



The Joshua Tree

August 26, 2025

HARD HATS TO BRIGHT FUTURES

We were pleased to welcome **Robert Lovingood**, President of I.C.R. Staffing and former San Bernardino County Supervisor, who spoke about the many career pathways available to students in the Victor Valley. Drawing on both his years in public office and his current role in workforce development, Lovingood offered a clear message: for those willing to work hard, endure 100+ degree temperatures, and get their hands dirty, mining offers one of the strongest opportunities for long-term success in our region.



He reminded us that the Victor Valley has always been shaped by industries tied to its land, from the ranching and railroads of the past, to the logistics and construction industries of today. Mining, however, has remained a steady constant for more than a century, and it continues to be a vital economic driver. Within just an 18-mile radius of Victorville, there are six active mines, each providing unique products that influence not only our local economy, but also national and global markets. In Lucerne Valley, industrial minerals are extracted and

used in products as everyday as women's makeup. The Apollo Mine north of Barstow and the historic Bagdad-Chase Mine are noted for their silver production, while gold remains present at Mountain Pass. The Collesium Mine produces rare earth minerals, which have become critically important, as they are subject to tariffs in China, making domestic production more essential than ever. Additionally, iron ore is mined for the cement industry, which supplies the backbone materials for Southern California's freeways, buildings, and schools.

Lovingood underscored that mining is not just about pulling resources out of the ground—it is about building careers. Many who begin as laborers advance steadily over the years into supervisory and management positions, with some ultimately earning more than \$150,000 annually along with pension benefits. These are jobs that reward hard work and dedication, offering a clear pathway for those who may not choose a traditional four-year college route but are willing to show up every day and learn the trade. He also highlighted that mining companies are strong community partners, contributing significant tax revenues that directly support local schools and essential services, creating a ripple effect of benefits across the Victor Valley.

Beyond mining, Lovingood discussed another fast-growing sector for the High Desert: logistics. The upcoming Barstow International Gateway project promises to be transformative, with its 5- to 6-mile-long

Continued on page 2

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute:	Brad Poiriez
4-Way Test:	Brad Letner
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to
Robert Lovingood
for speaking to the

Club this week
and sharing
his passion for
career pathways
available in the
mining industry.

I also want to thank Steve Murray for
stepping in to cover for me while I
handled other business.

We only have 30 raffle tickets for our
huge opportunity drawing at our 75th
Anniversary Gala. If you have been
thinking about getting one, DO NOT
WAIT, as we will most likely be sold out
by the event!

District 5300 Governor, Gilda Moshir
will join us on September 16th at 3pm for
a dual social meeting at the Bear Valley
Country Club with our friends at the
Rotary Club of Apple Valley. There will be
no official lunch meeting that day.

The Rotary Club of Sheridan,
Washington has invited us for the 71st
anniversary of the Gunpowder & Buckskin
Fellowship from October 9th - 12th! This
is a hunting trip is a great time from those
who have taken part in it before. Only a
very limited number of spots are available
for this excursion, so please contact
Steve Murray at 760-954-2893 to join!

Bill Edwards



Robert Lovingood...

Continued from Page 1

truck lanes and state-of-the-art facilities that are expected to generate thousands of jobs! This development, coupled with more than 1,000 new logistics positions coming to Hesperia through Amazon's expansion, points to an economic surge in the region. He also touched on the future of transportation, noting that while the Brightline high-speed rail project is moving forward quickly in Nevada, it is advancing more slowly in California due to environmental studies. When completed, however, it will connect Southern California and Las Vegas in unprecedented ways, further strengthening the logistics backbone of our region.

He encouraged students and young workers to look closely at these opportunities. Whether in mining, logistics, or rail, there will be thousands of jobs available across the High Desert in the coming decade. Some will be entry-level, requiring little more than a strong work ethic, while others will call for training and certifications that can be earned locally at institutions such as Victor Valley College and Barstow Community College. Lovingood stressed that with apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training, and community partnerships, there has never been a better time for young people to begin charting a course toward a stable and rewarding career right here at home!

In closing, Lovingood reflected on the changing face of the Victor Valley. Just as each generation of residents has seen the High Desert evolve—whether through the arrival of the railroads, the expansion of Route 66, the postwar housing boom, or the growth of the logistics sector—so too will the next decade bring dramatic transformation. The Victor Valley will look vastly different in ten years, and those who prepare now will be best positioned to thrive in it. His message to our Club was clear: through mining, logistics, and infrastructure, the future of the High Desert holds tremendous promise, and with hard work and determination, our local students can help shape that future while securing bright prospects for themselves and their families.

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Don Lager had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another. We will continue next week with 5 chips and \$425 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Spoon of Exemption



Jon Hove had his last chance with the Spoon, and after giving an update on the history of their family business from earlier this month, he mentioned that Hi-Grade Materials is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year, and while Jon is 4th generation in the family company, his son Harrison

Hove is a 5th generation company leader!

It was then time to auction the Spoon for September. Robert Lovingood opened the bidding at \$100, while Steve Murray countered the bidding to \$150, but in the end Robert took the Spoon for September for \$200!

Raffle

Brad Letner donated an i9 Sports football that will be used by Rob Kilpatrick and a bottle of wine that will be enjoyed by Dr. Derek King. Dr. King also took home a WTA phone holder from Chris Ackerman, while Don Lager won a Red Rock RV backpack from Russ Stringham.

Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed Don Kennard from Cal Portland and Harrison Hove, both attending with Jon Hove, while Cal Portland staffers Jamie Ambrose and Sarah Alvarado were at the meeting as guests of Robert Lovingood.

Robert also invited Smitty Smith, Rachel Molina from the City of Hesperia, Matthew Bath & Sheila Bath from Advanced Disposal and from ICR Staffing, Mike Thrapp and Collen Hunt.

Chris Ackerman invited Oliver Berman from Adsplosure to the meeting and our stand-ins this week were Stefanie Montoya for Bryan Gillespie and Alyy Martinez for Angel Espino.

Join us in Celebrating **75** ANNIVERSARY
Rotary Club of Victorville, CA  YEARS

Saturday, September 6th, 2025
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge Dr., SVL, CA 92395

Event Ticket \$100 (includes 2 meals)

Special Rotary Opportunity Drawing  **Victorville Foundation \$10,000 Grand Prize!**

One Lucky Winner will Take Home \$10,000!!
Only 100 tickets sold
Includes Entry for Two
Ticket: \$250

RAFFLES • SILENT AUCTIONS • PRESENTATIONS • MUSIC

For More Information and Tickets:
Steve & Pam Murray • 760-954-2893 • pam75454@msn.com

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week, and due to time restraints, only fined Brad Poiriez, Darron Poulsen, Rob Kilpatrick and Don Lager \$5 each for not wearing their Rotary pins!



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 ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St, Victorville, CA 92392

Upcoming Programs

- Sept 2:** Chris Ackerman, PIO/Sr. Marketing Manager, Victor Valley Transit **TOPIC "The AI Advantage"** (Page)
- Sept 9:** **OPEN**
- Sept 16:** **District 5300 Governor Gilda Moshir Special Start Time 3PM!**
Social (Meal) Meeting with Apple Valley Club (Edwards)

