



# The Joshua Tree



January 13, 2026

## THE 4-WAY TEST FOR TEENAGERS



This week, we hosted our Club-Level 4-Way Speech Competition, featuring three outstanding students from University Prep. The event was expertly hosted by **Angel Espino**, with **Morris Anderson IV**, **Brad Letner**, and **Kirsten Acosta** serving as judges. **Aly Martinez** served as the timekeeper.

Placing third and earning a \$75 prize was **Niya Jones**, who spoke powerfully about applying the 4-Way Test and this year's Rotary theme, "United for Good," to the issues of homelessness and poverty. Her perspective was deeply shaped by meeting someone her own age who was unhoused, an experience she described as eye-opening. Niya emphasized that real change begins when we unite to address homelessness together.

Finishing in second place and receiving \$100 was **Lupita Rodriguez**. Her speech highlighted the challenge of moving beyond individualism in order to unite for the common good, particularly within the High Desert community. She called on individuals to focus less on personal gain and more on collective action that uplifts students and strengthens the entire community.

Taking first place and advancing to the Area Competition was **Keira Metzen**, who earned \$150 and captivated both the audience and judges. Her speech explored the idea of being an influencer, not in terms of social media popularity, but through everyday actions such as offering a smile or sending a thoughtful message in a group chat. Keira reminded us that we all influence others, that words carry weight, and that while we don't have to agree, our perspectives are shaped by how people are treated.

Unity flourishes through goodwill, and strong influence requires foresight. Influence shows up in everyday moments and each of us has the power to use it for good.

### This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute:	Dr. Ron Boyd
4-Way Test:	Kirsten Acosta
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron



## MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to our student speakers, Niya Jones, Lupita Rodriguez and Kiera Metzen for their wonderful speeches this week. Congrats to Keira, who will next represent our Club at the Area Competition.



I also want to take a moment to thank Angel Espino and Alyy Martinez on their hard work with this competition and thank Morris Anderson IV, Kirsten Acosta and Brad Letner for being judges.

Our 50/50 jar is filling up! Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. We will draw the winning ticket on June 30th! Get your tickets now! See the flyer on page 3.



Darron Poulsen now has \$1 and \$5 opportunity squares for this year's Super Bowl Party! Bring an appetizer or dessert for others to enjoy! Please note this is a BYOB event.

*Steve*

JOIN US FOR  
**SUPER BOWL**  
*Party*

**LX**

Let's eat, cheer, and get ready for the big game together!

**February 8 | at 2:30pm**  
Darron & Donna Poulsen 18841 Nowata Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308  
rsvp 760-953-1236  
PLEASE BRING APPETIZER OR DESSERT  
BYOB

# UNITE FOR GOOD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Steve Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another. We'll continue next week with 7 chips and \$375 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

## Rotary Guests



Joining our student speakers this week were their mothers **Shannon Richardson, Guadalupe Bravo and Janice Ortiz**. Corporate members **Courtney Jefferson and Samantha Cowan** from High Desert PACE were in attendance, and **Alyy Martinez** was at the meeting with **Angel Espino**. We also welcomed **Morris Anderson IV**, who served as one of our judges.

This week our only Stand-in was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and since the only Rotarian he saw at the AVUSD State of the District event was **Kirsten Acosta**, she was fined \$5. **Darron Poulsen** was late to the meeting, so he also paid \$5 and since he blamed his tardiness as having to deal with the City of Victorville, **Keith Metzler** was also penalized \$5!

Another absentee, **Mike Page** was asked to pay \$10 for leaving the meeting early and finally, **Don Lager** received a \$20 fine, ten dollars each for this two recent surgeries.

## Raffle

**Chris Ackerman** was the big winner this week, taking home a \$15 Starbucks gift card and a candle, both donated by **Steve Murray**. **Brad Letner** gave away another bottle of wine, which will be enjoyed by **Arsalee Morales** while **Rob Kilpatrick** and **Dr. Ron Boyd** left the meeting with new VVTA swag items with their new logo, from Ackerman.

## Financial Report



**Darron Poulsen** was on hand this week to give a financial update to the Club. After quite a bit of exhaustive work by his staff, Darron presented the Board with his recommendation to bring the Club into financial order, which was voted on and accepted.

If you would like a copy of the financial plan, which will take an estimated 60 work hours to complete, will be readily available by the Club.



All proceeds to benefit the projects of  
The Rotary Club of Victorville



Winner will be announced on  
June 30, 2026





**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

President 2025-2026 .....	Steve Murray
President 2026 - 2027 .....	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President/Club Service .....	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants .....	Steve and Pam Murray
Treasurer .....	Darron Poulsen
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership .....	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service .....	Ryan McEachron
Community Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Angel Espino

**Members-at-Large:** Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears ( <b>TBD</b> )
Public Service Awards.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	Brad Letner
Grants.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

**The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville**

**Make-up Days and Locations**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

**Calendar Dates**

- Feb 10** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency  
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395
- May 2** **Rotary Golf Tournament**  
Apple Valley Golf Course  
\$100 per Player • \$400 per Foursome

**Upcoming Programs**

- Jan 20:** Mike Thrapp and Colleen Hunt, ICR Staffing **TOPIC "2026 Employment Law Updates"** (Page)
- Jan 27:** **Dan Stover Music Competition** (Espino)

**The Polio Pig**  
**Collected this week: \$8.00**  
**Collected to Date: \$21,745.68**  
**Total equals: 104,470 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!**  
**\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**

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