

Roosters Crow Newsletter

Over Forty Years of Friendship & Community Service
Ending Childhood Hunger
Volume 168, March, 2025



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

President's Message

Lou Gardner

2025 President, Roosters & Roosters Foundation



Fellow Roosters and Friends,

“The Ides of March are upon us!

I looked up the positive meaning behind this famous quote and was happy to find a parallel with the Roosters and our current status.

The positive idea behind the “Ides of March” is that it originally marked the first full moon of the Roman calendar year, signifying a fresh start, new beginnings, and a time for celebration”.

The Roosters continue to “up their game” in the activities we sponsor to raise funds for children in need and at risk. From giving turkeys away from the parking lot at Chanteclair Restaurant in Newport Beach, to our hosting Monte Carlo Night, we have come a long way to where we are today, hosting the Orange County Food and Wine Celebration (OCFWC) at the Pageant of the Masters property in Laguna Beach on March 29 and later in the year our Roosters Chef Experience at Old Ranch Country Club on September 28.

We have come a long way! Our grant amounts have increased, but in order to gain momentum in doing the good works of the Roosters, we need every one of our members to help. Ticket sales for the OCFWC must be sold. Restaurant contacts you may have must be contacted for possible inclusion in the food offerings. We need our members to help in any way they can making the OCFWC the best ever in ticket sales and participation.

Let's have 100% participation for this event! Reach out to Penny Strenger and sign up to help. Bring your friends to the event!

Use Social Media to promote the OCFWC.

Thank you, fellow Roosters!

Louis Roybal Gardner
Roosters President, 2024

Vice President's Message

Larry Greene



2025 OC Food and Wine Celebration update

We are on the home stretch leading up to this year's OC Food and Wine Celebration with only five weeks to go.

The band is set, the wineries are chosen and the beer is set to flow. We have a handful of restaurants and still need about five more.

If you have connections, please reach out to Penny or me if you need help getting them over the finish line, committed to serve samples of their delicacies at the event.

Also, ticket sales are off to a great start but we need to ensure that we cross the 500 mark to make this year a huge success. Please reach out to friends, family and coworkers to join us for a fun and tasty experience on March 29th. See you there!

Larry Greene
OCFWC Chair & Roosters Vice President

Ambassador's Corner

Fellow Roosters,

You've all done an incredible job of increasing our membership by sponsoring our newest Ambassadors into the Roosters Organization. Be sure to welcome them when you see them at our events and send a text or give them a call:



Prem Balani
BJ Borgen
Jeremy Gordon
Shannon Rodriguez

Cindy Shin
Ginny Davies
Dave Welch

As Ambassador Chair, I am looking forward to working with Joann Leatherby and Greg Bates to put together an ambassador luncheon this summer which will include the 2023/2024/2025 new members along with past presidents and the current board members. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Davi Wilson
Ambassador Chair 2025



Calendar of Events

Updated as of 3-10-25

Thursday March 13 - Dinner

Pregos 6pm

rsvp on Evite

Jayne Herring, president and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Orange County speaking. Please bring a date or prospective Rooster.



Run for The Roosters

May 2-4 2025

Hoag OC Running Festival

The Roosters will be one of 25 Charity Partners!

This will be a HUGE event we will be involved in.

March 29th OC Food & Wine Celebration

Laguna Beach

Festival of Arts! NEW LOCATION!

Buy tickets and/or Volunteer!

Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook Off

Sunday June 1st

Volunteers needed! Details coming soon.

Contact Rob Ward for more info;

rward@eis.agency

April 24th Thursday 6pm
Flash Mob at Smoqued BBQ Orange
NOTE - Not on a Tuesday but a special Thurs Flash Mob...

Chefs Experience - September 28 2025

Old Ranch Country Club

Please contact Joann to join her planning committee.



Please note: dates and events may be subject to change. Calendar will be updated as needed. Check date of calendar at top of page, and email RoostersCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com if you have questions or need a refreshed calendar.

All members and significant others are welcome to join this group. Contact Ali if you would like to join but are not presently on Facebook.



Facebook Group

**2025 Roosters Foundation of Orange County
Board of Directors**



Louis Gardner
President



Vice President
Larry Greene



Greg Bates
Past President



Rob Ward
Membership
Director



Davi Wilson
Ambassador
Director



Jill Caron - Rauen
Charity
Director



Bleu Cotton
Speakers
Director



Jessie Bullis
Treasurer



Recording
Garison Draper

**2025 Roosters Foundation of Orange County
Off - Board**



Joann Leatherby
Culinary Masters
9-28-25 Chair



Larry Greene
OC Food & Wine
3-29-25 Chair



Jon Giberson
Run for The Roosters
Hoag Marathon
Liason



Paul Robidoux
Feeding OC
Co-Chair



Larry Mandell
Feeding OC
Co-Chair



Social Chairs
Joann & Greg
Leatherby-Bates



Penny Strenger
Events Coordinator



Alison Cotton
Dir. of Comm.



Peter Smith
Crow Editor

ROOSTER MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Lou Gardner



Paul Robidoux



Rick McAuley



Buy them a cocktail!!



Roosters Store!

You can still order MERCH from our online Store!
Roosters' store is open to order
Under Armour shirts and Richardson 112 Twill/
Mesh Snapback hat – all embroidered with
Roosters' logo.
Prices include taxes and shipping!
Orders will be shipped in batches once a month, so
get yours this month!

Our supplier is....

Cedarstream

[https://stores.cedarstream.com/
roosters_foundation/shop/home](https://stores.cedarstream.com/roosters_foundation/shop/home)





Saturday, March 29, 2025

3 – 6 pm

NEW LOCATION:

Festival of Arts Laguna Beach

It's our 15th Anniversary of the OC Food and Wine Event! Join us at our new location in Laguna Beach, hosted at the Festival of Arts Pageant of the Masters.

ALL INCLUSIVE tasting festival of wine, spirits, craft brew, delicious eats and live music to HELP Roosters HELP Kids!

Get your ticket for just \$95—with promo code "ROOSTER" VIP \$115



**Scan to
Buy
TICKETS**



Purchase at

<https://ocfoodandwine.eventbrite.com/>

www.ocfwc.com



Please contact our team with any questions at 949.677.3404 or ocroosters@cox.net



Charity Committee

The committee is open to all members. We are the people who pass out the checks to the charities at the end of the year, and trust me, it feels good!

Jill Caron-Rauen,
Charity Chairperson
Work: 714-536-8603 Cell/text: 714-552-4216 jill@jdcaron.com



2024 Charities

Receiving Grant Checks
Totaling \$100,000
from

**The Roosters
Foundation of Orange County**

Advance! On to College
Devil Pups
Family Promise
Fish For Life
Friendly Center
Fristers
H.O.P.E.

Hope Harbor/Laurel House
Parentis Foundation
Stand Up For Kids
Summer Harvest



Helping Roosters Help Kids
www.Roosters.org

Membership

Roosters!

We have 57 members and 8 honorary members and have collected 85% of our 2025 dues. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so ASAP so we can continue to fund all the fun we have planned for 2025.



We will have the Rooster membership booth at:
The 15th Annual Roosters Foundation OC Food and Wine Celebration, March 29th.

If you have a prospective member, have them contact me at rward@eis.agency or 949-274-6274.

If you have a prospective member, give me their contact information and I will reach out to them.

Sincerely,
Robert F. Ward
Membership Chair

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

Cherri Farah	Floyd Pickrell
Gary Eisenberger	Peter Smith
Margarita Martin	Stephanie Bauer
Mark McDonald	Penny Strenger
Dan Pederson	

Flash Mob!

We plan on every 4th Tuesday, but this month is a Thursday. Please check evite and rsvp so we can have a headcount for Chefs!

Our next Flash Mob will be at Smoqued California BBQ, and they are ready to accommodate Roosters there on Thursday, April 24th, 2025, 6pm. Evite will go out beginning of April.

They have one large table that can sit about 16 that they are holding for us and then there are tables close to that table if we have spill over. No need to limit the group size, we can sort it out if we have 16+.

2024 Roosters Foundation Grants



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

Each year, the Roosters Foundation makes grants to small charities that benefit children. Some have a long history with the Roosters; others are new. Each charity is carefully vetted by Rooster volunteers to ensure they stay true to their mission.

The Roosters Foundation raises money through the annual Orange County Food and Wine Celebration and through direct donations from members and the community.



Advance!...on to college

Rooster Advocate - Allyn Lean

Purpose - Dedicated to empowering individuals on their journey towards higher education.

Website - www.ontocollege.org



Devil Pups

Rooster Advocate - Gary Draper

Purpose - Leadership education through a demanding physical and academic camp experience.

Website - www.devilpups.com



Family Promise

Rooster Advocate - Dan Stone

Purpose - Emergency shelter, short-term housing, and support services for homeless families.

Website - www.familypromiseorangecounty.org



Fish For Life

Rooster Advocate - Marty Golden

Purpose - Ocean fishing experience for special needs children.

Website - www.fishforlife.org



Friendly Center

Rooster Advocate - Michael Krever

Purpose - "Success for All" after-school tutoring program for children K - 12.

Website - www.friendlycenter.org



Fristers

Rooster Advocate - Lou Gardner

Purpose - Meeting the immediate needs of teen parents to break the repeating cycle of poverty.

Website - www.fristers.org



H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E.

Rooster Advocate - Peter Haaker

Purpose - Provides swift access to critical services and resources, striving to alleviate food insecurity and homelessness.

Website - www.hopebiz.org



Hope Harbor

Rooster Advocate - John Hinson

Purpose - Focused on providing a home for teens in crisis, transforming lives, and strengthening families.

Website - www.hopeharbor.org



**Empowering
Readers OC**
A Program of Parentis Foundation

Parentis Foundation

Rooster Advocates - Thad Sandford & Larry Mandell

Purpose - Seeks to raise reading proficiency of at-risk kids by the end of third grade.

Website - www.parentishealth.org



Stand Up for Kids

Rooster Advocate - Jill Caron-Rauen

Purpose - End the cycle of youth homelessness by providing basic needs, housing and mentoring.

Website - www.standupforkids.org/orangecounty



Summer Harvest

Rooster Advocate - Paul Robidoux

Purpose - Provides food to children in need and their families during Summer and Holiday Seasons.

Website - www.summerharvest.us



Young Singers of Orange County

Rooster Advocate - Jill Caron-Rauen

Purpose - Music education scholarships for at-risk youth.

Website - www.youngsingersoc.org

www.RoostersFoundation.org

Event Formally Known as Chefs Experience September 28th

Thank you to all of the generous chefs and restaurants who helped us raise over \$288,000 in 2024 at this event.

Mark your calendars for Sept 28th 2025 - Please join the planning committee.

Please visit these restaurants and let the chefs know you are a Rooster!

Chef Eric Samanigo and Michaels on Naples
 Chef N'tasha Delgado and Chef Jemille Cruz & Old Ranch Country Club
 Chef Ugo Allesina and Prego
 Chef Alan Moran and The Pacific Club
 Chef Ross Pangilinan and Catering by Mix Mix
 Chef Nick Weber and Populaire Modern Bistro
 Chef Alfonso Ramierz and Leatherby's Café Rouge
 Chef Stefano Ciociola and Benchmark

Roosters in the News and Around the World

Krevers and Gardners at the Valentine's day event Giracci



ROOSTERS  ORANGE COUNTY
 food and wine
 CELEBRATION™
 "Help Roosters Help Kids"

Hoag Marathon Running Festival

We are excited to be a representative charity of the HOAG OC Marathon on May 2nd - 4th weekend.

For us to raise money for The Roosters Foundation, we need your help by signing up to walk or run in one of the events.

We will be treating this weekend as a Roosters Social event! The more we have the more fun it will be. There will be a big gathering at the OC Fairgrounds on Saturday night, and we hope to go as a group to celebrate!

You must sign up under The Roosters for your Walk/Run to count. Please reach out to Jon Giberson if you have questions. Click the QR code.

NOTE: If the "Charity Runner" does not select a "Team" and select "Roosters" on the initial registration page, they DO HAVE another opportunity to select Roosters when they set up their fundraiser page, which of course they will all be motivated to do because they want to meet their goal and get the registration fee back.

Schedule:

Friday, May 2nd - 3-7pm

Lifestyle & Fitness Expo – OC Fair & Event Center - 88 Fair Dr. Costa Mesa CA

Saturday, May 3rd - 10-5 (Expected attendance 25,000; Roosters will have a booth to recruit new members.)

Kids Run the OC – 8:00am

Lifestyle & Fitness Expo – 10am-5pm OC Fair & Event Center - 88 Fair Dr. Costa Mesa CA

Celebrate OC – 2:00pm-7:00pm – Enjoy brands and bands and sports teams from the OC.

Celebrate OC 5K – 5:30pm

Sunday, May 4th

OC Lifestyle & Fitness Expo – 10:00am-5:00pm - Over 75 Fitness and Fun Brands

Full & Half Marathon – 5:30am

Half Marathon - 6:30am

Ultimate Finish Line Party at the OC Fair & Event Center – 7:00am-12:00pm

Both marathon events begin at Fashion Island and end at OC Fair & Event Center



ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION
OF ORANGE COUNTY



Run for The Roosters Foundation
May 3-4, 2025
Costa Mesa, CA

<https://runsignup.com/Race/133058/Charity/28294>

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME VINO???

We are gearing up for what promises to be one of the BEST Roosters Wine Tastings EVER!!!

Save the date March 29th.

We'll be going to beautiful Laguna Beach where the renowned Pageant of the Masters is performed. The entry point to the pageant is where our event will take place. This over-the-top location will be a huge draw due to its variety of activities, the beach, art galleries, restaurants, bars, unique boutiques, etc.

Let your family and friends know to save this date...you might consider this a holiday gift.

We look forward to seeing you there!!! - John Trapani

A promotional poster for the Roosters Orange County Food and Wine Celebration. At the top, it says "ROOSTERS ORANGE COUNTY" in a mix of green and orange. Below that, "Food and Wine" is written in large, colorful letters (green, purple, and grey), and "CELEBRATION" is in large, bold, black letters. The date "March 29, 2025" is in purple, followed by "Festival of Arts" and "Laguna Beach, CA" in purple, and the website "www.OCFWC.com" in purple. At the bottom, there are two small images: one showing a person pouring wine into a glass, and another showing a person holding a wine glass. Below the images, it says "Join the Planning Committee today!" in blue.



In an effort to grow membership, promote Roosters events and causes, and support our friends at The Tustin Community Foundation, Roosters poured wine and Sipped & Strolled in Old Town Tustin on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025.

We collected 42 entry forms for our raffle and will add those contacts to our Rooster email list.

Roosters that volunteered and poured wine; Rob Ward, Leah Ward, Stephanie Bauer, and Larry Greene.

Roosters that came out in support, Lou & Leslie Gardner, Paul & Kathy Robidoux, Shannon and Alex Rodriguez, Dan Stone, and Stacy Lemoine.



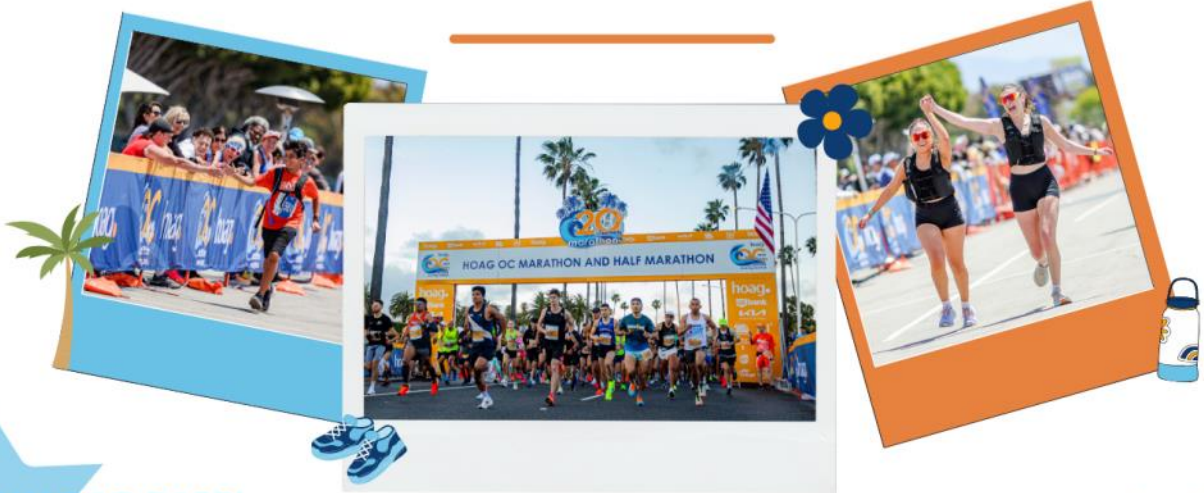
X



RUN THE OC FOR A CAUSE

THROUGH THE 2025 HOAG OC MARATHON!

5K | HALF MARATHON | FULL MARATHON | COMBO CRUSH



RUN FOR FREE!

Runners who fundraise to a certain threshold have the opportunity to have their registration fees refunded to them.

- **Combo Crush:** Fundraise \$650/\$750 to run for free
- **Full Marathon:** Fundraise \$500 to run for free
- **Half Marathon:** Fundraise \$350 to run for free
- **5K:** Fundraise \$150 to run for free

HOW TO JOIN

1. Go to ocmarathon.com and click REGISTER
2. Fill out your registration information.
3. Scroll down to choose 'Charity Runner' and the event of your choice
4. Create your fundraising page and complete the remainder of your registration.
5. Start training + fundraising!

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD 2025

Celebrate OC 5K: 5:30pm

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH 2025

Full Marathon: 5:30am

Half Marathon: 6:30am



DONATE

714-241-0142

www.ocmarathon.com

@ocmarathon

Notes from
Alison Cotton, Communications Director

Our communications team uses:

- Evite (Download the Evite App on your Phone)
- Facebook Group (Download the Facebook App on your Phone)
- Constant Contact (Make sure our Crow Newsletters are not going to your email JUNK folder)
- Our Member Directory is on our website in a Members-Only Section
- Instagram – LIKE and SHARE our posts!
- YouTube – Please subscribe and watch!
<https://www.youtube.com/@roostersfoundationofoc>

Thank you in advance.

RoostersCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com

or txt 949-254-6563

How can you share The Roosters Foundation's mission with others?

- * Post about us on your Social Media.
- * Invite others to our events, and encourage membership!...
- * Buy and wear our Merch! Check out our store online! (address in this Crow!)
- * Get creative like Gary Draper...
He added a custom license plate frame to his car!
"The cost is about \$21. If you like this license plate frame, you can order it on Amazon. Contact Gary or Ali for more details on the amazon seller.

Roosters Charitable Fund Endowment

The fund guarantees that the Roosters Foundation's mission of helping Orange County's children will continue forever. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, this endowment creates a steady stream of income that will always be available to fund programs that make a real difference in the lives of these local children.

Want to help? Click on the link below to donate directly to the Roosters Charitable Fund Endowment. Your contribution, whether a one-time gift or a monthly donation, will ensure that the Roosters Foundation can continue its vital work for generations to come.

<https://www.oc-cf.org/funding-opp/roosters-foundation-charitable-fund/>

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-Marty Burbank



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Speaker's Corner



Thank you for having myself and Ali speak at the Feb luncheon. It was a thrill to show off our work!

You will enjoy our March Dinner, on the 13th at Prego's at 6pm. See your evite for details. We are honored to have Jayne Herring, president and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Orange County speaking. Please bring a date or prospective Rooster.

Your Speaker Chair,
Bleu Cotton

Roosters Socials

We had a successful procurement party at Benchmark!
Thank you to all who came and contributed.



Next month our social will be the OC Food and Wine Celebration! JOIN us and buy tickets for friends!

Joan Leatherby & Greg Bates, Social Chairs

Please check your emails for the "EVITE" providing details on the socials scheduled for each month.



Culinary Heroes!

Thank you to all of the generous chefs and restaurants who helped us raise over \$288,000!



You are invited to join the planning committee, and mark your calendars for sept 28th 2025!

Please visit these restaurants and let the chefs know you are a Rooster!

- * Chef Eric Samanigo and Michaels on Naples
<https://www.michaelsonnaples.com>
- * Chef N'tasha Delgado and Chef Jemille Cruz and Old Ranch Country Club
<https://www.invitedclubs.com/clubs/old-ranch-country-club>
- * Chef Ugo Allesina and Prego
<https://www.pregoooc.com/>
- * Chef Alan Moran and The Pacific Club
<https://www.thepacificclub.org/>
- * Chef Ross Pangilinan and Catering by Mix Mix
<https://www.mixmixkitchenbar.com/>
- * Chef Nick Weber and Populaire Modern Bistro
<https://www.populaireoc.com/>
- * Chef Alfonso Ramierz and Leatherby's Café Rouge
<https://www.patinagroup.com/leatherbys-cafe-rouge/about>

Save The Date!

FESTIVAL OF ARTS LAGUNA BEACH FOOD & WINE TASTING!

March 29, 2025

3-6 pm (VIP entry at 2pm)

Festival of Arts, Laguna Beach

A cozy afternoon of wine tasting for a good cause
to Help Roosters Help Kids.



Did Someone Say WINE?...

Sip, savor, buy and learn from passionate winemakers...

But wait, there's more!

Spirits, Beer, Music, Hors-d'oeuvres & Auction Items.

ALL included with your ticket



ROOSTERS  ORANGE COUNTY
Food and Wine
CELEBRATION™

Your proceeds will help support
18 small charities that feed, protect,
educate and nurture
children and their families.

www.OCFWC.com

www.RoostersFoundation.org

Contact us below for more information to volunteer, become a member,
receive a donation form, or to be added on our mailing list:

RoostersCommunicationsDirector@gmail.com



Roosters Hub

Follow our Social Media
for more info!

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

www.roostersfoundation.org



Rooster of the Year - 2024
Rob Ward



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

**Birthdays?
Anniversaries?
Marriages?
Congratulations?
For sale?
Need?
Lost?
Found?**

**This is your FREE
SPACE for classifieds!**