

Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Upcoming Events
 Announcements

Holtville Rotary will be celebrating their 100th year anniversary and District Governor Dianne Crawford will be there! Please mark your calendar for Friday, January 24th. More details to follow.

If you would like to help out the victims of the **devastating fires in the Los Angeles area**, District 5340 has a donation link on the District **website**, on the District **Facebook page**, and on the District **Instagram page**.

Are you interested in learning how District Grants work? DG Dianne Crawford will be holding a joint-club training seminar on the 23rd of January. If you are interested in attending, please contact Secretary Annette for more details.

We will have another **board meeting** immediately following the general meeting at noon on Wednesday, January 15th. At issue is The Stockmen’s Club charging us rent and not giving us priority in using the annex room for our meetings. Please attend the meeting to keep informed.

- January 15th: Regular meeting
- January 22nd: Regular meeting **on the patio**
- January 29th: Regular meeting
- February 5th: Dillon Faubion, February program chair

January Birthdays:

28th: Bob Shank

Member Anniversaries:

- 1st: Robert Trimm, 27 years
- 1st: Jeff Jones, 27 years
- 24th: Greg Smith, 35 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 7th: Sam and Wanda Couchman, 13 years
- 11th: Sal and Diane Ortiz, 39 years
- 20th: Robert and Betty Trimm, 35 years

This Week’s Meeting

Recognitions: **President Francisco, Annette Fortier, Sam Couchman** and **Bob Shank** each paid \$10 for hosting Holiday celebrations this year. **Sal Ortiz** got to visit his daughters and granddogs in Livermore for Christmas, he paid \$10.

Program: Our speakers today were Karl Weir and Stacy Hoffman. They talked to us about the work they are continuing to do at the parks in Brawley. Karl and his wife own Las Chabelas. Karl is also known as Carlos. Stacy is the former owner of Domino’s Pizza in Brawley. His dad Paul was very active in kids’ softball. He has five kids that are involved in sports. Our Brawley Rotary Club donated \$3,000 to help upgrade Meserve Park and Karl and Stacy thanked us for our donation. About 14 years ago, Meserve Park was just a park with only one backstop and no restrooms. It was hard to find a park to practice and play on. The goal of Bob Presley and Rusty Garcia was to raise money to help promote softball. One half of the field at Meserve Park is dedicated to Bill Presley and the other half to Rusty Garcia. They showed us pictures of what the park looked like back then. They said maintenance is a big issue, and the fields are not in good shape. The City of Brawley just doesn't have the funds to maintain the fields. The City is cooperative, and gave them permission to upgrade, but couldn’t contribute financially. 2 months ago, they had tryouts for softball. A junior high school player fell into a hole at Abe Gonzales Park while trying to catch a ball. She was injured severely enough that she will not be able to play again. Safety issues are a real concern, and they are building the fields with new dirt. They have to use a polymer based clay that absorbs water and stays in the dirt so it doesn’t sink down. When fields get older, they break down and get dusty, and don’t perform well. They put up fences at Meserve Park, so that balls don’t go into the street or into the other field. Young kids tend to chase the balls into the street which isn’t safe. Once they put the fields in, other teams are looking to play there, which will bring in revenue to Brawley. They have to eat, shop, buy gas, stay in a hotel, etc. and they view these upgrades as an investment. Additional funds are needed to fix other safety issues at Beechey Field, Hinojosa and Abe Gonzales Park. Thank you, gentlemen!

