

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 



ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2024-2025

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Rotary 
Club of Chula Vista

The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista

Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340
Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

JOHN SANDMEYER
PREVENT DROWNING FOUNDATION
Friday, August 23, 2024 - Noon



John Sandmeyer will tell us about the work of the Prevent Drowning Foundation. He worked for the San Diego Lifeguard Service for 38 years and retired as the Marine Safety Captain. He is currently employed with the City of San Diego Office of Emergency Services as an Emergency Manager. As a Lifeguard, John oversaw all Lifeguard and Mission Bay Harbor Patrol training including the San Diego County Lifeguard Regional Training Academy.

He was the Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team Leader for San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and directed the San Diego Junior Lifeguard program. He was a founding member of the SD Junior Lifeguard Foundation and currently leads the Water Emergency Preparedness workgroup for the California Water Safety Coalition.

John has coordinated training with Baja California lifeguards for over 20 years and is an instructor for the Surf Lifesaving del Sur Team in Cabo San Lucas. John enjoys his free time with his family, works on improving his Spanish and travels whenever he can to increase his experience in and out of the water.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST 16, 2024

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Kathleen Carroll gave the invocation. Chuck Bevan led us in singing Summertime.

Past President Mora de Murguia gave an update on Polio in the world. Unfortunately, two countries in Africa have had recent outbreaks. She serves on the District Polio Committee. She also presented Sofia Salgado Robitaille her Rising Star award, with an assist from DG Dianne Crawford, for her outstanding work on membership (working with Lori Torio), with an assist from DG . (Sofia was not able to attend the In/Out event.)

Sofia Salgado Robitaille had us trying to guess our mystery member of the week. After many clues, most were still stumped. It turns out it was new member Monica Griego! We now her much better. We are so happy to have you in our Club Monica! President Jesse reviewed the calendar of Rotary District 5340 events and our upcoming Club activities and programs. Assistant District Governor (ADG) Michael Monaco had an update on the Chula Vista-Eastlake Rotary Club Sip N Sail event. Due to unforeseen circumstances, they had to bump the date to Sunday, August 25 with a different ship.

In his role as Fine Master, Michael fined Suzanne for yet another broken (fractured) bone - this time in her left foot—an injury sustained by rigorous gardening. She is not able to drive for MONTHS because her car is stick shift (!). A hundred bucks! Diane Flint Wages was fined for her new Mercedes SUV.

ADG Michael introduced District Governor Dianne Crawford, who is originally from the island of St. Maartens in the Caribbean. Her mother inspired her to do more and led a life of community involvement both in the U.S. and in St. Maartens upon her return.

DG Dianne discussed membership and cited the #1 reason people leave Rotary is due to the Club experience. She encouraged us to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participation and engagement, and increase our ability to adapt. She encouraged us to donate to the Rotary Foundation through any number of ways—designated funds, Polio Plus, Disaster Fund, direct deposit, etc. The dollars return to our District through the Annual Fund.

DG Dianne stated partnerships with other service clubs and community groups maximizes our impact. She invited us to the Foundation Seminar on November 9. It was a fun, informative, and inspirational presentation. Thank you DG Dianne!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Summer Club Social—Friday, September 13, 5:00 p.m. \$10

At the home of Lisa & Eric Johnson

We will be recognizing Red Badgers and there will be a Taquero preparing fresh food

Please respond if you plan to attend; pay on Club Runner or at our Meeting





JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



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THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at noon. Today brought to you by Kimberley Marshall.

The 2024 Paris Olympics were quite a success for San Diego. Sixty-five athletes with local ties — whether raised here, went to school here or live here currently — competed in the Summer Games, and they're returning home with 27 total medals from 12 different sports. Five won gold, including Jennifer Valente from Scripps Ranch who won two golds in track cycling. Four got silver. Seventeen got bronze, including the 12-woman U.S. rugby sevens team that is based at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center. Or look at it this way: Excluding medals won as part of a larger team with athletes from elsewhere, and counting medals from a two-person event as a half, San Diego County (population 3.3 million) as its own country would rank 21st in the Paris medals table with 10.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass arrived early Monday afternoon at LAX with the official Olympic flag. Bass received the flag at Sunday's Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony from Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo in a first-ever exchange between two female mayors. The flag, which will be housed at Los Angeles City Hall, will be raised at the main venue during the Opening Ceremony at the 2028 Olympics, the third hosted by Los Angeles. Plans are already being worked out for the numerous venues needed for the massive event. SDSU's Snapdragon Stadium, in Mission Valley, is currently listed as a potential venue for Olympic soccer group matches and quarterfinals.

Annual inflation cooled more than expected last month, to 2.9 percent, according to a Consumer Price Index report released Wednesday. It was the first time that the inflation gauge had dropped below 3 percent since 2021. According to a Fed Reserve Bank president, "While inflation is down, prices are still high and consumers have gotten to the point where they're just not accepting it. And that's what you want: The solution to high prices is high prices." Some of America's largest companies, from Amazon to Disney to Taco Bell, say their customers are seeking cheaper alternatives, searching for bargains, or just avoiding items they find too expensive.

COVID-19 is once again back in the headlines. We're seeing a summer surge with a positivity rate at nearly the highest it has ever been. San Diego County's positivity rate is the second highest ever recorded, close to 21%, while the state and nationwide rate is closer to 14%. The strength of this summer's COVID surge is largely related to the highly infectious subvariants that continue to emerge as the coronavirus evolves.

While hospitalizations overall remain low, emergency room, clinic and doctor visits have been rising. And the number of people who have never had COVID-19 — the "Novids" — is dwindling, with reports of people who didn't get any COVID until this point, now in its fifth year.

The San Diego Padres thrashed Pittsburgh again on Wednesday afternoon at Petco Park, an 8-2 demolition to complete a six-game season-series sweep of the Pirates -- all within a nine-day span. It marked the Padres' 19th victory in their past 22 games -- the first time in franchise history they've done that. A night earlier, they equaled a franchise record from 2007 by clinching an eighth straight series win. The Padres are tied for the top wild-card playoff spot in the National League with 42 regular season games remaining. Next up: a stretch of 18 games in 18 days beginning tonight with a three game away series against the Rockies.

The 27th Annual Lemon Festival in downtown Chula Vista will be held tomorrow from 11 am to 6 pm. Third Avenue will be filled with all things lemon as part of a celebration of CV's agricultural heritage Park. (Continue on page 5).



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—AUGUST 16, 2024



L-R: Past President Mora de Murguia provided an update on Polio in the world. Mora and DG Dianne Crawford presented Sofia Salgado Robitaille the Rising Star award for her outstanding work on membership in partnership with Lori Torio, who received her award at the In/Out. Sofia presented this week's Member of the Week Monica Griego.



Kimberley Marshall was this week's sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. L-R: The lucky recipients of a fun gift bag were: Sofia (busy meeting for her!), Diane Flint Wages, and Mora de Murguia.



MORE CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



DG Dianne Crawford receiving her speakers gift from President Jesse. Bob and Patty Silvas enjoying Rotary Night at the Padres game August 19. Bill and Karen Torre were also there.



(Continued from page 3)

Highlights include lemon drink and food samples, a lemon cook-off competition, arts and crafts vendors, two stages of live music, and the Little Lemons kids area in Memorial Park.

Today's sponsor, Kimberley Marshall, was born and raised in San Diego. She met her husband Kevin right out of high school and has never let him go. They have three children Devin, Courtnie and Kevin and one princess granddaughter Sage Elizabeth. Kimberley co-founded Copy Link, Inc with her husband Kevin in 1990, and recently retired after 30 years. Now she gets to spend her time doing the things that make her smile, traveling to see her granddaughter, looking after her dad, baking bread, gardening and keeping bees. In addition to Rotary, she also sits on the board of the Chula Vista Salvation Army.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Kimberley Marshall.



Member Spotlight



Monica Griego
CEO, ZIA Productions

Monica's favorite part of being a Rotarian is the community engagement. As a speech and debater herself, she volunteered as a judge for High School speech contests!

Monica Griego was born in the Bay Area of Northern California. She had always visited San Diego regularly since her father relocated to the North Island Coronado Naval Air Base from the Oakland Naval Air Base in 1996. In 2023, she moved to Chula Vista permanently to be closer to her mother and brother who also live in Chula Vista. She enjoys camping, hiking, fishing and Sunday beach days with her two sons.

Her favorite part of being a Rotarian is the engagement in community activities that are continuously available. A former speech and debater herself, she enjoyed scoring the speech contestants from local high schools when they competed for scholarships at a recent Rotary luncheon.

Monica is the CEO and owner of ZIA Productions and is currently producing the 2024 ARTS DISTRICT Summer Music Series at Liberty Station. She has expertise in nonprofit management, campaign leadership, community health initiatives and fund development.

Most recently she raised \$150,000 in a fundraising campaign she designed for Words Alive, a youth literacy nonprofit agency in the East Village.

Prior to her move to San Diego, she was Executive Director of the United Way of Northern New Mexico. Additional work experience includes positions with Investment Bank Deutsche Bank, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. White House. Monica earned her Bachelor of Science degree in International Law from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and is a Certificate Holder in Latin American Studies.

CLUB CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24—Chula Vista-Eastlake Rotary Club Fundraising Event:
Sip n Sail, \$100**

Friday, August 30 - Labor Day Weekend—DARK—No meeting

Friday, September 6—Registrar of Voters - Club Program

Friday, September 13—FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT ST. MARK'S (Hilltop & I), 8:00 am

Friday, September 13 - DARK—No meeting—*Summer Social at 5:00 pm*



Our most sincere condolences to Kathi Tanaka Mits and her family on the passing of her mother Naomi.

Her father, Terry Tanaka, was a long time member of our Club and co-founder of the Thousand Smiles program.



Congratulations to Autumn Reid's son, Landon, who recently completed boot camp and is now a United States Marine!

Way to Go to Bill and Karen Torre who volunteered for Operation Gratitude by helping to pack 5000 care packages. They were prepared for deployed troops on the USS George Washington.



2024 Compost Giveaway Events

Republic Services provides free compost to Chula Vista residents at the Otay Landfill at 1700 Maxwell Rd. Chula Vista 91911. Join us for our next giveaways!

- August 31st
- November 2nd

All events are Saturday from 8am - 12pm.

Don't forget to bring your shovel, containers, and tarps.



Visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/chula-vista-ca for more information.



Sustainability in Action

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FREE COMPOST

Risa Baron wanted us to know about this upcoming event.

(Apologies for the quality. Issues with pdf AND the printer.)