

Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Upcoming Events
 Announcements

We are sad to announce that Rosendo (Rusty) Garcia has passed away. Rusty was board of trustee for the Brawley Union High School District, where he served for 23 years. Visitation will be Wednesday, January 18, from 5:30-9 pm at the Brawley Union High School new gym, with a Rosary at 8 pm. Mass will be held on Thursday, January 19, at 11 am at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery.

The Four Way Speech Contest is coming up! February 22nd is the day, and **Dillon Faubion** is our chair. The purpose of the speech is to apply the principles of Rotary International's 4 Way Test to a current ethical issue. Students are challenged to identify a topic they feel passionate about and to adopt a point of view from which they will seek to persuade others. It should be something from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of topic as long as it is not blatantly offensive. Each part of the Four-Way Test should be addressed during the speech. They should be specifically stated, as the intent of the speech is to use the 4 Way Test to resolve an issue. Each part could be used to prove either a positive or negative point.

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- January 18th: Sean Wilcock, StateVolt battery project
 - January 25th: Laura Benson Vandeweghe, Chief Innovation officer for Decro Corporation, indieDwell housing project
 - February 1st: To be announced
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- January Birthdays:**
- 28th: Bob Shank
- Member Anniversaries:**
- 1st: Jeff Jones, 25 years
 - 1st: Robert Trimm, 25 years
 - 24th: Greg Smith, 32 years

- Wedding Anniversaries:**
- 7th: Sam & Wanda Couchman, 10 years
 - 11th: Sal & Diane Ortiz, 36 years
 - 20th: Robert & Betty Trimm, 32 years

This Week's Meeting

Visiting Rotarians: Chuck Pretto, San Diego Rotary

Recognitions: **Jeff Jones** and **Robert Trimm** each paid \$5 for their 25 year membership anniversary. Congratulations, guys, and thank you for your dedication to Brawley Rotary!

Program: Our program today was Chuck Pretto, who is our 2022-23 District 5340 Governor. Chuck holds his Undergraduate, Master's, and Law Degree from the University of San Diego. Chuck and his wife, Kim Kobey, run Kobey's Swap Meet, San Diego's largest open-air market. Chuck has volunteered for several community organizations in addition to Rotary. He served on the board of the San Diego Red Cross, the San Diego Crime Victims fund, the San Diego Community College Foundation Board, and was President of the Business Improvement Association for 10 years. He also served as President of the National Flea Market Association, his industry's premier organization. Chuck joined the San Diego Rotary Club in 1992. He chaired the Youth Exchange committee for eight years, which was highlighted by his family's hosting numerous long-term exchange students. Chuck was President of San Diego Rotary Club in the 2013-14 Rotary year. He initially believed Rotary was a networking group and quickly realized it was much more. He was considering leaving Rotary when club President Jim Hughes challenged him to host an exchange student. He reluctantly agreed, not knowing if he had the capacity and ability for such a challenge, but his wife showed enthusiasm in the opportunity. This was a life changing experience for him and his family. He and his family have since hosted 7 exchange students, many of which they still keep in touch with. Chuck and his wife Kim live in Mission Beach. They have two adult children and two identical twin granddaughters. This Rotary year, Chuck has made a commitment to make changes in mental health services for young teens. He learned that San Diego county has the highest teen suicide rate in California, many linked to social media pressures especially affecting young women. Chuck is working with the PEACE organization who are asking Rotary clubs to donate PEACE poles at local high schools to bring an awareness to the teen mental health crisis. The motto "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is etched in different languages intended to reach everyone in the community. What an interesting program! Thank you, DG Chuck!

Joke of the week: During a recent flood in a small town, a young girl was perched on top of a house with a young boy. They sat and watched as articles floated by in the water. At one point, they saw a large old hat go floating by. Suddenly, the hat turned around and came back. Just as quickly, it turned back around at third time, and went back downstream. The two children were mesmerized by this, and continued to watch as the old hat made some distance, then turned again heading back towards them. They watch in amazement as this mysterious occurrence continued several more times! "Are you seeing this?", asked the young girl. "That old hat does upstream, and then it comes back. Then it turns suddenly and goes back downstream again!" "Oh...THAT. It's just my dad." replied the boy. "This morning, my mom told my dad, "Come hell or high water, you ARE mowing the lawn today!"