



The Joshua Tree

November 4, 2025

GRANTS THAT GROW GREATNESS

This week, our Club proudly hosted the annual Teacher Mini-Grant Program, a cherished tradition where we support local educators who are going above and beyond for their students. More than 60 passionate teachers from across the area were awarded grants of up to \$300 each to help bring their creative, innovative, and impactful classroom projects to life.

Our Club takes great joy in working hard to raise funds, just so we can give them right back to our community where they make the biggest difference. We're incredibly grateful to all of our members and volunteers who helped make this event possible, and to every teacher who attended and shared their inspiring ideas. Thank you for your dedication, your creativity, and for preparing and lifting up the next generation of leaders.



This Week's Functionaries

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





BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to Angel Espino, Alyy Martinez, Kirsten Acosta, Darron Poulsen and others

who made this year's Teacher Mini Grant program such a rousing success. Most importantly, thank you to our Victorville area educators who are not only making education fun, but engaging as well.

Our Area Governor Dan Harley from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, stopped by this week to share that this



coming Saturday (November 8th) will be their second annual Veteran's BBQ at the Sinq Center in Apple Valley. This is a free event with free food for Vets, shopping, honorees and a car show. Please invite a Veteran and stop on by.

On November 19th, our friends at High Desert Second Chance will be taking over for the Rescue Mission for the Turkey Giveaway at the Fairgrounds. Over 1800 meals will be served, so if you know a family that is struggling, especially in light of the Government Shutdown, please reach out to them, and invite them to this event and keep the spirit of hope alive in others.

Bill Edwards

Spoon of Exception



It was the first week with the Spoon for High Desert PACE and **Courtney Jefferson** was on hand to talk about the Agency.

High Desert PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) in Victorville, CA, is a comprehensive care program designed to help seniors aged 55 and older remain living safely and independently in their homes instead of moving into nursing facilities. Located at 11833 Amethyst Road, it serves communities across the High

Desert, including Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Adelanto, and surrounding areas. The program provides integrated services such as primary medical care, specialist coordination, physical and occupational therapy, pharmacy and medical equipment support, home care, social services, meals, recreation, and adult day health center activities. Transportation to and from the center is also included. To qualify, participants must live within the service area, be 55 or older, meet nursing home level-of-care requirements, and be able to live safely in the community with support. For those eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, services are typically low-cost or fully covered. High Desert PACE plays an important role in meeting the growing needs of the region's aging population by offering a "one-stop" solution that supports health, independence, and quality of life while reducing the need for institutional care.

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Brad Letner had a chance to draw with a ticket from teacher Dawna Panagiotopoulos. He agreed to give her \$25 if he didn't draw the Blue Chip. She got \$25.

We will continue next week with 9 chips and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

During this week's Raffle, **Chris Ackerman** donated a couple of Victor Valley Transit bean bag phone holders which will be used by **Jim Cox** and teacher **Robynn Laffin**, plus a WVTA blanket that will keep **Bo Goulet** nice and cozy.



Our big winner of the week was **Courtney Jefferson** from High Desert Pace who left the meeting with a Red Rocks RV Backpack from **Russ Stringham**, a Rotary cutting board, a Bob's Tire coffee cup from **Steve Murray**, and a Rotary 75th Anniversary

goodie bag! **Bryan Gillespie** also took home a goodie bag and **Rob Kilpatrick** will enjoy his Bob's Tire coffee cup!

Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed **Chandale Sutton** and **Courtney Jefferson** from High Desert Pace as guests of **Bill Edwards**, and **Stefanie Montoya** joined **Bryan Gillespie** at the meeting. **Aly Martinez** assisted **Angel Espino** in hosting the Teacher Mini-Grant program. Finally, we welcomed Area Governor **Dan Harley** from the Apple Valley Club.

Fine Session



Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master but he didn't want to freak out any of the teachers so he chose not to fine anyone.





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

Dec 1 **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395

Dec 11 **Rotary Christmas Party**
5:00pm at Chateau Chang
15425 Anacapa Rd, Victorville
RSVP to Pam Murray at 760-963-1923 or
fill out sign-up sheet at meetings.

Upcoming Programs

Nov 11: Brad Letner, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) US Army **TOPIC "Our Military Semiquincentennial"** (Page)

Nov 18 **OPEN**

Nov 25 Chris and Jason Lamoreaux, Coldwell Banker Home Source **TOPIC "Real Estate Update"** (Page)

Dec 2 **OPEN**

Dec 9 Jason Anderson, San Bernardino County District Attorney **TOPIC "TBA"** (Page)

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