



“Service
above
Self”

EL CENTRO ROTARY NEWS



The Mud Pot is Moving!

Welcome to the newest edition of the El Centro Rotary News. The program on October 3 was all about the moving mud pot out near Niland off Hwy. 111. More on that later.

President Robert Menvielle called the meeting to order and asked Emma Jones to lead the flag salute, followed by the invocation delivered by Bob

A section of Hwy 111 is closed to traffic due to the moving mud pot

Mapes. THE Rev. Dr. Ron Griffen led the members in a rousing rendition of America the Beautiful. There were no visiting Rotarians (where are you Richard?!), but we had a guest. Arron Popejoy introduced Mr. J. Shawn Rizzutto, of CalTrans, who was our program speaker.

Announcements

James Garcia was elected 2020 president of the Imperial County Board of Realtors. James announced the 3rd Annual Wine Tasting to benefit veterans, held by the IC Board of Realtors. It will be on October 10, 2019 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call 760-352-6010 to purchase a ticket AND find out where the darn thing will be held.

October Programs include: (10/10)Deborah Porter from the Elections Board, (10/17) an update by Helena Hoyt on the SDSU Nursing Program, and (10/24) IC Health Department on Epidemiology Today.

October 24th is National Polio Day

October 31st is Halloween. It's also the District Governor's visit to our club. Wear a costume.

Whining and, Well, You know...

James Garcia, following his announcement gave \$50 each to the club and his Paul Harris.

Rev. Ron paid \$25 for incorrectly naming the author of America the Beautiful. It wan't Irving Berlin (who wrote God Bless America). Katherine Lee Bates was the correct answer.

Sue Geller, home from a trip to Croatia brought a banner from the Rotary Club there, and tried to bribe President Robert with a bottle of Brandy. She was fined \$100, and also donated \$100 to her Paul Harris. Way to go Sue!

In Other News

Did You Know?



Wine is now available at our lunch meetings?



Tickets for the Harvest Bowl will be available at this week's meeting?



The U.S. Naval Academy opened on

October 10, 1845

President Robert asked Lee Hindman how many more meetings there were until the Kickout Dinner. (The answer was 34, but who's counting?!)



Today's Program

Aaron Popejoy introduced Shawn Rizzutto. Shawn, originally from Texas is a 28 year veteran of CalTrans, and spent 25 of those years here in the Imperial Valley. There is one mud pot in the valley that is moving. About 10 feet per month. No one knows why. Or how deep the mud pot is. This particular mud pot is venting a lot of water, along with Carbon Dioxide.

The movement has forced Union Pacific RR to relocate its tracks, and has caused the closure of Hwy. 111.

The plan is to build a sheet pile wall, drill relief wells, and acquire additional easement. Once the mud pot moves past the highway the 111 will be restored. The problem is no one knows how long that will take. The mud pot actually stopped moving for a few months before starting to move again. A CalTrans drone flies over the area almost daily, which provides a helpful "big picture" of the area.

The photos were really interesting. Go to the CalTrans web page to check them out.