

Roosters Crow Newsletter

Over Forty Years of Friendship & Community Service
Ending Childhood Hunger
Volume 180, March, 2026



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

President's Message

Larry Greene

2026 President, Roosters & Roosters Foundation



Fellow Roosters,

March is a defining month.

It's where preparation becomes performance. Where plans turn into action. And where leadership is visible — not in words, but in results.

As we approach our 16th Annual OC Food & Wine Celebration on April 11, I want to thank every member who has leaned in. Sponsors are committing. Vendors are energized. Tickets are moving. Committees are executing.

This is what momentum looks like.

As President in 2026, my focus is simple: build structure, build energy, and build sustainability. Strong organizations don't rely on last-minute heroics. They rely on engaged members who take ownership early.

Here's how we lead right now:

- Personally invite at least two guests
- Bring a prospective member into the experience
- Volunteer outside your comfort zone
- Represent the Roosters with pride

Leadership sets tone. Tone sets culture. Culture determines results.

April 11 is more than an event — it's a statement about who we are and where we're going.

The Roosters are not just active.
We are organized.
We are strategic.
And we are growing.

The best years of this Foundation are ahead of us — and we are building them together.

With gratitude and confidence,
Larry Greene
Roosters President, 2026

Vice President Garison Draper

2026 Roosters Vice President



Ambassador's Corner

March is a Month of Momentum. The first quarter of the year is nearly behind us, and this is the perfect time to reflect on what we've achieved and recommit to the goals we set at the start of 2026. Our mission remains clear: to strengthen our communities through fellowship, service, and unwavering support for children and families in need.



March is for Membership Growth

Every new member brings fresh ideas, energy, and resources. Challenge yourself to personally invite at least one prospective member to any of our socials, fundraisers, luncheons or dinners to learn more about what we do.

As we move through March, let's embrace the spirit of renewal. Let's recommit to excellence. Let's support one another. And most importantly, let's continue making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we are stronger. Together, we lead. Together, we make an impact.

With appreciation,
Davi Wilson - Ambassador Chair 2025

Current Ambassadors:	Jeff Tancre
Jayne Herring	Kay Grether
Jane Shellhouse	Donna Toral
Dave Welch	Tim Abrahams

Shout Out!

To Rooster Ambassador, **Tim Abrahams** for joining Jon Giberson as co-chairman for Feeding OC, and Rooster Ambassador, **Donna Toral**, for being the 2026 Chair of the 16th Annual OCFWC! What great energy we have going on with our Ambassadors!

We ask Rooster members to jump in and volunteer in 2026! You may find you are a perfect fit in a new position, from Charity Committee, Feeding OC Committee, OC Food & Wine Celebration, Chefs Experience, or even a Board or Off Board Position!



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

Calendar of Events

Updated as of 3-7-26

Apr 16 - 6PM Dinner, OCFWC recap TBD
Apr 21 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
Apr 23 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

May 14 - 6PM Dinner/Speaker TBD
May 19 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
May 28 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

Jun 11 - 6PM Dinner/Speaker TBD
Jun 16 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
Jun 25 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

July 9 - 6PM Dinner/Speaker TBD
July 23 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

Aug 13 - 11:30AM Luncheon/Speaker TBD
Aug 18 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
Aug 27 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

Sept 10 - 11:30AM Luncheon/Speaker TBD
Sept 15 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD

September 27, Sunday 4-10pm
Chefs Experience

Oct 8 - 6PM Dinner/Speaker TBD
Oct 20 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
Oct 22 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

Nov 12 - 6PM Dinner/Speaker TBD
Nov 17 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD
Nov 19 - 5PM Social TBD

Dec 5 - Noon Holiday Brunch TBD
TBD NB Boat Parade

March 10 - Evening

Charity Meeting - Contact

Jill Caron-Rauen for info to attend

March 12, Thurs 11:30am

Roosters Lunch PREGOS

Dr Stefan Bean - Speaker

March 17, 5-8pm

Board Meeting

March 25, Wed 6pm

Roosters Flash Mob/Social - Evite to come

Smoqued BBQ

Old Towne Orange

April 11, Saturday

OC Food and Wine Celebration



Roosters Hub

*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

**2026 Roosters Foundation of Orange County
Board of Directors**



Larry Greene
President



Garison Draper
Vice President



Louis Gardner
Past President



Jayne Herring
Membership
Chair



Davi Wilson
Ambassador
Chair



Jill Caron - Rauen
Charity
Chair



Bleu Cotton
Speakers
Chair



Jessie Bullis
Treasurer/Secretary



Dan Stone
Recording Secretary

**2026 Roosters Foundation of Orange County
Off - Board**



Joann Leatherby
Chefs Experience
Co - Chair



Pat McAuley
Chefs Experience
Co - Chair



Donna Toral
OC Food & Wine
Celebration Chair



Garison Draper
Technology Chair



Jon Giberson &
Tim Abrahams
Feeding OC Chairs



Joann & Greg
Leatherby-Bates
Social Chairs



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!!



**Flash Mob!
March 25**

Rooster Members had a fun time on January 20th at Haven Craft Kitchen + Bar, an amazing restaurant which is a great supporter of The Roosters Foundation!

NEXT...Wednesday March 25 at Smoqed BBQ in Old Towne Orange. 3-25- at 6pm. Check your evite. We are doing a combo Flash Mob/Social. We will reserve a section for the number of people on Evite. Bring cash/plan on sharing checks in case we need to combine orders to help our server. Did you know Smoqed is joining us for their 4th year..their food is simply amazing, so we encourage you to join us on Mar 25th and visit their booth at the OCFWC!





Saturday, April 11, 2026

3 – 6 pm

Festival of Arts - Laguna Beach

Celebrate the 16th Annual OC Food & Wine Celebration at the iconic Festival of Arts in Laguna Beach. Enjoy an all-inclusive afternoon of wine, spirits, craft beer, chef-driven bites, and live music — all to HELP Roosters HELP Kids.

General Admission: \$125
VIP (Early Entry at 2pm): \$150



**Scan to
purchase
TICKETS**



**or
buy tickets at**

<https://ocfoodandwine2026.eventbrite.com/>

www.ocfwc.com



Questions? 949.677.3404
ocroosters@cox.net



Roosters Socials

Thursday February 26 we had a great gathering at Benchmark where members donated items for the Silent Auctions. We also had Roosters sign up for sponsorships. Thank you to all who made it! This has become an annual event and one of the ways we thank the chef and owners of Benchmark for participating in our Chefs Experience.



Flash Mob/ Social at Smoqed BBQ in Old Towne Orange. 3-25- at 6pm. Check your evite. We are doing a combo Flash Mob/Social. We will reserve a section for the number of people on Evite. Bring cash/plan on sharing checks in case we need to combine orders to help our server. Did you know Smoqed is joining us for their 4th year..their food is simply amazing, so we encourage you to join us on Mar 25th and visit their booth at the OCFWC!.

Also...now is the time to encourage friends and acquaintances to buy tickets for April 11th!



Charity Committee

Just a quick reminder that there will be a charity committee meeting on March 10, 2026. If you are curious about what this committee does or how we accomplish our goal every year, and want to attend, please contact me about the details of where and what time.



Jill Caron-Rauen
Charity Committee Chair

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

Membership

Roosters!

Please read the bio of our latest prospective member below, sponsored by Rob Ward, who says:



“Rob Small and PJ have already demonstrated their support for the Roosters. They attended the 2025 OC Food & Wine Celebration as VIP attendees and were the winning bidders for the New Zealand in-home wine tasting—an unforgettable evening that Leah and I were fortunate to attend at their home. Their enthusiasm for the organization and its mission was clear from the start.

Rob Small will be attending the March 12th luncheon and has already secured VIP tickets for this year’s Food & Wine Celebration.”

Say hello to Rob Small at lunch on March 12!

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	

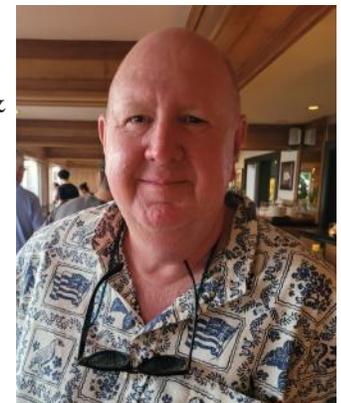
Proposed New Member – Rob Small

Sponsor: Rob Ward

Rob Small recently concluded a 40-year career in management spanning Macy's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Starbucks. For most of Rob's career, he was a regional manager covering from Los Angeles to the Mexican and Arizona borders. Through this, he learned about and loved the diverse cultures of Southern California. Rob and his wife, PJ, have raised 5 children in Orange County, and now have 2 wonderful grandsons.

His passions are (but not limited to) his family, cooking, and pickleball.

Being newly retired, Rob is looking for fulfilling ways to stay engaged and give back to his community.



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

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



Thank you, Chefs!



Chef Ugo Allesina
Prego Mediterranean



Chef Alfonso Ramirez
Leatherby's Café Rouge



Chef Eric Samaniego
Michael's on Naples



Chef Nick Weber
Populaire Modern Bistro



Chef Stefano Ciociola
Benchmark



Chef Lindsay Smith
Nirvana by Chef Lindsay



Chef Scott Green
Haven Craft Kitchen + Bar



Chef David B. Martin
The Pacific Club



Chef Ross Pangilinan
Catering by Mix Mix



Support The Roosters Foundation
www.RoostersFoundation.org



Retired 30-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department and former Real Estate Fraud Investigator. I prioritize integrity, transparency, and my clients' best interests in every real estate transaction.



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I donate 10% of my commission to the OC Roosters Foundation for every home sale or purchase by Roosters members and their referred family and friends. *Ask me for details.*

SEVEN GABLES

REAL ESTATE

SG DRE #00745605. This is not intended to be a solicitation of another broker's listing.



Our Heroes from Roosters Chefs Experience 2025

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-opps/roosters-foundation-charitable-fund/>

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-Marty Burbank



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Speaker's Corner



Thank you to Ketrin Adam, FBI Special Agent, for speaking at our Feb luncheon at Seasons 52. What a fabulous Valentines Lunch!



We look forward to Seasons 52 joining us as a Food Purveyor at our April 11th OCFWC!!!



March 12th Luncheon will be back at Pregos, and our speaker is one you do not want to miss! Stefan Bean.

Dr. Stefan Bean has dedicated the past 28 years to serving Southern California communities and students as a teacher, principal and school administrator. In June 2024 he became Orange County's 12th superintendent of schools, a position dating back to 1889.

Born in Saigon during the early 1970s, stricken by polio and abandoned, he was brought to the United States as part of Operation Babylift during the Vietnam War and was later adopted by the Bean family, who supported his academic achievements.

Despite health issues, he engaged in sports and extracurricular activities as a child, serving as an umpire for sandlot baseball games, joining the student council, was elected as sixth-grade class president and earned an opportunity to make a speech in Washington, D.C., advocating for those who were disadvantaged. After high school, he received a full scholarship to USC.

Your Speaker Chair,
Bleu Cotton



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The Roosters Foundation
and the
OC Food and Wine
Celebration*



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Individual Charities in the News

Fred Lentz receives a check for Advance!...on to College in the amount of \$4,000 presented by Advocate Allyn Lean on behalf of the Roosters Foundation.



Thanks to the forward-thinking board of directors, the Roosters Foundation has created a partnership with Bracken's Kitchen.

We will be volunteering with them as they take their food truck into low-income areas and distributing hot meals to families there. This gives us an up-close at the underserved families in OC who need help and encouragement. We encourage all members to get involved in this partnership.



Our April 2nd Roosters Volunteer event is maxed, as we announced it at the Feb lunch and the sign-up sheet was filled up! We look forward to helping Brackens in Fullerton.

We will also be supporting students in their Culinary Training Program and their regular food distribution throughout Orange County.

If any Rooster wishes to volunteer at other Bracken's Kitchen events, please go to the below website to explore different ways to volunteer with them.

<https://timecounts.app/brackens-kitchen>



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

www.roostersfoundation.org



Rooster of the Year - 2025
Joann Leatherby



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?
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Found?**

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