.

Approximately \$95,000 will be distributed to our chosen charities and Feeding Orange County. Your support has made this possible, and we look forward to celebrating together.

In planning for the upcoming year, the Board has decided to alternate between dinners and lunches. Keep an eye on your evites for location details as we finalize our selection for the lunch venue.

Save the date for the President's Awards Banquet on February 3rd at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel. Back by popular demand, the same fantastic band will be providing the musical backdrop for the evening. Prepare your song requests and get ready for a night of celebration and recognition.

I am pleased to announce that Jon Giberson and Scott Zimmerman have graciously accepted the roles of Rooster Store co-managers. Reach out to them with your requests for hats, polo shirts, pins, or any other Rooster merchandise, and wear them proudly as symbols of our shared commitment.

In closing, let's embrace the power of belief. "Believe you can, and you're halfway there! Give it all you can, whatever that is, and you're all the way there." Your dedication has brought us this far, and together, we will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for your continued support and efforts. Here's to a bright future for The Roosters!

Warm regards,
Gary Draper, President, Roosters



Vice President's Message Greg Bates

Hi All,

I hope you all can come to some or ALL the cool activities we've got in store for you in December and January!

December 9th at 11:30 am is the Holiday brunch at Michael's on Naples in Long Beach, this will be an adults get together for fun and visiting. Jill Caron Rauen, Charity Chair, will tell us about how much money we have donated this year to our Charities and the Food Box Drive. Joann has planned entertainment. The checks will be presented to the Charities' advocates at this lunch. The chef and restaurant have been staunch supporters of the Chefs dinner event for years and now we get to show them some love; it's a Saturday at 11:30 am so very easy to get to. Please bring any friends especially if they could be interested in joining Roosters.

The food drive boxing will be December 16th 8:30 am at the OC Food Bank in Garden Grove. Please sign up on the link Penny has sent everyone, call Penny if you have any questions or didn't get it. You sign up on this website so we know who's coming and if we have enough helpers: [SIGN UP](#)

Our annual Boat Parade Party December Social hosted for us at Bob McCaffrey's waterfront home on Balboa Island is on December 14th at 6 pm, Please bring your favorite beverage to share. Buffet Dinner is served. Wear layers as it can be cool and the doors onto the bayfront are all open. Parking is a drag so go early to find a spot; some will meet at the Village Inn after 4 pm. The island is beautiful to walk around and see the decorations before the party starts and the boardwalk gets packed.

We will have our Board meeting on January 9th and the first fun dinner meeting on January 11th. Both locations to be determined. In February we will meet for lunch on the 14th, Valentines Day.

I'm excited to be your president next year. We plan to have alternating monthly regular lunches and fun dinner meetings to bring your spouses to. Keep an eye out for the locations!

Thanks,

Greg, Vice President, Roosters



Our October 29 Chefs Experience was a huge success!

We grossed close to \$450,000, far exceeding any prior event. Two very generous Roosters made extraordinary gifts, totaling \$200,000, and we are so grateful to them. But it is also important to realize that the rest of the Roosters and their friends raised \$250,000 which exceeded our goal. Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way with the event. You should be very proud! We are!
Joann, Pat and Jen, co-chairs

2023 - 2024 Roosters Calendar

Our meetings and social dates will vary but will be monthly. We also have many fundraising and special events...OCFWC Wine Celebration, Chefs Experience, and our Feeding OC and Food Drives, Committee Meetings, Presidents Awards, Rooster Flash Mobs, and more!

We will update this calendar in each issue, so feel free to print out this page every month and block out the dates to keep involved. (updated 12-03-23)

Meetings for Rooster Members
Sign up on Evite and pre-pay at
www.roosters.org

December Holiday
Luncheon

December 9th

Michaels on Naples
5620 E. Second Street Long
Beach
Please Carpool - parking is tight
11:30am \$45 a person
Evite has been sent.

Socials for Rooster Members,
Significant Others, and Guests

December 14th

Christmas Boat Parade
Social at
Rooster Bob McCaffrey's House
1410 South Bay Front, NB
arrive early after 4pm for parking
and cocktails at Village Inn before
we walk to event at 6pm .
Evite has been sent.

Special Events

Saturday December 16th

Holiday Feeding OC Program
Packing Food Boxes
Please sign up now and invite
your family and friends to join us.



Volunteer for Dec 16th

Fund a Food Box NOW!
\$25 each

**[https://roostersholidayfood-
maxgiving.bid/donations](https://roostersholidayfood-maxgiving.bid/donations)**

Next Board Meeting Dates

Second Tuesday of each month.
at 6pm

Dec. 12th 6pm
Gary's Club House

This is a special Board Meeting
for the 2023 Board Members only.
Please join us again in Jan for the next
open meeting. Thanks!

Saturday February 3rd, 2024

President's Awards Banquet
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Ave of the arts, Costa Mesa
2024 paid dues include your ticket
to this event.

Wine Celebration

June 22, 2024
The Plaza at the Segerstrom
Center for the Arts

Chef's Experience

September 29, 2024
Old Ranch Country Club



ROOSTERS FOUNDATION
OF ORANGE COUNTY

Upcoming Calendar

Feeding OC

Paul Robidoux and Larry Mandell have volunteered to be the new co-chairs of the Feeding OC program. Let them know you appreciate their efforts!

For upcoming dates please contact:

Dan Stone: call or text 714-310-4162.

Dan@DantheManforMortgages.com

December 9 Holiday Luncheon

11:30 am at Michael's on Naples.

5620 E. Second Street, Long Beach.

We'll be announcing the recipients of Roosters Grants, and in any case you won't want to miss the excellent cuisine and Holiday fun!

\$45 dinner - bring a date!

Parking is limited, please car pool!

And... please RSVP to the Evite - thanks!

December 12 Board of Directors

6-8 PM at Gary's Club House.

This is a special board meeting for 2023 board ONLY - please join us again in January for our next open meeting.

Contact Gary Draper

December 14 Boat Parade Social!

Our annual party to see the bright marine lights of Newport Beach! Once again graciously hosted by Bob McCaffrey, giving us the best grandstand views of the parade from Balboa Island.

Bring something liquid to add to the party, and enjoy the catered buffet dinner.

Parking is extremely tight on the island - car pool, and think of joining the pre-party group at the Village Inn from 4pm onwards!

And of course, RSVP to the Evite!

December 16 Holiday Feeding Program

Our annual main event, providing food to needy in Orange County Packing and distributing food boxes.

Check your inbox for details.

Sponsor your own box for just \$25 (or sponsor a dozen!)

<https://roostersholidayfood.maxgiving.bid/donation>

All Future Events

Board meetings 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

Luncheons or dinners the 2nd week each month. Stay tuned monthly for details. .

Socials usually 3rd/4th Thursday every month.

ROOSTER DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Gary Draper



Jennifer Moriarty



Billy O'Connell



Jill Caron-Rauen



David Selleck



Buy them Champagne!



Speaker's Corner

We had a wonderful Dinner Meeting with many Roosters and guests on November 8th. Our speakers were our very own Thad Sanford and Marty Golden. We shared a slide show saluting many of our Veterans who are Rooster Members!



Our next meeting will be the December 9th at Michael's on Naples. We are thrilled to experience the magic of Michael's on Naples and Chef Eric Samaniego. Please look for your evite, invite a date, and try to car pool or Uber as the parking is tight!

Joann Leatherby – Speaker Chair

Charity Committee

The Charity Committee met and recommended the grant amounts for seventeen charities. Then the Grant Review Committee met, and approved the numbers, and the Board gave their final approval last night. We are giving away \$95,000.00 this year! I will submit the numbers to the treasurer and the checks will be ready to give to the advocates at our Holiday Luncheon in December so they can start delivering them! The holiday giving season is upon us, and the Roosters are certainly participating in a big way! Well done Everyone!

Jill Caron-Rauen

Charity Committee Chair

jill@jdcaron.com

714-536-8603 (home/office) or 714-552-4216 (cell)

2023 Charities are: Advance on to College, CAST, Christina Mauser Foundation, Devil Pups, Family Promise, Fish for Life, Friendly Center, H.O.P.E., Fristers, Huntington Harbor Philharmonic, Hope Harbor, Kherut, Parentis Foundation, Pure Game, Stand Up For Kids, Summer Harvest and Young Singers of Orange County.



2023 ROOSTERS FOUNDATION OF ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.roosters.org



Gary Draper
President



Greg Bates
Vice President



Kirk Adams
Past - President



Louis Gardner
Ambassador Director



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Larry Mandell
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Joann Leatherby
Speakers Director



2023 ROOSTERS FOUNDATION OF ORANGE COUNTY OFF-BOARD

www.roosters.org



Dan Stone
Food Program



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John Trapani
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OCFWC Co-Chair



Joann Leatherby
OCFWC Co-Chair



Jen Moriarty
OCFWC Co-Chair



Peter Smith
Crow Editor



Penny Strenger
Event Coordinator



Alison Cotton
Dir. of Comm.

Support Our Chefs!

Follow Pat's lead, enjoying brunch at Old Vine with Chef Mark McDonald, and think of the chefs that support our events when you're dining out this holiday season!

See list of chefs on page 10



In Memorium - Connie McDanel

Connie McDanel, wife of Rooster, Buz McDanel, mother to Michael, Dana, Jamie, and Susan, Grand mother of eight, and a Great grandmother, died from cancer on November 15. She was a beautiful Rooster sister and worked tirelessly over the years with the Roosters to assist children in need in Orange County. Her beautiful smile and uplifting personality brought joy to those less fortunate and she will be missed. Carol Van Rensselaer (widow of Rooster Ned Van Rensselaer)



I met Connie at a Rooster Party in 2004. Buz and she came up to Gary and me and said they had heard we were going on a cruise. She asked if they could come as well. They didn't care where the cruise was going they just wanted to go. It turned out that 14 people went on that cruise (more Roosters as well). Connie was the life of the party... always staying up late to see all the shows. It was a beautiful 14 day Mediterranean cruise where Jana was the lead singer!
Anna Draper

When I first became involved in The Roosters, some of the first people I remember meeting at the Monte Carlo night and Food Drive were Connie and Buz McDanel. They were truly a couple in love, and they had oh so much style together and presence when they



walked into a room. The last time I saw Connie was a few years back at the Wine Celebration. She was dressed so gorgeously, perfectly styled, and had a matching cane with lots of bling. Her eyes always lit up when she and I spoke. And she loved being a part of The Roosters. I truly thought to myself, this is a woman I want to be more like. She will be missed by all who knew her.
Alison Cotton

In Memorium - Bill Schilt, Roosters President 2006-2007



We are very sad to announce the loss of our Rooster Brother of many years, Bill Schilt. Janice recently informed us that Bill was going into a memory care facility and had lost his sight. She says he remembered and loved to talk about Roosters. Bill passed away on November 29. He leaves many wonderful memories for those who knew him.

Bill was a past president 2006-2007 and was my president when I was last VP. This wonderful couple helped Roosters immensely for many years. - Greg Bates

Please send cards or notes sent to: Janice Schilt 3321 Sunset Key Circle Unit 409 Punta Gorda FL 33955.

Whenever I saw Bill at the luncheons and events, he would always make his way over to me with a smile on his face, to say hi and ask how I was doing. He had a true interest in his fellow Roosters. He was a great conversationalist, and truly cared about others. - Bleu Cotton



Bill loved to play golf, and couldn't wait to get on the tee with his fellow Roosters. - Jon Giberson



Roosters advocate for the Devil Pups for many years. In lieu of flowers, Janice asks that donations be made in Bill's memory to the organization, via the website www.devilpups.com, or by mailing a check to Devil Pups Inc., PO Box 1540, Wilmington, CA. 90748.

Bill was certainly one of my favorite Roosters and was instrumental in molding me into the Rooster I was in the 2010's. His heart was big, and his guidance was sincere. I can still feel Bill's hand upon my shoulder while he is wishing me success and growth in all aspects of my life. Bill, you will be dearly missed, my friend and mentor. - Michael Krever



In Memory of Bill Schilt

Bill came to one of our lunch meetings. At this first meeting, I saw that he had the looks and personality of a leader. He was easy to talk to and I knew he should join Roosters and be a part of our leadership team. So even though this was his first meeting, I asked him to consider running for the Board of Directors.

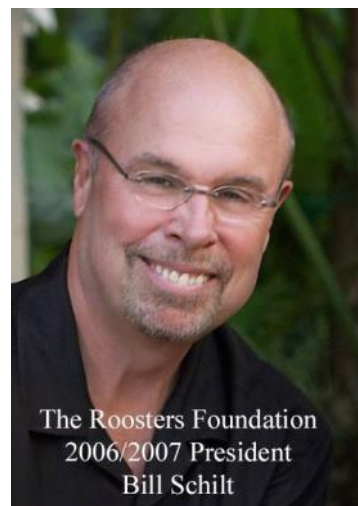
Bill graciously accepted and won election, and then worked his way through the various positions to become President of Roosters. It wasn't long before he became an advocate for Devil Pups, a great youth training group, sponsored by the United States Marine Corps.

In 1953, Marine Corps Colonel A. Duncan Shaw, Sr., learned that a group of teenagers burned an American flag at a Southern California high school. Aggravated by this activity and the attitudes among American youth it represented, Colonel Shaw and a group of retired Marine Corps Reserve Officers, now prominent Southern California businessmen, asked the Commandant of the Marine Corps to help with a community benefit project that would aid the development of character qualities in teenage boys and girls, and enable them to become healthier and more successful young citizens.

The idea was to bring these young people to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and let them observe how Marines are trained and then for ten days be trained themselves by volunteer Marine escorts. Roosters has been a sponsor of this program for many years with a grant to pay the cost of this boot camp for kids who live in Orange County.

Bill was the easiest person to talk to and he was always giving good advice to me and everyone else. So, he was like both a father and brother to all of us and we will miss him greatly. Instead of sending flowers and cards, please donate to Devil pups at www.devilpups.com, or by mailing a check to Devil Pups Inc., PO Box 1540, Wilmington, CA. 90748

Gary Draper, Roosters President



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Feeding OC Holiday Boxes

Thank you for the opportunity to lead the Feeding OC Program for the last 5+ years through many challenges. I enjoyed serving the Roosters Foundation and coordinating the creation, distribution of the food boxes, mobile pantry, as well as hot and frozen meals to 60+ charities. It requires a team of volunteers to accomplish these great tasks. It is with sadness that I hand the responsibilities to Larry Mandel and Paul Robidoux to become Co-Chairmen of the Feeding OC Program. I know they will do a great job leading the program in great new directions to help those in need.



Regarding the Dec. 16th Holiday Meal Giveaway event. We have space for a FEW more volunteers, currently 15 spaces open to help with breaking down cardboard and clean-up from 8:30am to noon.

Thank you to Joann for sponsoring our coffee and to Pat McAuley for sponsoring the donuts and bagels. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful volunteers at our 12/16 event, 8:30 AM at OC Food Bank in Garden Grove.



If you want to help with the cleanup task, click this link:
<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/545340180106/false#/invitation>

Feeding OC Co-Chairs:
Dan Stone, Paul Robidoux, Larry Mandell



Volunteer for Dec 16th



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Spencer (see ad to left) has been a part of the Roosters Family all his life - he was a regular feature at our Food Drive as Jon's protégé for over 10 years straight!



If I can't find you a better mortgage rate, **YOU DON'T PAY ME A DIME!**

Dan connected us with a bank that refinanced our \$2,800 monthly payment down to \$2,300.

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Membership

It's easy to propose a new member!

Just get your candidate's business card, put your name on it, and forward it to **Membership Director** or use the membership application at www.RoostersFoundation.org/membership.

Thank you to Joann and Greg Bates for sponsoring new member, Barbara Foster, and Bleu Cotton for sponsoring Davi Wilson...two of our newest Rooster members!

New Members: Proposed members are presented to the membership of the Roosters for review.

If you have objections to a proposed new member, call your Membership Director. Calls are confidential.



Ambassadors Corner

Lou Gardner, Chair

Brother and Sister Roosters, take a moment to call and introduce yourselves to our new members. Let our new Ambassadors know how you became a Rooster and share your memories and experiences from events and establishing lifelong friendships.



Our current Ambassadors:

Ambassadors, as the Ambassador Chair, I will be reaching out to you and asking for your assistance in getting the word out for our luncheons, social events, and other Roosters activities.

Lynn Brown
Larry Greene
JJ Jackson
Robert Ward
Howard Minkley
Davi Wilson
Barbara Foster
Jessie Bullis

Honorary Roosters - we are happy to have the ongoing support of the following:

Cherri Farah
Gary Eisenberger
Margarita Martin
Mark McDonald
Dan Pederson

Floyd Pickrell
Peter Smith
Stephanie Bauer
Penny Strenger

Stan Smith



A big thank you to Stan for his work, serving as your VP for the first 9 months of this year. We understand Stan is currently under doctor's care, so keep him in your thoughts and give him a hug next time you see him.

Help Roosters Help Kids Campaigns....you can make a recurring monthly contribution with a few clicks on our website!

1. 16% of kids in Orange County go to bed hungry. We need your help to help them! Please make a monthly donation of any amount to the Roosters "Feeding O.C." program. We are working on raising \$52,000 to enable us to distribute 2000 boxes this year. Please help by funding a Food Box every month with the instructions below.



Make it a Recurring Contribution!

2. The Roosters Endowment Program currently has a balance of nearly \$80,000 and it's growing...but only with your help! Please make a monthly donation of any amount to The Roosters "Endowment Program" so that at some point in the future we will have enough funds to keep Roosters donations continuing forever, (as the principal can never be spent...only the interest on the principle can be donated by The Roosters Foundation!) It is managed by the Orange County Community Foundation. Please set up your monthly contribution with the instructions on the QR link. Your RECURRING Monthly contribution will make a HUGE difference!

Roosters Around The World

Craig and Dayna Boardmans's September B-Day adventure



Celebrating at the beach in Rhodes...



...and in Santorini.

Members – If you have emails to send to the Roosters Membership, please contact our Communications Director, Alison Cotton, to assist you with your needs. Please refrain from sending group emails from your individual accounts. Thank you in advance.



Facebook Group

Roosters Socials

December 14 Boat Parade Social!



"The MOST Wonderful time of the Year" Social at Bob McCaffrey's home in Newport Harbor, watching the Newport Beach Boat Parade. We thank Bob for hosting this highlight event of the year! Please bring a bottle or two of wine, and holiday cheer! Remember, the party starts at 6pm, but parking is tight on the island, so let's gather early at the Village Inn a few blocks away, from 4pm on.



Contact JJ Jackson, Social Chair 949-500-6931
Please check your emails for the "EVITE" for details on the monthly socials

Roosters Store is Coming!

Thanks to Gary Draper, the Roosters Store is coming...

Very soon you will be able to order quality men's and women's Under Armour polo shirts and baseball hat embroidered with Roosters' logo.

You will receive an email with a link to the store to order and have the items shipped directly to you.



Taste the culinary wizardry from these talented chefs

- * Chef Stefano Ciociola *Benchmark - <https://benchmarkrestaurant.com>
- * Chef Eric Samaniego *Michael's on Naples - <http://michaelsonnaples.com>
- * Chef Jemille Cruz *Old Ranch Country Club - www.olderanch.com
- * Chef Mark McDonald *Old Vine Kitchen & Bar - www.oldvinekitchenbar.com
- * Chef Nick Weber *Populaire Modern Bistro - <https://www.populaireoc.com/>
- * Chef Ugo Allesina *Prego Mediterranean - www.PregoOC.com
- * Chef David B. Martin *The Pacific Club - www.pacificclub.org
- * Chef Alfonso Ramirez *Leatherby's Café Rouge - www.patinagroup.com/leatherbys-cafe-rouge
- * Chef Masa Ose *Old Brea Chophouse - <https://www.oldbreachophouse.com/>
- * Chef Jon Barone *Bar One by Il Barone - <https://www.baroneoc.com/>
- * Chef Dave Rossi *Catering by MixMix - <https://www.cateringbymixmix.com/>

Roosters of Orange County
17602 17th Street Suite 102-252,
Tustin, CA 92780

www.roostersfoundation.org



Rooster of the Year
John Hinson - 2022



Crow Editor
Peter Smith

Roosters Creed

An organization that stands for friendship, fellowship, charity and good times. It stands for busy, worldly people who take the time to give those less fortunate a helping hand. It stands for warmth, strength, and shared laughter.

Mission Statement

To facilitate and encourage lifelong friendships while performing charitable works on behalf of children in need.

Mission Statement for the Roosters Foundation of Orange County

To raise necessary funds for disadvantaged and at risk children in the Orange County area and to support public and private programs with necessary services for children in need.

We respectfully request that all Roosters and the friends of Roosters patronize the businesses and establishments that support and foster Roosters charity causes. We are grateful!



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

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