

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

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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)

LUIS CARRANZA
DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNOR
Friday, August 22, 2025, Noon



Born in Tijuana, Baja California, and raised in San Diego, California, Luis Carranza represents the spirit of borderless service, unity, and opportunity that defines Rotary. At just 7 years old, Luis crossed from one country into another, but more importantly, he began a journey that would lead him across cultures, industries, and communities with one mission: to uplift others.

Luis's early years were shaped by music, empathy, and service. As a violinist with the San Diego Youth Symphony, he performed across continents. As a teen who volunteered at Grossmont Hospital, he began understanding the transformative power of compassion. After studying Economics at the University of California, San Diego, Luis built a 20+ year career in the mortgage industry, where he currently works as a Senior Loan Officer with PrimeLending. But it was his heart for community that led him to Rotary. Since joining the Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe in 2004, Luis has embraced Service Above Self as more than a motto; it has become his way of life. As Club President, he championed member engagement, community outreach, and local business support. He chaired the club's signature Taste of Rancho Santa Fe fundraiser, raising over \$500,000 for vital causes.

As an Assistant Governor, Luis supported diverse clubs across District 5340, including those in Kearny Mesa, Southeast San Diego, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and beyond. Under his mentorship, two clubs earned the title "Best Club of the Year." He also chaired the District Rotary Foundation Seminar and the "Disco Inferno" Foundation event, helping deepen Rotarians' understanding of Rotary's global impact.

Now, as District Governor for 2025–2026, Luis leads with a bold and heartfelt message:

District Theme: "Don't Miss the Bus" - This is not just a theme — it's a reminder.

A reminder that Rotary is moving with urgency, with purpose, and with love.

Whether you're a longtime Rotarian or someone still waiting to get involved, the invitation is simple: There's a seat for you. We each have a role to play in service, in fellowship, and in building a better world. But that moment to act won't wait forever. Luis urges every Rotarian in District 5340 and beyond to get on board, show up, and ride together toward a future where every life touched by Rotary knows they matter. Don't miss the bus, because the world can't wait.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST 15, 2025

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. He told members he had just returned from his trip to Europe the day before and was very jet-lagged.

Betty Waznis was back from her road-trip around the country with her daughter and gave us the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Welcome back Betty! The sponsor was Diane Flint-Wages and the lucky winners were: Mora deMurguia, Bob Bliss and Jan Mellinger.

President-elect Rasha Roshdy introduced the speaker, Steve McQuarrie, a member of the Bajamar Rotary Club in Ensenada. He told the group about a school their club founded called Emiliano Zapata School and other projects they have undertaken.

GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY



SAVE THE DATES:

Friday, August 29—DARK—No meeting—Labor Day

Saturday, October 25—Christmas in October

Friday, October 31—Golf Tournament Fundraiser—Location TBD



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JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

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 Diane Flint Wages and the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Legacy Fund.

Four crew members from the International Space Station (ISS) have returned to Earth. They splashed down off the San Diego coast last Saturday morning in a SpaceX capsule, the first Pacific Ocean splashdown for NASA in 50 years. Here's NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, along with Japan's Takuya Onishi and Russia's Kirill Peskov posing inside the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft before they returned to Earth. They flew to the space station earlier this year to relieve Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, who were left stuck at the space station for nine months on what was meant to be a week-long mission.

On Tuesday, Chula Vista Mayor John McCann announced that the city will partner up with Caltrans to clear out homeless encampments along the 5, the 805, and the 54 within city limits, a task previously restricted to Caltrans crews only. The mayor described the collaboration as a way to cut through bureaucracy and red tape and act faster. This follows a similar ongoing collaboration started last year between Caltrans and the City of San Diego.

A Coronado Cays mansion across the bay from Chula Vista that's been on the market for almost two years will soon be part of an auction in Hong Kong. The newly built mansion at 3 The Point went on sale in November 2023 for \$43 million and was reduced to \$37.5 million with no takers. A New-York based luxury real estate firm is holding the auction from Sept 5 to 18. Starting bids for the property are expected to run \$15 million to \$23 million. The property is owned in trust by Pilot Flying J, a chain of 750 truck stops across the US and Canada. It's 11,000 square feet with seven bedrooms and 9 1/2 bathrooms, spectacular bay views, and a 3,600-square-foot rooftop deck with a pool, spa, small golf course, plus 320 feet of private bayfront.

Another distinguished building in San Diego County is up for a prestigious award - America's best restroom. As odd as it seems, there is a yearly contest to vie for the honor of the country's best public restroom. And San Diego's rebuilt Tecolote Shores south bathroom along Mission Bay is one of nine finalists that include public bathrooms in parks, restaurants, hotels, and one in a shoe store. They were selected based on cleanliness, functionality, visual appeal, innovation, and unique design elements. The winner gets a couple of prizes, including \$2,500 in facility services or restroom cleaning from Cintas, the facility and supply company that sponsors the contest. Voting ends Friday. To see photos of this year's competition or cast a ballot, go to bestrestroom.com/vote.

An exciting week for Padres fans. Coming from a 9-game deficit on July 4, the Padres have overtaken the LA Dodgers to reach the number one spot in the NL West division. We swept the Giants in this week's three game series – at the same time the Dodgers lost all three of their series against the Angels. So now the rivalry continues as the Padres meet the Dodgers on their home turf tonight at 7:10. Go Padres!

Today's News at Noon is sponsored by Past President Diane Flint Wages in support of the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund was founded to provide perpetual financial support to the Foundation through the generosity of gifts and donations. The earnings from that Fund will support Foundation projects such as bicycles for poor children, the Tijuana house build, and so many other worthwhile efforts. You can contribute to the Legacy Fund through annual donations, memorial gifts, and provisions through your estate, trust or will. Your donation will give support in perpetuity as the Fund grows. See Legacy Committee members Mark Scott, Gary Bryant or Ken Weimer if you have any questions.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today was sponsored by Diane Flint Wages and the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Legacy Fund.

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MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—August 15, 2025



L-R: Diane Flint-Wages, this week's sponsor of the News at Noon, pictured with Mora de Murguía, Jan Mellinger and Bob Bliss (back on a hot streak!).



L-R: Members of the Bajamar Rotary Club from Ensenada shared information about their projects. **Duane Buckingham** and his team at the Red Cross "Sound the Alarm" on their way to install smoke detectors. Eighty five volunteers installed 372 detectors in 145 mobile homes in Chula Vista. **Bill Torre** also helped and had a team. Consider helping next time!