

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)

THOMAS BOWSE

ADDICTIONS—Mental Health Topic

Friday, February 28, 2025 - Noon

You may think of addiction as primarily about drugs, however, it also includes food, sex, alcohol, gambling and more.

Thomas Bowse began his career as a coach at a small substance use treatment center in La Jolla, California where he worked for five years. He then completed a master's degree in clinical counseling at Point Loma Nazarene University and is in the final stages of earning his doctorate in clinical psychology at Alliant International University.

He specializes in substance use treatment and research and has worked at several local treatment centers, private practices, and forensic settings including Richard J. Donovan prison in San Diego. He has spent the last five years as an adjunct professor at Point Loma Nazarene University, instructing graduate students classes in substance use disorder treatment, psychological assessment, and abuse assessment.

CLUB CALENDAR

TEAM TRIVIA CHALLENGE—CV SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB—

Friday, March 14, 6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 12—TIJUANA HOME BUILD

BIKE SAFETY RODEO—Saturday, May 24

INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION—Friday, June 27, 12-1:30



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—February 21, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Lori Torio gave the invocation and Chuck Bevan selected a song from the past, modified by the late Paul Raffer to honor our past Presidents.

President Jesse gave an update on the Board of Directors meeting held this week. Several items were approved and forwarded to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Board for final approval. Save the date! The Installation/Outstallation Luncheon will be held Friday, June 27, 12-1:30 at the San Diego Country Club.

Services for Jean Lewis will be held Saturday, March 22, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Hilltop and I in Chula Vista.

Bernard Hernandez reminded members about the event to complete pending youth certification through District 5340 to be held at their Neisha's Dance Academy Saturday, Feb. 22. It is a fun and efficient way to finish it up.

Betty Waznis shared photos from Altrusa's Grandparents Raising Grandkids event that our Club supported by helping with gift cards. Each grandparent received a \$40 gift card.

President Jesse reviewed some of the upcoming programs. Betty Waznis gave us the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Jeanette Badal was the sponsor and the lucky drawing winners were Lori Torio, Ken Weimer and David Hoffman. After the tickets were drawn, Jeanette shared how Bob Silvas has been super helpful to her as a new member in navigating club events and inviting her to join the Youth Services committee. She added he is kind and patient. She assisted President Jesse by presenting Bob with a "Magic of Rotary" pin in appreciation.

Ben Koala took a few minutes to encourage members needing to take a minimum distribution this year to consider directing funds as a donation to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation. Ask Ben for more information.

Bob Silvas shared highlights—courtesy of the Chulatarians—from each decade of our Club's history. "The Chulatarian—where the facts don't have to be checked." Very interesting information. It was a fitting introduction for the Past President's program.

Jim Biddle (PP 83-84) joined the Club in 1974 and was sponsored by a staff member of Assemblyman Wadie Deddeh named Garrett Edmonds. Chula Vista Community Hospital (later to become Sharp) was on F Street and there were 85,000 residents. Jim took over the news from Bill Holland, did 1000+ editions of the news and has great empathy for Betty Waznis because it takes a lot of work.

Diane Flint Wages (PP 83-84) was the first woman Club President and first woman President of the Bank of America branch at 3rd and E St. She had many interesting stories as well as an interesting bubble bath photo. (!)

Suzanne Catanzaro (PP 09-10) was sponsored by her daughter Karen Batcher. She was drawn in by the global impact of Rotary International taking on the eradication of polio. During her tenure, our local little league won the Little League World Series and our Club provided support.

Dan Dredla's (PP 18-19) global theme was Be The Inspiration. He helped create new membership categories, i.e. family membership which brought us President Jesse and Bernard. During his year, ten new members were inducted and five were lost. He said the joke is that Past President is the best job in Rotary and he said that is not true—being President is the BEST job. He shared that this is his last meeting as he is retiring from Sharp and stepping down from the Club. Members gasped audibly and when he concluded, gave him a standing ovation. All the best to you Dan and Lori! Thank you for your Rotary service, Club web mastering, work at Sharp and more.



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 Jeanette Badal and Lucid HR Solutions.

Sweetwater Authority, which supplies drinking water to roughly 200,000 customers in Chula Vista and surrounding communities, learned last month that its main reservoir contains levels of toxic industrial chemicals that could require expensive treatment or decommissioning the reservoir entirely. Samples taken late last year found the chemicals PFAS and PFOA in levels high enough to pose a substantial danger to public health. If the levels found last month are confirmed by follow-up testing, state rules would require Sweetwater Authority to either stop using water from Sweetwater Reservoir, blend reservoir water with cleaner water bought from an outside agency or notify customers that their drinking water contains elevated levels of a chemical linked to numerous health hazards, including pregnancy complications, liver damage, and cancer. PFAS are used in a wide variety of everyday products, ranging from electronic devices to fire retardants. They are known as "forever chemicals" because they remain present in the environment long after their production. The reservoir could have been contaminated by anything from storm runoff to decommissioned landfills in the watershed. Installing treatment to remove PFAS chemicals from reservoir water could cost at least \$40 million. Buying water from an outside agency could cost up to \$10 million per year. The agency took a follow-up sample of reservoir water last week and plans two more rounds of testing this spring. If the average of all tests exceeds federal guidelines, the agency will have until 2029 to fix the problem one way or another.

The Gaylord Pacific Resort on Chula Vista's bay front, along with San Diego Workforce Partnership and Southwestern College, are partnering to host a free hiring event over two upcoming weekends — March 7 and 8, and again on March 14, 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Southwestern College's Library. There are 800 positions that need to be filled ahead of the grand opening of the new resort in the spring/summer of 2025. Open positions include guest services, hotel operations, and jobs in one of the resort's 12 restaurants and bars, among many others. Multiple positions are open for each role. Those planning to attend should apply beforehand [online on Marriott's website](#) (Gaylord is a Marriott brand), bring multiple resume copies, and be prepared for onsite interviews.

Our SDSU Aztecs men's basketball team is coming on strong and continues to push for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. March Madness is not far off, with official selections to be announced March 16. In their last 2½ games, the Aztecs have now outscored opponents by 60 points and shot a sizzling 54.5% percent. In their Tuesday win over Fresno State at Viejas Arena, the Aztecs had already covered the 17½-point spread by halftime and cruised to an 83-60 victory. SDSU likely needs to win 4 of its 5 remaining regular-season games to make the NCAA Tournament as an at-large team. Next up – Saturday's game at Utah State.

More reports of bears moving into the ruins and evacuated buildings of the LA fires. Here's a black bear who's taken up tenancy in the crawl space of a home abandoned during the Eaton fire in Altadena. The bear has been making himself comfortable, lounging by the pool during the day and bringing food back to the crawl space from neighbors' trash at night. The bear, a 500 to 600 pounder, has left claw marks on neighborhood trash bins, torn insulation from underneath the house and is probably to blame for several broken fuses as well as a recent attack on a neighborhood pet goat. Scientists from Department of Fish and Wildlife visited the site yesterday to assess the situation and come up with a plan. They warn other area homeowners to seal up their crawl spaces.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Jeanette Badal and Lucid HR Solutions.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—February 21, 2025



L-R: This week's sponsor Jeanette Badal with Ken Weimer, Lori Torio and David Hoffman.



Jeanette Badal presents Bob Silvas a "Magic of Rotary" pin in appreciation of his unwavering support. Past President presenters Jim Biddle, Diane Flint Wages, Dan Dredla, Suzanne Catanzaro with current President Jesse Fernandez. All the best to Dan Dredla who is leaving our Club as he retires from Sharp Hospital.