

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.



P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD AT THE BONITA MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
October 1, 2025

Directors Present: President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Richard Scott, Secretary Liz Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman, and Mike Parnell.

Members Present: Susan Heavilin, Tom Pocklington, Daryl Hern, Jim Woodford, Daryl Hern, Bill Coleman, and Genevive Fong.

Guest Present: Captain Jason Oosterbaan, from Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District and Ardyl Lim from Senator Padilla's office.

- 1. Call to Order:** 6:34 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room.
- 2.** Please be sure to sign in so our attendance records are accurate.
- 3. Approval of minutes:** Mike Parnell motioned to approve: Mike Clowers seconded. Passed.
- 4. Special welcome:** to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those who might be contemplating joining the SVCA: welcome.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the October Treasurer's report.

\$5234.38 Checking Account Previous Balance

Debits & Credits this past month:

- \$45.00 Paypal to Mail Chimp in September
- \$180.00 Check # 864 to KIG - September website
- \$250.00 Check # 861 for Bonitafest Donation
- \$35.00 Check # 863 to Bonita Horsemen (MBR)
- \$100.00 Check # 865 to SMS - Fire Dept 911 BKFST
- \$250.00 Cash withdrawn for Bonitafest
- +\$250.00 Deposit back from Bonitafest

+ \$124.21 Membership dues received
+ \$17.00 Raffle receipt Bonitafest Giraffe
\$4765.59 Total Ending Balance

Susan Heavilin asked whether the SVCA had been audited. Steve's answer was, no. President Felix, thanked Susan for her question and reiterated that the SVCA's newly developed Bylaws has language pertaining to audits and the Operations Plan that is currently being developed has details about conducting them.

6. Captain Jason Oosterbaan: There were 103 calls with a rate of 97.1 time. On September 11, we welcomed the SVCA who brought us Burritos from Cotijas, which was a huge success. The Fire Station turned up with Chili for the Taste of Bonita. It was good chili. In other news, phase one of the search for new paramedics is over. Thirteen (13) candidates are going to be interviewed. We worked with Chula Vista, Fish and Wildlife and SDG&E to clear Proctor Valley Road. We are still training every day. Susan asked whether they had any other roads to clear. His answer was that during fire season, it's wise to clear brush and dead vegetation up to one hundred feet around any structure you want to protect.

7. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCan's Office: Was not in attendance.

Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' Office: 1. Service night for all branches of military was a success. Over 300 students attended with the Marines being favored.
2. The Government will be shut down. When that happens, many people will be impacted, Social Security will go on, as well as, the Post Office, but new SS and VA benefits will be delayed. Essential workers will get paid. For now, Air Traffic Controllers will be on the job.

Ernesto Castenada from Assemblymember David Alveraz's Office

Assemblyman Alvarez will have meetings with the public in October.

Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office: Senator Padilla has seven bills on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. One has to do with healthcare, San Diego State Children's Health and Education and a food bank in South County. In addition, he will be holding a "Coffee and Chat" at 11AM in National City on Oct. 8th and a Town Hall meeting on Oct. 22 from 6-7:30PM.

8. Continuing Business: Tom Pocklington complained about a truck that was illegally dumping used tires in Bonita. For Kindness Week, we had a report for what it would cost to do the S'mores at Summit Park - \$125 for the rental space and \$5 per vehicle. Another option was to consider a deconstructed S'mores venue with graham crackers, chocolate spread, and marshmallow fluff. The family project would be set up utilizing 6 foot folding tables in the courtyard area between the Bonita library and the museum. We opted for the second choice and ask for donations. Liz volunteered tables and chairs and tablecloths. Daryl said we could do popsicles. President Felix noted that he had meetings with the Bonita Optimist's and the Kiwanis as a guest speaker.

9. New Business:

- a. After much discussion as to what and how to do it, Daryl made a motion that SVCA join in the Starlight Parade in Chula Vista. Judy seconded. Passed.
- b. President Felix spoke about recognition awards for Max Branscomb, for the Bonitafest Melodrama: for Elizabeth Cox for Kindness Club and Wish Well: and Wendy Wilson for her aid with the Bonita Museum and volunteers; to give each a Thank You letter and Certificate of Appreciation. Motions for these in order: Liz Stonehouse, seconded Tom Pocklington: Mike Parnell, seconded Liz Stonehouse: Steve Stonehouse, seconded Liz Stonehouse. All passed.
- c. Tom Pocklington noticed that Liz Osborne was on an Honor Flight. He also mentioned that to get to Jack-in-the-Box from Willow, the left turn was horrible.

10. Community Forum:

- a. **SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates:** the County asked the SCPG to review our annual PLDO report. It remained the same except for the addition of park benches, trash cans and recyclable receptacles along the trails every quarter to half-mile. Also included as a project is to convert the abandoned animal shelter into a Rec Center with several senior, youth and family programs. Jesse Connor gave a presentation on noise ordinance issues. Code Enforcement had three representatives, who listened about noise complaints concerning fireworks, loud music, and cock fights. Code Enforcement offered some contact information for various noise ordinance issues, but made it clear that noise from parties and venues fall into the discretion of the sheriff.
- b. **Traffic and Roads: Mike Clowers:** The upcoming TAC meeting on Friday will have nothing on the agenda for our community.
- c. **Volunteer Patrol: Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford provided these statistics:

September 2025 SHERIFF VOLUNTEER PATROL ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	81
Number of Patrols	9
Number of Miles Driven	399
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	10
Traffic Control	4
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Traylor	0
Citations Issued	0
YANA home visit	1
YANA telephone calls	1

We are one car down. We patrol Wednesdays and Thursdays, oversee the crossing at Central, but school is out now.
The speed trailer needs repairs.

d. SVCA Membership: Liz noted that we have 66 members: 27 gold and 39 paid.

11. **Announcements:** Mike Parnell told us about road paving in our area. Southwestern College is holding a silent auction, and raffle Oct 16, 17, and 18th.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.