



# OC GOLDEN GAZETTE



UNITED FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

OCGRW.ORG

Meetings held monthly except July, August & December

February 2026

Volume: 03 Issue: 02

## OCGRW EVENTS CALENDAR



**Wed. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>** • OCGSRW Board Meeting  
9:30am – 11:30am  
Home of Jan Day

**Thurs. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** • Lincoln's Birthday

**Sat. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** • Valentine's Day

**Mon. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** • President's Day



• OCGOP Central Committee Meeting  
7:00pm, Hotel Zessa  
201 E MacArther Blvd., Santa Ana

**Wed. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** • Ash Wednesday



• OCGSRW Luncheon Meeting  
Marbella Country Club  
30800 Golf Club Dr, San Juan  
Capistrano  
(More details on right)  
10:30am – Check-in/Social  
11:00am – Meeting Begins  
11:30am – Lunch is Served  
12:00pm – Guest Speaker



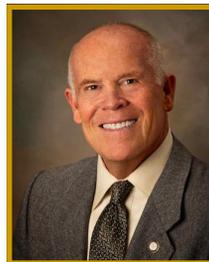
**Mon. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>** • Washington's Birthday



For more OCGSRW events, information, ways to be involved and take action, please visit our website at [ocgrw.org](http://ocgrw.org).

## NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING: FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

Learn About Community Issues — How Can We Regain Control of Our Communities?



Keynote Speaker:

**John Campbell**  
**Mayor of San Juan Capistrano**

A nineteen-year resident of San Juan Capistrano, John became actively involved in local politics in 2013, an experience that ultimately led him to seek elected office. He was elected to the city council in December of 2022. John was immersed in civic life from an early age, spending much of his youth around congressional and senatorial campaigns. John is leading efforts to reduce our strangling traffic and recently returned from Sacramento where he met with Assembly and Senatorial members on both sides of the aisle to push for specific legislation to alleviate SJC traffic. He serves on the League of California Cities Statewide Transportation, Communication and Public Works Committee.

In attendance for the Q & A portion of the meeting:

**Tami Wilhelm**  
**Planning Commissioner, San Juan Capistrano**

How does the planning Commission balance mandated development and conservation efforts?



## Next Luncheon Meeting



Date: Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: Check in 10:30am | Meeting Starts at 11:00am

Price: \$40 Members, \$45 Non-Members

### Reservations:

Must make reservations by Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Please make reservations online: **Signup Genius**  
Payment will be made when you arrive at the meeting by check, cash, or via ZELLE. Please see the QR code inside this edition to make your payment.

### Location:

Marbella Country Club  
30800 Golf Club Drive  
San Juan Capistrano, CA

**DISCLAIMER:** No information transmitted through this newsletter is to be considered a position or endorsement. It is for information only.

**Please Note:** We can no longer save seats. Only those members who hold a patron membership are allowed to have a seat saved for them. All others are first-come, first served. Please arrive early if you have multiple guests in order to find seats together.

## COMING TOGETHER | WORKING TOGETHER

**President's Message**

"Republicans, Make Your Voices Heard...The Year of the Fire Horse!"



*The year, 2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse in the Chinese Zodiac, beginning February 17. It represents intense energy, freedom, passion, and swift action—a season for bold decisions, personal growth, and meaningful change. The Fire Horse embodies strength, perseverance, and independence, calling on each of us to move forward with courage while remaining disciplined and focused.*

That same fiery passion and energy were clearly reflected in our speaker last month, Sonjia Shaw, candidate for California State Superintendent of Schools. She spoke with courage and conviction about the urgent need to reform our education system for the sake of our children and grandchildren. She exposed the realities taking place in our schools today and reminded us that the battle for the next generation is being fought in our classrooms. What happens there will shape the future of our nation.

The time for silence is over. Republicans in California can no longer sit back and hope for change—we must *be* the change. Our voices must be heard loudly and clearly in both the June primary and the November election. This midterm election year is a defining moment. It will either safeguard America from socialism and communism and begin the long-overdue transformation of California, or it will allow more power to be taken from the people and solidify one-party rule.

President Ronald Reagan warned us, *"Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."* He also reminded us, *"If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to."* Those words are not history—they are a call to action for this moment.

This year, we also celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America—an extraordinary achievement for a constitutional republic founded on faith, sacrifice, and freedom. In February, we honor two of our greatest presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Their leadership in times of division and uncertainty reminds us that this nation has always been preserved by ordinary citizens who refused to give up when it mattered most.

That moment is now.

I cannot stress enough how vital it is that we vote in this year's midterm elections. Unity is our strength. When we stand together behind Republican candidates endorsed by the party, we reclaim our voice and our future. Freedom has never been free, and it has always required participation. When we stay home, when we allow emotions to divide us, the result is always the same—the other side wins.



Linda Koelling,  
President, OCGSRW

This is the year to stand up.  
This is the year to speak out.  
This is the year to act.

Like the Fire Horse, let us move forward with courage, purpose, and determination—because the future of California, and of our nation, depends on what we do *now*.





**BRING A FRIEND AND RECEIVE 3 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS**



- NEW OR RENEWAL \$45
- PATRON \$75
- ASSOCIATE \$35

**Membership Renewal**

Renew your membership for 2026 by **February 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Members, bring a NEW friend or neighbor to our next meeting. Pay by Zelle or bring your checkbook.

**Lunch is \$40** per person.

Access the New or Renewal [Membership Application HERE](#).

Please mail your check today with the Membership Application to:

Orange County Golden State Republican Women  
31103 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite #D3292  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Please call Jan Day, Membership Chair if you have any questions  
714-747-6339.

**OCGSRW January Meeting**



*At our first luncheon meeting of the year, Sonjia Shaw... Candidate for California Superintendent of Schools enlightens members about what is happening in our schools today....and then helps Julie pick the basket winners for the day!*



**Treasurer Needed ASAP**

I seriously love being Treasurer and being involved with OCGSRW. I'm simply not home enough to do this job and I don't want to not do it to the best of my abilities, so it's time to hand over the reins.

Requirements and responsibilities include:

- Proficient in Excel and Quicken
- Keep track of all club finances
- Check people into our monthly meetings
- Upload the per capita to GSRW
- Attend Board meetings
- Provide monthly reports
- Provide a yearly budget (2026 is already done)

If you're interested, please contact Linda Koeling at 650-464-2479.

Regards,  
Carol Allen



## The Bad Old Days

By Phoebe Wise

I was born in 1951 and grew up on the set of a long-running Western called Dalhart, Texas. Yes, it's a real town in the far northwestern corner of the Panhandle—a flat, arid stretch of the High Plains, plagued with dust storms and blizzards. Ranching, farming and related industries still occupy most people there.

Dalhart kids of the post World War II era were still in touch with the wild west days of their grandparents. Downtown looked a lot like the Westerns in the movies, only with cars. There were still hitching rails alongside the parking meters. I remember my grandfather letting me ride behind his saddle when he made little trips downtown to visit with his friends at the saloon. I wasn't allowed to go in, of course, but from where I was sitting on the curb, I could peek under the swinging doors. One glance at the beautiful palomino mare tied to the hitching rail, told passersby exactly whose horse I was minding, and several stopped to say hello to the owner's granddaughter.

TV shows like *Gunsmoke* always included a lot of gunplay, especially around saloons, but I had no fear of such as I sat there, chatting with people who knew my family. I was happy in the security of small-town life. I knew, of course, that gunfights had broken out on Mainstreet in Dalhart's bad old days. But the West had been tamed, and that was a good thing.

There were still plenty of guns in evidence. Almost every pickup had a gun rack, but few bothered to lock their trucks. A man needed to have his rifle handy to shoot a coyote or snake, or maybe to hunt some game. Or just for target practice. Amusements were scarce on the ground in the Panhandle. In addition to riding horses, we did a lot of recreational shooting.

Safety was paramount. We learned that first. When I was a little kid, I was allowed to watch my father clean the guns, but I had to keep several feet away. Then, when I was a big five-year-old, he gave me my first shooting lesson. I can still feel his arms around me as he helped me cradle the 22. "Hold your breath, keep your eye on the target, *squeeze* the trigger..." When I got my first rifle at age eight, there was more to learn. "Don't shoot toward the highway." (Duh!) "Make sure there is no livestock between you and what you're aiming at." "Always treat the gun as though it were loaded." Billboards reminded us that *Guns and Alcohol Don't Mix*. That was most painfully brought home to me when a drunken father accidentally killed his own son, one of my fifth-grade classmates. That was a lesson no one could forget. To this day I have the most profound respect for the lethal power of firearms.

Although I became a pretty good shot—ask me about the rabbit incident sometime—hunting and shooting were not my primary interest. I much preferred exploring my grandfather's ranch on horseback. I got to be a confident enough rider to enter the annual XIT parade. It was challenging because there were lots of other horses, as well as floats and vehicles; all of that could distract your mount and make it skittish. I considered it a good accomplishment not to get bucked off onto the hard pavement.

The parade was part of a three-day celebration that relived the days of the famous XIT Ranch. It was largest ranch under fence in history—6,000 miles of barbed wire. Rodeos, dances, and many related festivities made it as big a celebration as Christmas on the town's calendar. Everyone dressed in western clothing if they had to go downtown; if not, they could be fined or wind up the hoosegow—a small portable jail parked on Mainstreet. Men swore off razors for the beard growing contest, and kids practiced for the junior rodeo. Ranchers donated beeves for the world's largest free barbecue.

When I moved to San Juan Capistrano in 2018, it was a little like stepping back into my childhood. Imagine my bemusement at the Swallows Day events: a parade powered only by horses, a beard growing contest, a hoosegow for folks who dared to go downtown without western dress. There was even a mock hanging of the mayor, although that event may have gone by the wayside in 2026.

San Juan Capistrano is changing rapidly, but this town still treasures its 250 years of history. And that history may have included some gun violence, with characters like Zorro (fictional) and the pirate Hippolyte de Bouchard (historical) in the mix.

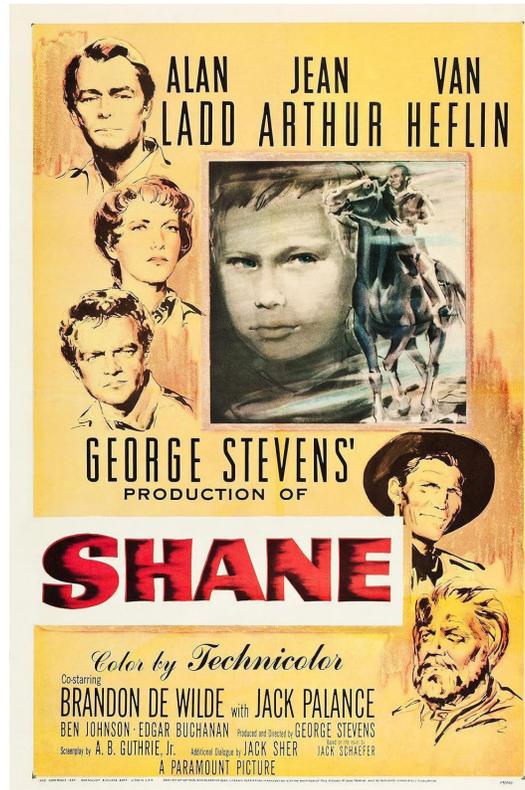
Over a thousand miles separate Dalhart, Texas and San Juan Capistrano, but both are part of the story of the taming of the Old West, a story told in so many movies and TV shows from decades past. Back in the 50s small towns were relatively crime-free and it was possible to think the problem had been solved for good. Shane had beaten the villainous gunfighter to the draw, and now the children could grow up safe and free. No one questioned the value of law and order.

That is, not until a bunch of Marxist teachers and professors took over our schools and colleges and indoctrinated our kids with critical theory, turning criminals into victims and law-abiding citizens into "oppressors". We all know about how George Soros and his ilk are funding this ideology, and how mainstream media does their bidding, demonizing law

enforcement, so I won't belabor the point. But the predictable result is rising crime, and small towns are not exempt.

On the evening of January 2 of this new year, a couple of burglars entered my gated community and broke into a house just one street over from me. The owners were away, but when confronted by neighbors, one of the burglars pointed a gun at them, or what looked like a gun—it was dark, so the people couldn't be sure. But the burglar obviously intended to threaten them.

This incident got me thinking about my very rusty shooting skills and my duty as a citizen to defend against the bad guys. My hometown, and no doubt San Juan as well, were safe havens in the 50s. Places where people didn't bother to lock their cars or houses. But it looks like the bad old days have returned again. What must be our response? Certainly, we must work to restore respect and appreciation for law and order. We must elect public officials who will enforce the law. But what about in the meantime? How will we deal, personally, with the return of the bad old days?



## **“Sarcastic Grandma” ... Something to Think About**

Author: Unknown

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, “We didn’t have this ‘green thing’ back in my earlier days.”

The young clerk responded, “That’s our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations.”

The older lady said that she was right our generation didn’t have the “green thing” in its day. The older lady went on to explain: Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So, they really were recycled.

But we didn’t have the “green thing” back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But, too bad we didn’t do the “green thing” back then. We walked up stairs because we didn’t have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn’t climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn’t have the “green thing” in our day.

Back then we washed the baby’s diapers because we didn’t have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days.

Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn’t have the “green thing” back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn’t have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn’t fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power.

We exercised by working so we didn’t need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she’s right; we didn’t have the “green thing” back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn’t have the “green thing” back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family’s \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the “green thing.”



We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn’t need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn’t it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn’t have the “green thing” back then?

Please forward this on...

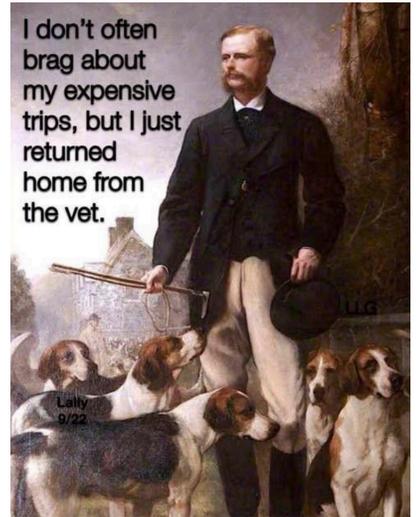
**JUST FOR LAUGHS**



Communism be like  
"follow me for more recipes"



It's funny how we say, "a bug hit my windshield" when we are the ones going 70 mph. I'll bet the bug's family describes it differently.



**I'M AT THE AGE WHERE LIVING IN THE WOODS AND TALKING TO A RACCOON SOUNDS LIKE A PEACEFUL RETIREMENT PLAN.**



**"China doesn't use windmills for energy.**

They use **coal**. They build **windmills** and **sell** them to stupid people.

— President Donald Trump  
WEF Davos

**DIRECTORY OF STATE & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 71**

**Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez**  
Serves OC cities of Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and unincorporated areas of Orange County

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
22342 Avenida Empresa Suite 275  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-459-7170  
[ad71.asmrc.org](mailto:ad71.asmrc.org)

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State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0071  
916-319-2071

**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 72**

**Assemblywoman Diane Dixon**  
Serves OC cities of Aliso Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, and Laguna Woods

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4100 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 340  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
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Sacramento, CA 94249-0072  
916-319-2072

**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 74**

**Assemblywoman Laurie Davies**  
Serves OC cities of Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
32332 Camino Capistrano Suite 102A  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
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**STATE SENATE DISTRICT 37**

**Senator Dave Min (D) DISTRICT OFFICE**  
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**STATE SENATE DISTRICT 38**

**Senator Catherine Blakespear**  
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916-651-4038

<p><b>President Donald Trump (R)</b> The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D.C. 20500 202-456-1414 <a href="http://whitehouse.gov">whitehouse.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Governor Gavin Newsom (D)</b> Office of the Governor State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814 916-445-2841 <a href="http://gov.ca.gov">gov.ca.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Katrina Foley, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.</b> Orange County Board of Supervisors 400 W. Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, CA 92701 714-834-3550</p>	<p><b>U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D)</b> Hart Building #154 Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-7000</p>
<p><b>U.S. Congressman Mike Levin (D-49<sup>th</sup> Dist.)</b> 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 102 Dana Point, CA 92629 949-281-2449</p>	<p><b>U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D)</b> 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-3553   202-228-3789</p>	<p><b>Don Wagner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.</b> OC Board of Supervisors 400 W Civic Center Dr. Santa Ana, CA. 92701 714-834-3330 <a href="mailto:Donald.wagner@ocgov.com">Donald.wagner@ocgov.com</a></p>	





**ORANGE COUNTY  
GOLDEN STATE  
REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

31103 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite #D3292 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-1759

**STAY INFORMED!!  
CITY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Check Council Meetings /Agendas**

<b>City of Aliso Viejo</b> 12 Journey, Suite 100 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 949-425-2500 <a href="http://avcity.org">avcity.org</a>	<b>City of Dana Point</b> 33282 Golden Lantern Dana Point, CA 92629 949-248-3500 <a href="http://danapoint.org">danapoint.org</a>	<b>City of Laguna Beach</b> 505 Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651 949-497-3311 <a href="http://lagunabeachcity.net">lagunabeachcity.net</a>
<b>City of Laguna Hills</b> 24035 El Toro Road Laguna Hills, CA 92653 949-707-2600 <a href="http://ci.laguna-hills.ca.us">ci.laguna-hills.ca.us</a>	<b>City of Laguna Niguel</b> 30111 Crown Valley Parkway Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 949-362-4300 <a href="http://cityoflagunaniguel.org">cityoflagunaniguel.org</a>	<b>City of Laguna Woods</b> 24264 El Toro Road Laguna Woods, CA 92637 949-639-0500 <a href="http://cityoflagunawoods.org">cityoflagunawoods.org</a>
<b>City of Lake Forest</b> 100 Civic Center Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630 949-461-3400 <a href="http://lakeforestca.gov">lakeforestca.gov</a>	<b>City of Mission Viejo</b> 200 Civic Center Mission Viejo, CA 92691 949-470-3000 <a href="http://cityofmissionviejo.org">cityofmissionviejo.org</a>	<b>City of Rancho Santa Margarita</b> 22112 El Paseo Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 949-635-1800 <a href="http://cityofrsm.org">cityofrsm.org</a>
<b>City of San Clemente</b> 910 Calle Negocio 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor San Clemente, CA 92673 949-361-8200 <a href="http://san-clemente.org">san-clemente.org</a>	<b>City of San Juan Capistrano</b> 30448 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 110 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 949-493-1171 <a href="http://sanjuancapistrano.org">sanjuancapistrano.org</a>	