



The Joshua Tree

August 12, 2025

FROM MILITARY BASES TO THE SPORTING FIELDS

This week, the Club welcomed Rotarian **Brad Letner**, who shared a fascinating and inspiring look into his life's journey, a path that has taken him from the deserts of the Middle East to the deserts of the Victor Valley, and from military logistics to shaping the next generation through youth sports.



Brad began his presentation by explaining his "why" for joining Rotary. When he retired from 26 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, he was looking for a way to continue serving his community. He knew Rotary was making a tangible difference, and he wanted to be part of that mission.

Brad's career also included time as a real estate agent, CEO of the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, and Interim City Manager of Adelanto from 2018 to 2020. During his time in city leadership, he was forced to step down from his Rotary leadership role due to conflict of interest rules, but his passion for service never wavered.

His military career took him on a winding road—serving in the City of Adelanto, at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, and finally at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. At NTC, Brad held the position of Logistics Plans Officer, the #3 role in the operation, overseeing

the premier training location for the U.S. Army. The center covers over 1,000 square miles—bordering Death Valley—and hosts 10 brigade-sized units each year on a 30-day training cycle. Brad described the massive scope of operations: managing more than 500,000 gallons of fuel annually, delivering over 300 tons of ice, and coordinating both truck and rail operations. Training exercises included full Air Force support from Nellis, Navy partnerships with China Lake, Marine Corps units, and regular participation by foreign allies.

After his time at NTC, Brad transitioned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms as Deputy Director of Logistics (GS-13), a role where he was frequently called upon to serve as Acting Director. While similar in mission to NTC, this role focused on preparing Marine Corps units with a smaller but equally critical footprint.

Brad spoke about his "fork in the road" moment when retirement loomed. He could pursue a potentially higher-paying civilian job or settle into a relaxed life of golf and rocking chairs, free to devote more time to Rotary. But

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Brad Letner

4-Way Test: Darron Poulsen

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to Brad Letner for coming out to speak and give us all a history lesson on

your incredible journey. It is an inspiration to hear how you overcame challenges, especially with the City of Adelanto, and how you came back again and again to successes.



Thank you for sharing your story.

We are selling our raffle tickets for our huge opportunity drawing at our 75th Anniversary Gala. As a reminder, only 100 of these \$250 tickets will be sold and someone is going to walk away with \$10,000 on September 6th! Tickets are available now by cash or check only, no billing is allowed for these tickets. We also have single event tickets for \$100, which includes dinner for two.

Time is running out to be in the 75th Gala event program! See the ad rates opposite this column.

Finally, please remember that we are in need of Vodka, Jack Daniels and gift cards in dollar amounts of at least \$25 as well as 10 volunteers from the Club to make it a success!

Bill Edwards



PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Have Your Business or “Congratulatory” Message in the Official Event Program

Full Page Ad: \$500

Half Page Ad: \$300

Quarter Page Ad: \$250

Business Card Ad: \$150

EVENT PROGRAM ADS DUE BY AUGUST 25TH

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF:
JACK DANIEL'S • VODKA • GIFT CARDS**

For more Information or Questions:

Steve & Pam Murray

760-954-2893

pamela.murray@gerbercollision.com

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip

Arsalee Morales had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another Rotarian to be the lucky winner next week.

We will continue next week with 7 chips and \$375 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Letner...

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fate had other plans. An ad for an i9 Sports franchise in the High Desert caught his attention, and its mission statement, "To help kids succeed in life through sports", instantly struck a chord.

As he explained to the Club, participation in sports is often a key factor in developing leadership, teamwork, confidence, and communication skills. Brad asked members how many had played sports in high school or beyond, and 75–80% raised their hands. Almost unanimously, they agreed that the lessons learned through sports had shaped their careers and lives.

That's exactly what i9 Sports strives to deliver, especially to what Brad calls the "mass in the middle," kids who may not make varsity teams but can still gain valuable life lessons through athletics. The program focuses on "The Way Youth Sports Should Be®", offering age-appropriate instruction, a safe and supportive environment, skill development, sportsmanship, and most importantly, fun. With a presence in 34 states and over 284 franchise locations, i9 Sports continues to grow, registering more than 650,000 participants in 2024 alone.

Today, whether on the Rotary front lines, in the boardroom, or on the sports field, Brad remains dedicated to making a difference. As he reminded us, "Sports aren't just about winning—they're about preparing kids for life." His story is proof that service doesn't end with military retirement—it simply takes on a new uniform.

Spoon of Exception

Linda Hove had the Spoon this week and shared at Robar Enterprises, Jon has "Daily Huddles" that occur every day at 9:35 AM.

This is a forum to discuss issues that are preventing us from completing our jobs. The issues are resolved quickly, or a team is formed to address the issue. They can see the person and hear the issue instead of reading emails, which makes the team is more cohesive. Jon has installed 3 monitors throughout the company, so the staff can review the progress of their indicators which are fun to talk about in the meeting.

Raffle

The week **Don Kennard** was a big winner, taking home a Victor Valley Transit coffee cup from **Chris Ackerman** and a wireless charger, courtesy of **Angel Espino**. In addition, **Arsalee Morales** also won big taking home two bottles of wine, both brought by Angel! Angel himself left with a Red Rocks RV backpack from **Russ Stringham** and **Ryan McEachron** will be throwing the pigskin around with the new i9 Sports football he caught from **Brad Letner**.

Finally, **Jim Cox** will enjoy the goodie basket he received from Ryan.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by rewarding **Darron Poulsen** with a \$10 fine for giving the Club an update on all things Wastewater Reclamation. **Jim Cox** was also penalized \$10 for complaining about California and what a mess it is and not being able to leave the state.

Finally **Mike Page** was given a hefty \$80 fine for traveling to 8 different states while on vacation (\$10 per state). **Brad Letner** agreed to pay his fine.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$8.00

Polio Pig: \$3 + Chip (Arsalee Morales) \$5 = \$8.00

Collected to Date: \$21,619.68

Total equals: 104,218 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/Club Service	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Please Volunteer
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.....	Please Volunteer
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.....	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

- Sept 6:** **75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake
- Sept 8:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St, Victorville, CA 92392

Upcoming Programs

- Aug 19:** Angel Espino, Raymond James Financial Advisor **TOPIC "Today's Stockmarket"** (Page)
- Aug 26:** Robert Lovingood, Former San Bernardino County Supervisor **TOPIC "Opening American Resources While Protecting Nature"** (Page)

