

Birthdays & Anniversaries
Upcoming Events
Announcements

At this week’s meeting, we celebrated **Eddie Gee’s birthday, George and Martha Fareed and Carter and Sandra Taylor’s wedding anniversaries, and Bill Gates (62 years), Sam Couchman (12 years), Simon Canalez (5 years) and Annette Fortier’s (31 years) member anniversaries** with white chocolate cranberry cheesecake bars. If you didn’t make it to the meeting, you missed out! Congratulations, everyone!

While deciding what to give a loved one or even a friend for the holidays, remember that **gifts to The Rotary Foundation** keep on giving throughout the year. From disease prevention and treatment, to disaster response and so much more, these efforts would not be possible without your generosity. We truly have the gift of giving. As we approach the end of the year, consider supporting the Rotary Foundation. Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and unwavering commitment to The Rotary Foundation and to what Rotary is all about: helping others.

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- December 20th: We are DARK for Christmas
 - December 27th: We are DARK for the New Year holiday
 - January 3rd: Tim Kelley, program chair for January
 - January 10th: Regular meeting
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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: Hortencia Armendariz, Calexico; Chris Plourd, El Centro

Recognitions: **President Stephen Smith** recognized **Eddie Gee** for his birthday. **Eddie** contributed \$100! Thank you, **Eddie** and happy birthday! **Dillon Faubion, Sam Couchman** and **President Stephen Smith** each paid \$25 for appearing on the Jumbotron in Las Vegas while attending National Finals Rodeo. **Sam Couchman** paid an extra \$5 for failing to stand up.

Program: Bob Shank introduced the Honorable Chris Plourd, Superior Court Judge. Judge Plourd told us that the main courthouse will be 100 years old and did a lot of research on its history. On August 17, 1907 there was a canvas to determine if Imperial County would separate from San Diego. On that day, the election results were announced. Out of over 1300 votes, 1100 voted to separate, and El Centro was elected county seat. Our first judge was Franklin J. Cole, who had been here only a couple of years. Chris found a detailed criminal index of court cases. He noticed several people who were on the list more than once. Andreas Ramaraz was the first case. He rented a buggy with two horses and didn’t come back and was charged with theft. He was found guilty of a felony theft over \$300. The minutes from the case were typed by hand. He was tried by jury, 40 “good and lawful men” were rounded up to serve. Found guilty as charged, he served 3 years at San Quentin. Another case was the murder of Domingo Quiroz by Victor Rios near the potholes in Winterhaven. Rios was almost lynched, as Mr. Quiroz was a very popular man. Mr. Rios claimed self defense, and was found not guilty and acquitted. Our first dedicated courthouse was built in 1908 on State Street. The big vault door was costly at the time, \$86. The first woman juror in the state of California was here in Imperial County. It was a mistake, her initials were M. A. Ritter, so they thought she was male. As it turns out, she was Wand a Couchman’s grandmother! When Ms. Ritter appeared to serve, they told her she could go home but she chose to stay. The first county ordinance was “No Alcohol”. In February of 1909, a local druggist, Mr. Heil, was charged with selling liquor from his drugstore. It was a big scandal because a lot of people used Mr. Heil’s services. The case went to trial and he was convicted and found guilty. The case was appealed on the basis that Mr. Heil was exempt from the no alcohol law because he was licensed by the state as a pharmacist. The judge agreed, and he was exonerated. Chris did a lot of research for this presentation and had a lot of great pictures. Thank you, Chris!

Joke of the week: The local District Judge had given the defendant a lecture on the evils of drinking. But in view of the fact that this was the first time the man had been drunk and incapable, the case was dismissed on payment of a fine. "Now don't let me ever see your face again," said the Justice sternly as the defendant turned to go. "I'm afraid I can't promise that, sir," said the released man. "And why not?" "Because I'm the barman at your regular pub."