

# Roosters Crow Newsletter

Over Forty Years of Friendship & Community Service  
Ending Childhood Hunger  
Volume 182, May, 2026



**ROOSTERS  
FOUNDATION**  
OF ORANGE COUNTY

## President's Message

### Larry Greene

2026 President, Roosters & Roosters Foundation

Fellow Roosters,

May is where we take stock — and set the stage.

The 16th Annual OC Food & Wine Celebration is behind us, and what an afternoon it was. The Festival of Arts in Laguna Beach gave us the perfect backdrop, but the energy, camaraderie, and shared commitment to ending childhood hunger in Orange County were unmistakably ours.

And the results speak for themselves: this year's OCFWC outperformed 2025 by 50%. That is not an incremental gain. That is a step change — more dollars raised, more giving for our charities, and more momentum behind everything we do next.

April also brought a donation to Bracken's Kitchen, continuing our long-time partnership with one of the most impactful food-rescue organizations in our region. A big thank-you to Jon Giberson and Tim Abrahams for making it happen — your leadership on Feeding OC keeps turning our mission into real, measurable impact.

A few more “thank-you”s deserve to be said out loud:

- To Donna Toral, our 2026 OCFWC Chair, for leading with poise, precision, and an unrelenting eye for detail.
- To our Committee Chairs and volunteers, who turned a plan on paper into one of the most respected events in Orange County.
- To our sponsors, restaurants, wineries, spirits partners, and chefs — your generosity is the engine.
- And to every member who invited a guest, brought a prospective Rooster, or stepped outside their comfort zone — that's how organizations grow.

Now, we look ahead.

The Chef's Experience in September is our next signature moment, and the work begins now. Pat McAuley and Joann Leatherby are already laying the groundwork, but they need every member to lean in early:

- If you have a relationship with a chef or restaurant we should be talking to, make the introduction this month.
- If you can secure a table sponsor or auction item, don't wait until August.
- If you've never volunteered for the Chef's Experience, this is the year.



## Vice President Garison Draper

2026 Roosters Vice President

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Food and Wine Celebration in Laguna Beach last month. It was a wonderful evening! A special thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make the event possible.



## Roosters Socials

Hold May 27th for our next social. Also, this summer we will be planning a Roosters Angels Game night, and a Pageant of the Masters event. Keep your eyes out for dates and evites.

Please check your emails for the “EVITE” providing details on the socials scheduled for each month.  
Joan Leatherby & Greg Bates, Social Chairs



## Next year is The Roosters' 50th Birthday!

Let us know how you want to celebrate!  
Special Events  
Swag with logo and 1977-2027 on it?  
Monthly Memories  
Membership Drive

Contact Ali to share ideas to celebrate this amazing milestone

The lesson from OCFWC is clear: the events we lock in early are the events that thrive. A 50% jump over last year doesn't just raise the bar — it raises the expectations. We are not going to coast on April's success. We are going to compound it. The Roosters are organized. We are growing. And the best is yet to come.

With gratitude and confidence,  
Larry Greene  
Roosters President, 2026



**ROOSTERS  
FOUNDATION**  
OF ORANGE COUNTY

# Calendar of Events

Updated as of 4-29-26



Check out Roosters and their guests!

Tim Abrahams (2026)

Michael Krever (2010)

Craig Boardman (1999)

Pat (2022) and Rick McAuley (2005)

*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.*



*Roosters Hub*

May 14 - 11:30am Lunch/Speaker  
Pregos  
Cyber Security - Pete Hish

May 19 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD

May 21- Brackens Kitchen Feeding OC  
contact Time Abrahams or Jon Giberson  
to get on list to help

May 27 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD  
new date!

Jun 11 - 11:30am Lunch/Speaker TBD

Jun 13 - 6-9 PM  
Ambassadors, Past President and Board  
Gathering at Marty Burbank's House  
HOLD THE DATE - Evite to come

Jun 16 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD  
Jun 25 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

July 9 - Luncheon/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  
Brackens Kitchen Huger Games 5pm

Sept 15 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD

**September 27, Sunday 4-10pm**  
**Chefs Experience**

Oct 8 - 11:30AM Lunch/Speaker TBD  
Oct 20 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD  
Oct 22 - 5PM Rooster Social TBD

Nov 12 - 11:30AM Lunch/Speaker TBD  
Nov 17 - 5PM Board Meeting TBD  
Nov 19 - 5PM Social TBD

Dec 5 - Noon Holiday Brunch TBD

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



Larry Greene  
President



Garison Draper  
Vice President



Jayne Herring  
Membership  
Chair



Davi Wilson  
Ambassador  
Chair



Jill Caron - Rauen  
Charity  
Chair



Bleu Cotton  
Speakers  
Chair



BJ Borgen  
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 MAY BIRTHDAYS**



Allyn Lean



Libby Adams



Joann Leatherby



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# **THANK YOU to our charity partners who came out to help at our OC Wine Celebration: Parentis Foundation, Fish for Life, Fristers, Hope Harbor**

**Thank our committee who met weekly for planning: Donna, Larry, Garison, Dan, Alison, and Penny. In addition, Greg Bates (Layout Logistics and Fire Marshall), John Hinson (VIP Lounge supervisor), Maggie Hinson (Registration supervisor), Stephanie Bauer (Auction supervisor), Joann Leatherby (Kickoff Procurement), Alison Cotton (Social Media and Advertising), Jeramy Gordan (Advertising).**

Also, we could not have done it without these volunteers...

## **Friday Loading Team**

Erin Draper  
Greg Bates  
Garison Draper  
Penny Strenger

## **Friday Set Up Crew**

Erin and Garison Draper  
Rob Ward and Leah Kim  
Stephanie Bauer  
John Trapani

## **Vendor and Volunteer Check in Table**

Jessie Bullis

## **Vendor Move In and Set Up**

Dan Donati  
Davi Wilson  
Kathy and Paul Robidoux  
Craig Boardman  
Rich and Lynda Bronzellino  
Grant Bullis  
Robert Gapinski  
Jack Evans

## **Swag Bag Assemblers**

Jeannie Kung  
Cindy Hollenback

## **Auction Set up and Closers**

Stephanie Bauer  
Shannon Rivera  
Jack Evans

## **VIP Lounge Supervisor**

John Hinson

## **Registration and Check in**

Janice Frechette (Parentis)  
Tara Booher (Hope Harbor)  
Katie O'Donnell (Parentis)  
Elizah Siegel (Parentis)  
Robert Fuller (Parentis)  
Ali Woodard (Fristers)  
Destiny Dagnino (Parentis)  
Grace Ng (Parentis)  
Richelle Gonzaga (Parentis)

## **Registration Supervisor**

Maggie Hinson

## **VIP Lounge Gatekeepers**

Tina L Nazari  
Elena Colomiet  
Michael Rukov

## **Wine Glass Attendants**

Davi Wilson  
Cindy Shin

## **Event Pourers or Food Distributor Volunteers**

Carolyn Christian (OC Wine Society)  
Performance Bartender  
Bonnie Haskell  
Hailey Haskell  
Todd Hall  
John Lathrop  
Sean MacEachem  
Janet Riordan (OC Wine Society)  
Royce Lathrop  
Marilyn Steier  
Larry Chu

## **MC**

Larry Greene

## **Table Busser and Trash Removal**

Donna Toral and Team

## **Roosters Membership Booth**

Jayne Herring

## **Ice Men**

Doug Richards  
Jim Holden (Fish for Life)

## **Clean up Pack up**

Aiaal Eginov  
Philip Hamblin  
Tatiana Eginova

## **Sunday Truck unload at Storage**

Erin and Garison Draper  
Greg Bates  
Penny Strenger

## Letter from Sauté SoCal

Thank you for partnering with Sauté SoCal for last week's OC Food & Wine Celebration. We are happy to have been a media sponsor for The Roosters Foundation the past three years.

With 25 years of experience in high-end event planning and fundraising, I have seen many organizations and attended countless events, but few match the heart of the Roosters. You are an incredible leader, and the passion of your volunteers shines through.

The Roosters Foundation does more than host events, it supports at-risk children in Orange County and changes lives daily so it is a privilege to be part of this organization.


Please share our gratitude with your team for their tireless work in providing hundreds of thousands of meals to children in need.


I hope to see more companies and individual partners join your mission, as the impact you make is truly profound and the lives you change each day is inspiring.

Best regards,  
Marla Lackey  
Sauté SoCal



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The Roosters Foundation  
and the  
OC Food and Wine  
Celebration*



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## Foodie Feature



I'm very grateful for all the amazing year at the rooster events with the chef. I've open my little own place in the former Michael's pizzeria next to Michael's on Naples. My dream long time coming.



We are open from Wednesday through Sunday from 4 to 10  
Thank you so much!  
Best,  
Massimo Aronne  
Massimo's Naples

# OC Food and Wine Celebration Roosters

Mark your calendar NOW for April 03 2027!

Chair: Ambassador Donna Toral





## Charity Committee

We have been contacted by new charities that would like to be considered for a grant from the Roosters.

According to our by-laws, each charity must have a Rooster advocate to be considered. We need advocates! Please contact me. We can help more kids! Thank you!



Jill Caron-Rauen  
Charity Committee Chair

The advocate will go and visit the charity with the charity committee chairperson, to find out how the charity operates day to day, meet the executive director, and then determine if the charity meets the requirements in the Rooster guidelines. The advocate may attend the charity fundraisers, or attend a board of directors meeting, and just get to know how the charity accomplishes their goals. Then when the charity committee chair sends out the grant applications, the advocate will send it on to the executive director of the charity and make sure that the application is returned to the charity chairperson by the designated deadline. If there are any questions regarding the application, the advocate will be called. When the grants are determined, and the checks are ready, the check will be given to the advocate to give to the charity. (really fun to do!)

Please consider being an advocate for a charity, as this is the primary goal of The Roosters; to help disadvantaged children in Orange County. Also, talk to one of the advocates for our current charities and find out what they do, and how they feel about it.

Please contact me if you are interested, or have any questions.

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



**U.S. Bank is a proud sponsor of  
The 16th Annual Orange County  
Food and Wine Celebration.**

[www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com)

## Ambassador's Corner

The Roosters organization marked a standout moment this spring with its highly successful OC Food and Wine event held on April 11th in Laguna Beach. The afternoon brought together members, supporters, and guests for a vibrant celebration of community, philanthropy, and shared purpose.

Attendance was strong, and the event served as a reminder of how powerful these gatherings can be in strengthening relationships and inspiring continued support. The success of the event was a testament to the dedication of those who organized it and the generosity of everyone who participated.

May represents not just a continuation, but a chance to grow—bringing in new voices, fostering stronger connections, and ensuring that the organization's mission remains both visible and impactful. With the foundation set by a successful April event, the path forward is filled with optimism and purpose.

Davi Wilson

**Save the Date for our annual Ambassadors event. Board, Past Presidents and Ambassadors, mark your calendars for this great "Get to know you" Event.**

Saturday, June 13, 2026 6-9pm @ Marty and Sun Burbank's home



With appreciation,  
Davi Wilson - Ambassador Chair 2025

**Current Ambassadors:**

Kay Grether  
Donna Toral

Tim Abrahams  
Jonah Kim

## 2025 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](http://www.ontocollege.org)



### Family Promise

**Rooster Advocate** - Dan Stone

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

**Website** - [www.familypromiseorangecounty.org](http://www.familypromiseorangecounty.org)



### Fish For Life

**Rooster Advocate** - Marty Golden

**Purpose** - Ocean fishing experience for special needs children.

**Website** - [www.fishforlife.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hopeharbor.org)



**Empowering  
Readers OC**  
A Program of Parents 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.summerharvest.us)



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



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[www.RoostersFoundation.org](http://www.RoostersFoundation.org)



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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

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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

In April we learned a lot about Claude, Chat GTP and other methods of using AI. Thank you, Garison for this fantastic talk.



May is a related topic.

**Pete Hish** is a career law enforcement professional with over two decades of investigative experience. He is the founder of Sentinel Vault, a cybersecurity education company that trains businesses and organizations to recognize and defend against the social engineering tactics used by today's scammers. His work sits at the intersection of real-world criminal investigation and practical security awareness, translating how criminals actually operate into advice that non-technical people can act on immediately.

Presentation: How Scammers Target Good People

Scammers don't go after random victims. They target people who are visible, connected, and trusted — exactly the kind of people in a room like this one. In this 20-minute talk, Pete breaks down the three techniques scammers use most effectively against professionals and community leaders: why you're on their radar, how they research you before they ever make contact, and what they're actually trying to get. You'll leave with three concrete steps you can take this week to make yourself a much harder target.

Your Speaker Chair,  
Bleu Cotton



## Roosters Out and About



Recording Secretary Dan Stone & President Larry Greene enjoying dinner at Smoqued in April



<https://smoquedcaliforniabbq.com/>

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*Don't miss Roosters Signature Fundraiser...  
One Delicious Culinary Evening of Helping Kids*

## Chefs Experience

Sunday, **September 27, 2026** • 4:30pm  
*Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach*

An unforgettable dining experience of fine wine and delectable chef creations. Gourmet, five-course meal paired with fine wines, prepared tableside by one of our extraordinary chefs. Silent and Live auctions. After party with dancing, cocktails and cigars to end the evening. Attire: Black tie optional, but encouraged.

Tickets: \$350 - \$1000 *(a portion of ticket is tax deductible)*

Tables (12 seats): \$4,200 - \$12,000 *(a portion is tax deductible)*

Purchase at [www.ocfwc.com](http://www.ocfwc.com)

view video here: <https://youtu.be/Ve9K2BKdIQE>



*Scan to learn more*



**This event** will help support over 12 small charities that **feed, protect, and educate and nurture** children and their families; and fund the Roosters Feeding Program, which will feed families with needy and at-risk children living below the poverty line in Orange County.

The Roosters Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization -  
Federal Tax ID# **33-0764177** [www.roosters.org](http://www.roosters.org) Questions: Call Penny Strenger 949.677.3404

# Rooster's and Bracken's Kitchen Partnership

- Rescued Food Program – Recovering edible food that would otherwise go to waste and repurposing it into healthy, nutritious meals.
- Community Feeding Program – Distributing prepared meals to seniors, families, students, and veterans through a network of community partner agencies.
- Culinary Training Program – Providing hands-on job training for individuals pursuing careers in food service, helping them build practical skills and pathways to employment.



Bracken's Kitchen has supported Roosters at many of our events over the years, including serving as chef at OCFWC, providing food at numerous Food & Wine Experience events, and contributing to social events such as the Christmas Boat Parade.

This will also give Roosters more visibility and credibility in the restaurant industry in Orange County as we plan future fund-raising events.

For questions, contact Jon Giberson at [jongibo@gmail.com](mailto:jongibo@gmail.com), or co-Feeding Program Chairman, Tim Abrahams at [timesthree@yahoo.com](mailto:timesthree@yahoo.com) <https://timecounts.app/brackens-kitchen>



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

[www.roostersfoundation.org](http://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

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Congratulations?  
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