

Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Upcoming Events
 Announcements

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, October 24th** as it is the date of our **annual Fall Social**. It will be held at the new home of Immediate Past President Stephen Smith and his lovely wife, Melissa. Put it in your calendar so you don't forget!

Mark your calendar for **Friday, November 15th** for the **National Philanthropy Day Luncheon**. More details to follow.

September's theme is Basic Education and Literacy Month, an Area of Focus that embodies our commitment to a world where every individual has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The lack of basic education and literacy skills is a profound issue affecting millions globally. For those who are uneducated and unable to read, life can be a daily struggle. Imagine navigating a world without the ability to read a medicine label, fill out a job application, or understand the simple instructions that many of us take for granted. Illiteracy often perpetuates a cycle of poverty, limiting access to stable employment, healthcare, and civic participation, and depriving individuals of the ability to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

-
- September 4th: Oreda Chin, Executive Director, United Way
 - September 11th: Bill Gay, Author, "Unseen Body Blows"
 - September 18th: Brawley Police Dept.
 - September 25th: Eric Strahm, Co-Owner/Brewer, Humble Farmer Brewing Co

September Birthdays:

- 2nd: Nick Pricola
- 10th: Annette Fortier
- 21st: Mercedes Wheeler
- 24th: Jim O'Malley

Wedding Anniversaries:

None!

Member Anniversaries:

- 11th: Stephen Smith, 5 years
- 14th: Kenny Humes, 8 years
- 22nd: Francisco Cossio, 7 years
- 26th: Mary Miller, 23 years

This Week's Meeting

Guests: Lissbeth Garcia, Karin (Lissbeth's mom), and Karen Martinez

Recognitions: **Sam Couchman, Kenny Humes, and Sal Ortiz**, paid \$10 each for not RSVP-ing for the board meeting. Kenny and Sal were fined in absentia.

Bob Shank was recognized \$5 for failing to stand up while speaking. **Bill Gates** paid \$100 for his 94th birthday and his and Tina's 66th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations, Bill and Tina! **President Francisco Cossio** recognized himself \$10 for ringing the bell and dismissing the meeting before the raffle was drawn.

Program: Our program this week was Lissbeth Garcia, who is the founder of Younify, which is an arts stories and wellness program for unity, and an awareness campaign designed to help raise public awareness and promote social change among communities that have been impacted by separation by fostering unity through self discovery, strengthening relational and community bonds through arts, storytelling and wellness workshops while building vital bridges through communities. It has been series of workshops community engagement events spread over a period of 8 months, designed to foster a connection and resilience among participants. A part of the project has been a collaborative art piece. She also has a podcast series that she will be releasing in September. Lissbeth is a first generation service leader. Her background is in psychology and event management and education. She was born in Las Vegas. She also has a very entrepreneurial and artistic spirit. She graduated from SDSU with a degree in psychology. She had the opportunity to serve as an seminar administrator. She played a video explaining what led her and Younify to the Imperial Valley. 17 years ago, her mother was deported. Her father was a US citizen. Her mother's deportation was a life-changing event. The emphasis of this campaign is not immigration, but directed towards young people who experienced any kind of separation. Her books became her teacher and her parents. She had to find tools and teach herself. Art was an outlet, where she could express herself creatively. She was awarded a grant to implement this program in our community. Thank you, Lissbeth, for sharing your story and this program with us!

Joke of the week: A husband and wife had a tiff. The wife called up her mom and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you." Mom said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."