

Roosters Crow Newsletter

Over Forty Years of Friendship & Community Service
Ending Childhood Hunger
Volume 181, April, 2026



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

President's Message

Larry Greene

2026 President, Roosters & Roosters Foundation

Fellow Roosters,
April is where it all comes together.

After months of preparation, planning, and execution, we step into one of the most important moments of our year—the OC Food & Wine Celebration. This event is more than a great afternoon with friends, food, and wine. It is a direct reflection of who we are as an organization: engaged, committed, and focused on making a real difference.

Over the past several months, I've watched this group lead at a high level. Sponsors stepped up. Committees executed. Members leaned in. That is what drives results. That is what builds a sustainable organization.

And now, we deliver.

But just as important—April is not the finish line. It's the launch point. What we do now sets the tone for the rest of 2026.

As we move forward, our focus expands in three key areas:

1. Build on Momentum

The success of the OC Food & Wine Celebration gives us the platform to go even bigger. Strong execution here allows us to elevate our second major fundraiser in September and increase our overall impact across Orange County.

2. Grow Our Membership with Purpose

Every great organization grows intentionally. The Food & Wine Celebration is one of our best opportunities to introduce prospective members to who we are. When you invite someone, you're not just filling a seat—you're strengthening the future of the Roosters.

3. Expand Our Impact Through Leadership and Sponsorship

We are building a more structured, more scalable foundation. Sponsorships—both financial and in-kind—will play a critical role in how we grow beyond ticket sales and create lasting support for the children and families we serve.

This is how organizations evolve—from good to great.

The Roosters have always been about fellowship and fun. That will never change. But what we are building now is something more: a highly effective organization that delivers meaningful, measurable impact year after year.

Each of you plays a role in that.

Show up.

Invite someone new.

Stay engaged.

And take pride in what we are accomplishing together.

The energy is real.

The direction is clear.

And the best is yet to come.

With gratitude and confidence,

Larry Greene

Roosters President, 2026



Vice President Garison Draper

2026 Roosters Vice President

Dear Roosters Family, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of well-wishes and support for my father, Gary Draper.



He is deeply touched by your kindness, and it has truly lightened his spirit during this time. Your compassion means the world to our family. As we move into spring, I am deeply grateful for the generosity and dedication so many of you have shown toward the Roosters Food & Wine Celebration. Whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word, your contributions directly impact the at-risk children we serve across Orange County.

This event is one of our most important fundraisers, and your support makes it possible. I look forward to seeing you all on April 11th at the Food & Wine Celebration. It will be an afternoon of great food, wonderful company, and most importantly, a celebration of what we can accomplish together for the children in our care.

I also look forward to our April 16th luncheon, where I will be speaking about everything I know about AI and the future of how it will change business by leveraging AI. This is a rapidly evolving landscape, and I am excited to explore what it means for our organization and the children we serve. Thank you for being part of the Roosters Foundation family.

With gratitude, Garison Draper

Vice President Roosters Foundation of Orange County



**ROOSTERS
FOUNDATION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

Calendar of Events

Updated as of 3-27-26

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

April 11, Saturday **OC Food and Wine Celebration**

April 16, Thursday 11:30am
Lunch Meeting Seasons 52
Garison Draper - Teaches Ai

April 21, Tuesday 5pm
Board Meeting
Check evite for Details



*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



Garrison 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
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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



Garrison 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

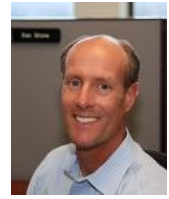
ROOSTER APRIL BIRTHDAYS



John Livingston



Greg Bates



Dan Stone



Marty Golden



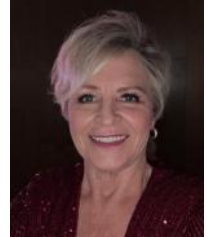
Steven Smith



John Hinson



Larry Greene



Jessie Bullis

Savor Every Moment.

Porsche NOW Laguna Beach champions sustainability with an EV-focused pop-up experience. Indulge in a refined vehicle journey at Porsche Irvine. Two stores, one passion.

<p>Porsche NOW Laguna Beach 495 Broadway St Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (949) 989-0678</p>	<p>Porsche Irvine 14500 Scientific Way Irvine, CA 92618 (949) 423-3005</p>
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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

In March we had a combo Flash Mob Social with almost 20 Roosters at Smoqued! What a great turn out and a great way to thank Smoqued for their support at OCFWC.

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



Joan Leatherby & Greg Bates, Social Chairs

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

*A proud sponsor of
The Roosters Foundation
and the
OC Food and Wine
Celebration*



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Foodie Feature

Seasons 52.

So happy we have some of our lunch meetings there and they are now a part of OCFWC!



Featured Dish:

Wood-grilled artichokes, served with tangy preserved lemon hummus, celery hearts, red radishes and green olives.



Your First Look at the April 11 Lineup

A tasting experience built for every palate.

Hi there,

We're excited to share your first look at our **April 11 lineup** — a curated mix of wineries, craft spirits, cocktails, beer, and coastal-inspired bites.

Our **restaurant and food purveyor partners are bringing thoughtful, signature tastes created just for this event**, and their participation is a huge part of what makes the experience feel elevated and uniquely Orange County.

Plus — VIP guests will enjoy a variety of exclusive wines poured only in our VIP Lounge. VIP tickets are going fast.

As a thank-you for being part of our community, you can use promo code LOYALTY — tickets start at \$115 with the code applied.

Whether you love wine, spirits, cocktails, great food, or the coastal vibe... this lineup truly has something for everyone.



Heartfelt Gratitude to Our Generous Sponsors and Valued Event Partners



Greg Bates &
Joann Leatherby

Michael Krever

Pat McAuley

BBS Notary

2026 WINERIES

- *[Ascension Cellars](#)
- *[Austin Hope \(VIP Lounge\)](#)
- *[Benovia Winery](#)
- *[Bianchi Winery](#)
- *[Cowboy Canyon Winery](#)
- *[Dierberg Vineyards](#)
- *[Evergreen Family Wines](#)
- *[Foris Winery](#)
- *[Giracci Vineyards & Farms](#)
- *[Graveyard Vineyards](#)
- *[Monroy Wines](#)
- *[Navarro Vineyards](#)
- *[Opolo Vineyards \(VIP lounge\)](#)
- *[ONX Wines](#)
- *[Postino Wines](#)
- *[Roseade Spritzer USA](#)
- *[San Simeon Wines](#)
- *[SoMa Cellars](#)
- *[Star Lane Vineyards](#)
- *[SwissWineHouse LLC](#)
- *[Vinyl Vineyards](#)

2026 SPIRITS & COCKTAILS

- *[Aberfeldy Single Malt Scotch](#)
- *[Cocijo Mezcal](#)
- *[Dos Boots Mezcal](#)
- *[EG Vodka Ltd](#)
- *[Grey Goose Vodka](#)
- *[Illegal Mezcal Joven](#)
- *[Mission Craft Cocktails](#)
- *[Teeling Irish Whiskey](#)
- *[Tequila Dame Mas](#)
- *[Tito's Handmade Vodka](#)

2026 CRAFT BREW

- *[Barrel & Stave Pour House](#)
- *[The Bruery](#)
- *[Chapman Crafted Beer](#)
- *[Evans Brewing](#)
- *[Pfeffer Brewing Company](#)

2026 Retail

- *[b Spoke](#)
- *[Chipz Happen](#)
- *[Farm Fresh Home Foods](#)
- *[Gourmet Blends](#)
- *[Olive St Leather](#)
- *[Sparkle & Toast](#)
- *[U4U Chocolates](#)
- *[Wölfe Cutlery](#)

Join us Saturday, April 11 at Festival of Arts in Laguna Beach — all to support local kids and families — and taste your way through the best of Orange County.

Buy Tickets Now

<https://ocfoodandwine2026.eventbrite.com/?aff=ConstantContact>

Warmly,

The Roosters Foundation

Proudly raising funds for Orange County children's charities since 1977

Charity Committee

Happy Spring Everyone!

I have been contacted by five new charities this year about receiving grants from the Roosters. In order for a charity to be considered, it needs to have an advocate that is a Rooster member. So, let me explain what the job of an advocate is....



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.

These people are Dan Stone, Marty Goldman, Michael Krever, Louis Gardner, Peter Haacker, John Hinson, Thad Sandford, Paul Robideaux, and Jill Caron-Rauen.

Also, 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



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

www.usbank.com

Ambassador's Corner

As we step into the month of April, I'm excited to share a few highlights and updates from our Rooster community.

First, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Jonah Kim, who was officially voted in by the board on Tuesday, March 17th. We are thrilled to have Jonah join us and look forward to the energy, perspective, and contributions he will undoubtedly bring to our organization. Please take a moment when you see him to introduce yourself and help make him feel welcomed.

April also brings one of the most anticipated events of the season—the OC Food and Wine event on April 11th. This gathering is always a fantastic opportunity to enjoy incredible cuisine, discover exceptional wines, and, most importantly, strengthen the relationships that make our organization so special. Whether you're attending for the flavors, the networking, or simply the experience, it's sure to be an unforgettable afternoon!

As Ambassador Chair, I encourage each of you to stay engaged, attend events, and continue building connections with fellow members. Our strength lies in our willingness to support one another, welcome new faces, and actively participate in all that we offer.

Here's to a successful and exciting April—I look forward to seeing many of you at the OC Food and Wine event!

With appreciation,
Davi Wilson - Ambassador Chair 2025

Current Ambassadors:

Jayne Herring

Jane Shellhouse

Dave Welch

Jeff Tancre

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



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 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



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



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



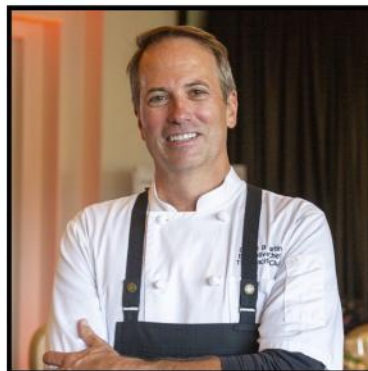
Chef Stefano Ciociola
Benchmark



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



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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

Our March 12th Luncheon was incredible with speaker, Dr 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, the Orange County Board of Education unanimously appointed him as Orange County's 12th superintendent of schools, a position that dates back to 1889.



In April we will be back at Season's 52 with a speaker you all know... VP Garison Draper will be talking about Ai. We hope you can make it to this informative lunch.

Your Speaker Chair,
Bleu Cotton



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We are honored to support Roosters Foundation of Orange County.

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Rooster's and Bracken's Kitchen Partnership

The Roosters' Board of Directors has approved a \$30,000 grant to Bracken's Kitchen in Garden Grove to support their mission of fighting hunger and reducing food waste across Southern California. Of this amount, \$8,000 will sponsor a student in Bracken's Culinary Training Program.



As part of this sponsorship, Roosters members will be invited to:

- Sample meals prepared by the students
- Participate in mock interviews to help students prepare for kitchen jobs at restaurants throughout Orange County

Our partnership will also create hands-on volunteer opportunities for Roosters members, including:

- Participating in Bracken's Food Truck Program
- Preparing and distributing meals during the holidays

Members will be notified as these opportunities are scheduled and are encouraged to sign up and get involved.

Bracken's Kitchen is a nonprofit that rescues surplus food from local businesses and, with the help of volunteers and community partners, turns it into nutritious meals for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Their work centers on three core programs:

- 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, or co-Feeding Program Chairman, Tim Abrahams at timsthree@yahoo.com

<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

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Anniversaries?
Marriages?
Congratulations?
For sale?
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Found?**

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