



The Joshua Tree

April 28, 2026

A LESSON IN CONCRETE VS CEMENT

Don Kennard, Sales Manager with CalPortland, delivered an engaging and educational presentation to the Rotary Club of Victorville, beginning by clearing up one of the most common misconceptions in construction: cement and concrete are not the same thing. As he explained, concrete is the finished product used in building and infrastructure, made up of rock, sand, water, and cement. Cement is the critical binding ingredient; without it, those materials would never bond together. "Without cement," he shared, "all you really have is a river," a simple but effective way to illustrate its importance.

Kennard went on to answer a key question many people have likely never considered: what exactly is a concrete, or ready-mix, plant? He explained that these facilities are where concrete is produced through a highly controlled process known as batching. At a ready-mix plant, raw materials like aggregates (rock and sand),



cement, and water are precisely measured and combined to create a consistent, high-quality product. This batching process ensures that each load meets exact specifications before being placed into transit mixer trucks for delivery. Once water is introduced, the clock starts ticking, as the chemical reaction begins and the concrete must be transported and poured before it starts to harden.

Another important question Kennard addressed was, "What is cement?" He described it as a construction-grade hydraulic material, meaning it reacts chemically with water to harden and gain strength over time. This type of cement is specifically designed to perform in a variety of environments, even underwater, making it incredibly versatile for infrastructure projects ranging from sidewalks and foundations to bridges and highways. Its ability to cure and strengthen over time is what makes modern construction possible on such a large scale.

Kennard also walked Rotarians through how cement itself is made. The process begins with raw materials such as limestone, iron ore, silica sand, and in some cases clay or bauxite. These materials are heated to extremely high temperatures in large kilns, forming a substance known as clinker. The clinker is then ground into a fine powder to create cement. It is a precise and energy-intensive process that requires both technical expertise and careful quality control.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Bill Scott

4-Way Test: Dr. Derek King

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to Don Kennard for giving us such a dynamic talk on cement! It was not only informative, but

also lively and fun! We can't wait for you to come back for part 2 of your talk.



The Rotary Golf Tournament is only a few days away and we only have a handful of foursome's left. We have been working with a small but dedicated team from both Clubs to make this event as successful as possible. Thank you to all who are playing, donated raffle gifts or sponsoring the event.

Our 50/50 was last reported to have grown to \$640! Let's keep it going... you may have a chance to win some big money! Each ticket is \$5 or you can purchase 5 for \$20. Winner will be drawn on June 30, 2026.

District Assembly will be held on May 23rd at Granite Hills High School. If you plan to be on the Rotary Board of Directors, it is important for you to attend. The event will also have the finals for the Speech and Music Competitions, so please attend to support our students.

See you next week!

Steve

Don Kennard

Continued from page 1

Locally, Kennard highlighted the role of CalPortland Mojave Cement Plant and the Oro Grande Cement Plant in supporting regional construction needs. He also noted that there are only six cement plants in the entire state of California, including facilities in Tehachapi and CEMEX Victorville Plant, emphasizing how specialized and essential the industry is. His presentation gave Rotarians a deeper understanding of the materials that quite literally form the foundation of their communities, along with a newfound appreciation for the science and process behind them.

YOU'RE INVITED!



Rotary
Club of
Apple Valley

CELEBRATING

70TH
ANNIVERSARY

70 Years of Service Above Self

Join us as we celebrate
70 years of making a
difference in our community!

 **THURSDAY,**
MAY 21, 2026

 **6:00 – 9:00 PM**

 **DESERT DAWN EVENTS**
at the
APPLE VALLEY GOLF COURSE
15200 Rancherias Rd
Apple Valley, CA 92307

 DINNER

 RAFFLE

 FINEMASTER

 CELEBRATION

 PURCHASE TICKETS:
<https://avrotary.org/70thanniversary/>

 QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:
amber.rotary@yahoo.com

HONORING OUR PAST. CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT. INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.
Together, we continue to do good in the world. 

UNITE FOR GOOD



Big Blue Poker Chip



Rob Kilpatrick was the Big Winner! He picked the Blue Chip and went into his "unofficial" retirement \$475 richer! Thank you for all you do for the Club!

We'll start again next week with 14 chips and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was back as our Fine Master started by giving **Chandale Sutton** a "Welcome Back" fine of \$5, and because **Jon Hove** received a shameless plug during **Don Kennard's** presentation, Jon was penalized \$10!

Speaking of the presentation, **Darren Poulsen** chose to interrupt the proceedings by tripping and almost falling due to a purse belonging to **Kirsten Acosta**. As a result, both left with \$10 less in their pockets. Their fines were increased by \$5, and both **Dr. Derek King** and **Arsalee Morales** received the same fine amount due to all four of them talking and carrying on throughout the meeting, like they were having their own Rotary meeting.

Finally, Ryan gave himself a \$20 fine for having to call **Steve Murray** while he was out of town to take care of his wife's car trouble.

Rotary Guests

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

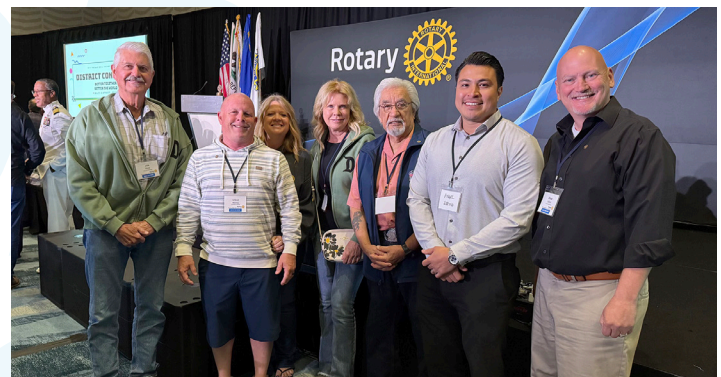
Raffle

This week **Chris Ackerman** donated a VTA swag bag that will be enjoyed by **Steve Murray** while **Chandale Sutton** also donated a goodie bag from High Desert Pace, which was won by **Chris!**



Both **Arsalee Morales** and **Rob Kilpatrick** went home with bottles of wine courtesy of **Brad Letner** and **Darron Poulsen** won a utility knife from **Steve Murray**.

District Conference



The crew at District Conference: (pictured) **Jon & Linda Hove, Steve & Pam Murray, Ben Tafoya, Angel Espino, and Brad Letner.**

Spoon of Exception

Rob Kilpatrick had his final time with the Spoon and once again shared that he is "unofficially" retiring at the end of the month! He will continue to work part time though through the end of 2026.



The Spoon went up for auction and the only taker was **Don Kennard** who took possession of the Spoon for \$100! Don spoke for a moment, just to thank his favorite CalPortland Cement customer in the room, **Jon Hove!**

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	Please Volunteer
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.....	Please Volunteer
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Arsalee Morales
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.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Chris Ackerman
Club Learning Facilitator.....	Please Volunteer

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

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	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
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

May 21 Apple Valley Club 70th Anniversary
6pm at Apple Valley Golf Course
See Flyer on Page 2

Upcoming Programs

May 5 Tony Winkel, Mojave Water Agency Senior Principal Hydrogeologist **Title: "The Hide and Seek River" (Part 1 of 3)** (Page)

May 12 Brad Letner, Incoming President **Title: "Rotary and YOU! Requesting YOUR Feedback on Proposed Changes for the Year Ahead"** (Page)

May 26 Matthew Coughlin, Executive Director, Moses House Ministries **Title: "When the Parent Thrives, So Does the Child"** (Page)



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