

Chulatarian



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**ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA**

BOARD 2025-2026

**President
Ben Koala**

koalacpa@gmail.com

**President-Elect
Rasha Roshdy**

seducator2014@gmail.com

Treasurer

Risa Baron

rbaron@republicservices.com

Secretary

Bill Torre

wtorre@sbcglobal.net

Past President

Jesse Fernandez

fernfam@pacbell.net

Executive Secretary

Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

csandovalzf@gmail.com

Directors:

Jeanette Badal

Kathleen Carroll

Rochelle Carroll

Mike Green

Bernard Hernandez

Jan Mellinger

www.chulavistarotary.org

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Editor: Carmen Sandoval

Fernandez

csandovalzf@gmail.com



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)

DYLAN MOORE
CALTRANS—SOUTH COUNTY PROJECTS
Friday, March 20, 2026, Noon



I-805 Construction and Project Updates

Caltrans is bringing several major projects to South County, including asset management projects along the southern portions of I-805 and I-5, as well as sound walls and bridge and safety improvements in the Chula Vista region.

Dylan Moore, Central Corridors Director for Caltrans District 11, discusses some of the transportation improvements coming to the Chula Vista region.



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NEW MEMBER! Welcome to the world of Rotary Irasema Quilantan! After much persuasion from her fellow Rotary/Altrusa friends (Sponsors Betty Waznis (not able to attend) and Lisa Johnson, as well as concurrence from her son, Diego, Irasema is ready to dive in. (L-R: President Ben, IQ (her nickname—for obvious reasons...), Lisa Johnson and Diego Quilantan. Be sure to introduce yourselves to her and ask about her remarkable public service career.



L-R: Drawing winners with this week's Jim Biddle News at Noon sponsor, Bob Bliss, Ken Weimer, Irasema Quilantan, Bob, Chuck Bevan. Cheryl Shields presenting a donation and speaker's mug to Luma Haddad, with Young Life South Bay.

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REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lisa Johnson, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following report to the membership at the meeting on Friday, March 20, 2026:

Nominating Committee Report – FY 2025-2026

Committee: Lisa Johnson [Chair], Jesse Fernandez, Mora de Murguia, Bill Torre, Risa Baron

Thank you to the following Rotarians who are completing their two-year terms on the club board: Kathleen Carroll and Bernard Hernandez. Rochelle Carroll is completing a partial term as she graciously stepped in to fill a vacant spot when another board member had to step off mid-term. We thank you all for your service to our club.

Stepping into a leadership role in Rotary is an honor, a privilege, and work. You have heard it before, but it is significant that in 100 years, our club has never repeated a president. If you have ever been an officer or director for our club, please stand – we thank you. The following individuals for both our club and our foundation are willing to make the commitment to leadership in our organization.

We will first vote on club officers and directors. Then, I will ask Ben to adjourn the club meeting, I will convene a meeting of the Rotary Foundation of Chula Vista, so that we can elect officers and directors for the foundation. We will then adjourn that meeting, and Ben may reconvene our club meeting.

Your proposed slate of directors and officers for Rotary year 2026-2027 are:

Director - Jeannette Badal [continuing for another year]

Director - Mike Green [continuing for another year]

Director - Jan Mellinger [continuing for another year]

Director - Fernando de los Santos

Director - Tana Lorah

Director - Kimberley Marshall

Past President – Ben Koala

President - Rasha Roshdy

President Elect – Risa Baron

Treasurer – Bill Torre

Secretary – Rochelle Carroll

Are there any nominations from the floor...hearing none...

[Motion/Second/Discussion/Vote] – I would entertain a motion to accept the slate as presented...

Motion by Chuck Bevan, second by Jan; unanimous vote

[Asked Ben to adjourn the club meeting]

[Convened Rotary Foundation of Chula Vista meeting]

Thank you to the following Rotarians who have served in director positions on the foundation board: Bob Bliss and Mark Scott.

Your proposed slate of directors and officers for the Rotary Foundation of Chula Vista are:

Director – Mauricio Lutteroth – continuing for one more year

Director – Diane Wages - continuing for two more years

Director – Michael Oliveri

Director – Diego Quilantan

Chair – Risa Baron

Vice Chair – Rasha Roshdy

Rochelle Carroll [club secretary is also a member of the foundation board]

Are there any nominations from the floor...hearing none...

[Motion/Second/Discussion/Vote] – I would entertain a motion to accept the slate as presented...

Motion by Chuck Bevan, second by Jan; unanimous vote

[adjourn the Foundation meeting]

[returned the meeting to Ben]



**JIM BIDDLE
NEWS AT NOON
BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Bob Bliss and Robert Bliss CPA.

A former Albertsons that anchors an east Chula Vista shopping center has sat vacant for 12 years — but a recent vote by city officials could change that. Last week the Chula Vista City Planning Commission unanimously approved a request to divide The Shops at San Miguel Ranch into seven parcels of privately owned plots of land. Property owners hope that subdividing the center will increase interest from prospective tenants and improve the site's maintenance. It also gives the center's current businesses the chance to own their space. Residents and business owners have long complained that the over 50,000-square-foot Albertsons property has remained empty for 12 years. They are also not happy with about the shopping center's condition. The grocery store left in 2014, due to financial underperformance. Albertsons has held onto the building's lease for years, leaving it unavailable to any other tenant. The Albertson's property will remain its own parcel under the city's new map. The property management company said the property has garnered interest from three businesses so far with priorities being a grocery store or possibly a gym.

A 66-million-year-old triceratops fossil hits the auction block this week, with bids projected to reach as high as \$5.5 million through the March 31 deadline. Roughly the size of a minivan and nicknamed "Trey," the fossil is one of the most complete triceratops skeletons ever unearthed. Trey was discovered in 1993 near Wyoming's Lance Formation, a geologically rich area ideal for preserving remains. For paleontologists, the region provides a snapshot of life just before the cataclysmic asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs.

San Diego County is hoping to capitalize on the success of the latest Oscar winning movie, "One Battle After Another", to bring more filming here. Shooting movies and commercials here creates jobs and boosts the local economy; Warner Bros. spent about \$7 million here while filming the movie in the downtown's East Village, The Westgate Hotel, Otay Mesa, various county parks and areas near the U.S.-Mexico border. In the last few years, the film team of the county Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs has hosted road trips all over the county to show many different studios options for shooting. Their message - we are more than beaches. San Diego County has everything that LA County has, with a county permitting system that's easier, cheaper, and faster.

SDSU will not be playing in the March Madness NCAA tournament that started this week. This ends a streak of five straight NCAA appearances and is only the fourth time in the last 20 years that SDSU hasn't played in the tournament.

However, UC San Diego women's basketball is going to the tournament for the second year in a row after beating Hawaii 60-48 on Saturday to take home the Big West Championship title. The 14-seed Tritons traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, to take on #3 TCU this morning at 7 am in a first-round match.

This week's sponsor is that lucky duck Bob Bliss who this year celebrates 39 years of membership in Chula Vista Rotary. Bob has over three decades of experience in Chula Vista and has been a loyal and reputable member of the business community. Once you are his client, you are a part of his trusted network and he will treat your finances like his own. The vast majority of people that sign on with Robert Bliss CPA become lifetime customers and never feel the need to go anywhere else for their tax and financial needs. If you are a busy individual and do not feel like you have the time to handle your bookkeeping, personal expenses, and, most importantly, tax preparation, give Bob a call.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Bob Bliss and Robert Bliss CPA .

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MEET THE RAMIREZ BAYLON FAMILY This Year's Tijuana Home Build Family



Gerardo was born in Mexico City and Socorro in Guerrero. Gerardo migrated to Tijuana 25 years ago and Socorro 21 years ago in search of jobs and a better life. They met at a Christmas Eve party and have now been together for 21 years. Gerardo polarizes car windows and earns approximately 2500 pesos per week (@\$139). They have five children and one grand daughter.

Mother: Socorro (43)

Father: Gerardo (44)

Daughter: Shaila (19)

Son: Ricardo (16)

Son: Bruce Gerardo (14)

Daughter: Lidia Aurora (11)

Daughter: Marieli (21)

Granddaughter: Yojari Leinani (3)



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Family
Community Cleanup

SOUTH BAY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES Network

Bringing together the best in all of us for a lasting impact!



Chula Vista
and
Eastlake Clubs

**Saturday
April 25, 2026
9:00am**

TOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Creek to Bay Cleanup

OUR ENVIRONMENT



24TH ANNUAL
Largest environmental cleanup during
Earth Week in San Diego County

Location:
Marina View Park
900 Marina View Pkwy
Chula Vista

Event
Sponsor: 
CITY OF
CHULA VISTA

RSVP: Sign-up sheet will be passed around at the lunch meetings,
or contact Tina Matthias: (619) 738-4188 Text/VM

Make a difference in your community!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**2026 CLUB LEADERSHIP LEARNING ASSEMBLY -
(formerly District Training Assembly) Sat, March 28, 7:30—2:30**

TIJUANA HOME BUILD— Saturday, April 11, 6:30 am—all day

MULTI-DISTRICT MEETING—APRIL 24-26 @ GAYLORD PACIFIC

ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY—SAT, April 28,

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION LUNCHEON
Friday, June 5—Noon**

DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNORS' DINNER—June 26, 5:00 pm

**2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TAIPEI, TAIWAN—June 13-17**