

Birthdays & Anniversaries Upcoming Events Announcements

The Brawley Public Service employee Association will host its annual **Splash Party** on Saturday, August 27th, from 1 PM to 5 PM at the Lions Center in Brawley. There will be music, hot hogs, shaved ice and games. It's FREE!

From the District Newsletter: Rotary members like you are taking action and creating meaningful change in communities worldwide. At past **conventions**, you've seen what we can accomplish when we come together and share our passion for Doing Good in the World. We're excited to keep the momentum going in 2023. Join us in the beautiful city of **Melbourne, Australia, May 27-31, 2023** to connect with other people of action. We'll hear from great speakers, enjoy fantastic entertainment, take part in inspirational breakout sessions, and so much more. Register today to receive the reduced rate. Don't wait, because this rate expires on December 15. Go to the District website to sign up.

- August 24th: Regular meeting, Stockmen's Club
- August 31st: Regular meeting, Stockmen's Club
- September 7th: Sam Couchman is our program chair for September
- September 14th: Regular meeting, Stockmen's Club

- August Birthdays:**
15th: Sam Couchman
24th: Bill Gates
29th: Kenny Humes
31st: George Fareed

Member Anniversary:
25th: Ramiro Urias, 1 year

Wedding Anniversaries:
10th: Bill and Tina Gates, 64 years

This Week's Meeting

Visiting Rotarians and Guests: None

Recognitions: None

Program: Our program today was our very own Larry Lewis, who is the CEO of Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District. Larry told us that PMHD's financial crisis is a national issue and not just limited to our hospital. According to Kaufman Hall Financial Consultants, COVID-19 continued to place a heavy financial burden on California's hospitals through the second year of the pandemic, as they experienced financial losses of nearly \$6 billion on a volume-adjusted basis, more than triple previous projections. More than 51% of hospitals are operating in the red. Hospital patients are sicker and more medically complex than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, driving up hospital costs for labor, drugs, and supplies, according to an American Hospital Association report. Combined with rapidly rising economy-wide inflation and reimbursement shortfalls, these mounting costs are threatening the financial stability of hospitals around the country. Even with these sobering reports, PMHD has operated in the green in 7 of the past 9 years. However, they have lost money so far this year. PMHD was the fortunate recipient of free traveling nurses. Traveling nurses are paid \$200-\$250 per hour compared to in-house nurses who earn \$30 to \$45 per hour. San Diego has 12 emergency departments, but only has staff for 9 EDs. The American Hospital Association is asking Congress to halt its Medicare payment cuts to hospitals; extend or make permanent certain waivers that improve efficiency and access to care; extend expiring health insurance subsidies for millions of patients, and hold commercial insurers accountable for improper and burdensome business practices. Although Medicare payments have increased by 4%, that does not match with inflation of 9-10%. El Centro Regional Medical Center has reported a 16 million dollar loss so far this year. Larry told us the hospital is trying to cut services that are not performing, such as neurosurgery, the cath lab, and the oncology center. In the case of the oncology center, if he can find a doctor to stay here, it will stay open. To help ease the financial burden, Scripps has cut their affiliation fees in half. Larry had so much information for us, there was not enough room to print it all! If you missed the meeting, you missed a really good program! Thank you, Larry!

Quote of the week: "The power of community to create health is far greater than any physician, clinic or hospital."
-Mark Hyman