

Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Upcoming Events
 Announcements

Former Rotarian Rod Smart passed away on Monday, January 8th. Rod was a Rotarian for 19 years, and served as Brawley Rotary President in the 2011-12 Rotary year, and Imperial Breakfast Rotary President in the 2018-19 Rotary year. Rod was 68 years old. A \$100 donation to The Rotary Foundation has been made in his name, and a sympathy card has been sent to Holly Smart and family. A celebration of life will be held Monday, January 22nd at 2PM at the Del Rio Country Club in Brawley.

Past District Governor (2022-23) Chuck Preto passed away from Acute Myeloid Leukemia and GVHD (Grant vs. Host Disease). Chuck received his bone marrow transplant in August, but shortly thereafter he was diagnosed with GVHD, which is common to transplant patients. We will post an update when we have information from his family on services/celebration of life.

Jennifer Thomason announced the upcoming **Thousand Smiles** project in Ensenada, MX. The project provides quality professional medical treatment without cost to patients with maxillofacial deformities who, without help, would go untreated. The next clinic will be held February 2-3. If you would like to participate, please contact El Centro Rotarian Randy Miles at 760-960-5181.

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- January 17th: Roque Barros, Executive Director of IV Wellness Foundation
 - January 24th: Regular Meeting
 - January 31st: Alma Silva, Program Director, Imperial Valley Business Resource Center
 - February 7th: Regular meeting, Mary Miller, program chair
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- January Birthdays:**
- 28th: Bob Shank
- Member Anniversaries:**
- 1st: Robert Trimm, 26 years
 - 1st: Jeff Jones, 26 years
 - 24th: Greg Smith, 34 years

- Wedding Anniversaries:**
- 7th: Sam and Wanda Couchman, 12 years
 - 11th: Sal and Diane Ortiz, 38 years
 - 20th: Robert and Betty Trimm, 34 years

This Week's Meeting

Visiting Rotarians: El Centro Rotary President Jennifer Thomason and Sylvia Bauer, El Centro Rotary

Guests: Alma Silva, Carlos Montes, and Oscar Cruz

Recognitions: President Elect Francisco Cossio filled in for President Stephen Smith and did not recognize anyone.

Program: First, program chairman Tim Kelley introduced Alma Silva, who is the Program Director of Imperial Valley Business Resource Center. IVBRC was established in 2020 with the mission to increase effective collaboration and utilization of regional economic and business opportunities. They offer a roadmap to business development for startups, entrepreneurs and small businesses. IVBRC serves the Imperial County community through initiatives that improve the quality of life for low to moderate income by bringing education, workforce training and employment opportunities to the Imperial Valley. They offer referral services and application assistance to workforce programs that can assist students and job seekers with compensation, training and long-term employment. Interns are paid by IVBRC at \$22 an hour. IVC and SDSU identifies students that are qualified, and IVBRC matches them to the appropriate employer. To host an intern, you will need to apply. For more information, go to www.ivbrc.org. Next, Alma introduced two internship-to-career students, Carlos Montes and Oscar Cruz. Carlos and Oscar told us some stories from their experience there, from learning how to laminate (which is more difficult than you think), to drinking civet coffee, which is a coffee that consists of partially digested coffee cherries, which have been eaten and defecated by the Asian palm civet. They said it was an "acquired taste"! Tim told us they have a 99% placement rate after the internship-to-career program. Thank you Tim, Alma, Carlos and Oscar!

