



The Joshua Tree

July 1, 2025

WHAT PATRIOTISM LOOKS LIKE IN 2025

What has now become an annual event, Rotarian **Brad Letner** kicked off a new Rotary year by once again asking the timely question: What is patriotism? Answers included words like love, honor, and respect for our country. For Brad, patriotism is deeply personal. He joined the U.S. Army in 1986, became a pastor in 2001, and after 9/11, returned to serve overseas in areas like Kabul and Kandahar. His journey reflects a lifelong commitment to both God and country.



In 2025, the idea of patriotism is evolving. While traditional expressions—like flying the flag or celebrating national holidays—have become less common, especially among younger generations, it doesn't mean patriotism has vanished. Instead, it's taking on new forms.

Younger Americans are often more critical of the nation's past and more vocal in their desire for progress.

Rather than blind allegiance, they express patriotism by advocating for justice, equality, and accountability. This shift reflects a broader, more inclusive understanding of what it means to love one's country.

Reviving national pride starts with connection—through education, service, and shared dialogue. Schools can play a major role by teaching history in a way that honors both triumphs and challenges, helping students develop a deeper, more honest relationship with their country.

Community involvement is equally important. When people participate in local events, volunteer efforts, and civic initiatives, they build stronger ties—not just to their neighbors, but to the nation as a whole. These actions reinforce the idea that patriotism isn't just about pride—it's about participation.

Encouraging intergenerational conversations can also bridge the gap between how different age groups see the country. By listening to each other's stories and perspectives, we can foster unity, even in times of disagreement.

In the end, patriotism in 2025 is less about symbols and more about substance. It's about striving together for a better future, grounded in the values we share—and the progress we hope to make as one nation.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Bill Edwards
Flag Salute:	Jim Murray
4-Way Test:	Maureen Mills
Fine Master:	Bill Edwards

BILL'S BANTER



Well here we are, my first week as your 2-year Rotary President. I am

honored to serve in this role and stand behind this year's Rotary Theme, "Unite for Good for our Community".

Thanks to Brad Letner for starting my Rotary year off right with another patriotic message for the Club. Now that you are a member again, we won't need to wait 12 months for another presentation!



The Board Meeting will be on July 7th now at ARMAC Insurance Agency with Ryan McEachron. Thank you Jon Hove for allowing us to your place for so long!

My first order of business is to incorporate Corporate Memberships that will allow a business to join and bring in a main member plus a 2nd member, who can both serve on our Board! On top of that, two alternatives can serve at weekly Rotary meetings. That should help with my goal of bringing in 10 new members during my first year serving as your President.

See you all next week as James Quigg will be our featured speaker!

Bill Edwards

Demotion Party



UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Bill Edwards had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another. We will continue next week with 12 chips and \$250 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

Russ Stringham donated a Red Rocks RV backpack that will be used by Brad Poiriez, while Bob Basen went home with a Victor Valley Transit bean bag phone holder



from Chris Ackerman and a set of chip clips and air fresheners from Bill Edwards. Ackerman also won a set from Bill, while Steve Murray went home with some Christmas cups from the Rescue Mission. Finally, a set of an VVTA eyeglass cleaner and bean bag phone holder went to guest Sindy Zuniga.

Fine Session

Bill Edwards served as our Fine Master this week and began by giving Craig Garrick a \$20 penalty for showing up...It's only been like 2 years since his last Rotary appearance! Steve Murray was fined \$10 for wearing spouse Pam Murray's badge to the meeting!

Bill also gave an early warning to all members. Beginning August 1st, any member not wearing their Rotary pin to a meeting will face a hefty fine. You've been warned...

Spoon of Exception



Chris Ackerman had his first week with the Spoon and shared that Victor Valley Transit is now offering fare free transit on their Fixed Routes, County Routes and Route 15 to all Barstow Community College students! BCC now joins Victor Valley College and CSUSB in offering free transit to help students get to and from campus, plus elsewhere in their service areas! Find out more at www.vvta.org/bccfarefree/

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed Sindy Zuniga from Tomorrow's Talent, who attended as a guest of President Bill Edwards, and our only Stand-in this week was Alyy Martinez for Angel Espino.



The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$30.85

Polio Pig: \$25.85 + Chip (Bill Edwards) \$5 = \$30.85

Collected to Date: \$21,567.68

Total equals: 104,114 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships	Please Volunteer
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Ron Boyd
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Please Volunteer
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Member At Large, Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects	Rob Kilpatrick
Member At Large, Vocational Service	Angel Espino

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

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Please Volunteer
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets.....	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
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

- July 7:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Aug 9:** Movie Night at the Hove's
Movie: Rainman
More Information TBA
- Sept 6:** **75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake

Upcoming Programs

- July 8:** James Quigg **TOPIC "Switching & Flipping Between Teaching and Back to Photography"** (Page)
- July 15:** **OPEN**
- July 22:** Ryan McEachron, ISU-ARMAC **TOPIC "Insurance Industry Update"**
- July 15:** **OPEN**
- July 22:** **OPEN**
- July 29:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**
- Aug 5:** **San Bernardino County Sheriff Dicus** (McEachron)

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