

Upcoming Events Announcements Birthdays & Anniversaries

Notice: We will meet at the Stockmen’s Club in Brawley for the foreseeable future. Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District is remodeling their outpatient registration department and it has been relocated to the main lobby. We do not want to interfere with patients trying to enter the hospital to register.

Mark your calendar for these two important upcoming events:

October 28th: Our Fall Social, with special guest District Governor Dan Gensler. More details will follow as the event gets closer.

November 9th: Centennial Celebration at Quechan Casino, with special guest Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta. Be sure to buy your tickets early to get the best price! Go to IVRotary100.com for more details.

September 8th: Simon Canalez, Education update

September 15th: Sam Couchman

September 22nd: Regular meeting

September 29th: Regular meeting

September Birthdays:

2nd: Nick Pricola

10th: Annette Fortier

21st: Mercedes Wheeler

24th: Jim O’Malley

30th: Shelvie Crittendon

Member Anniversaries:

11th: Stephen Smith, 2 years

14th: Kenny Humes, 5 years

26th: Mary Miller, 20 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

There are none in September

This Week’s Meeting

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Rocky Herron, Natasha, and Francisco Cossio

Recognitions: **Bob Shank, Mary Miller and Jim O’Malley** each paid \$5 for not wearing their badges. **Sam Couchman** paid \$20 for his dove hunting trip this morning.

Program: Program Chairman for September Simon Canalez introduced our program today, DEA Special Agent Rocky Herron. Rocky has spent his entire career with the DEA and has never questioned his decision. His work with the DEA has taken him to South America and Mexico, but he was first stationed in Bolivia, where he learned to locate and then burn drug labs. The statistics Rocky shared with us about this country’s drug problems were shocking. There were over 93,000 drug deaths in 2020, so far the deadliest year in drug overdose history. The United States leads the world with 25% of the world’s overdose drug deaths. Today’s new scourge is synthetic and fake pills being smuggled into the US every day. Opioids, including synthetic opioids, are leading the forefront of this horrible epidemic. This includes incredibly powerful drugs such as fentanyl. Fentanyl is often hidden in other drugs, and users may take it unknowingly. Kids in our community are especially at risk because there are not a lot of distractions. Peer pressure can begin with older siblings and children are trying drugs for the first time at the average age of 9-10 years old. He has been speaking to kids for about 14 years now, trying to educate them that even the seemingly harmless drug marijuana contributes financially to violent criminals. It has increased in strength from 5% to 20% THC. He encourages kids to Google brain damage due to marijuana because they think it’s harmless. Rocky thinks that they only confiscate 10% of the drugs that are smuggled across the border. This was a very informative and eye-opening program. Thank you, Rocky!

Quote of the Week: “If you want to fight a war on drugs, sit down at your own kitchen table and talk to your own children.” -Barry McCaffrey