



The Joshua Tree

December 9, 2025

THE D.A.'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE LEGAL SYSTEM

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office serves as the central prosecutorial agency for the largest county in the United States, carrying the responsibility of seeking justice for more than two million residents spread across over 20,000 square miles. Led by District Attorney **Jason Anderson**, who became the county's 36th DA after years of service as a deputy district attorney and time spent in private practice, the office is grounded in a mission of fairness, ethical responsibility, and public safety. Anderson has emphasized restoring trust in the justice system, supporting victims, and ensuring that every case is handled with integrity, whether it involves a minor offense or a serious felony. The office's work extends far beyond courtroom prosecution. Prosecutors collaborate closely with law enforcement throughout the investigative process, offer guidance to officers and detectives, prepare cases for trial, and coordinate grand jury proceedings when necessary. Specialized units address complex matters such as gang violence, crimes against children, domestic violence, fraud,



environmental wrongdoing, and juvenile cases, ensuring that each case is managed by experts experienced in their respective fields.

This week, Jason spoke to the Club and provided valuable insight into the evolving work of his office. He shared that San Bernardino County recently opened its first dedicated Homicide Unit, which within its inaugural year, successfully closed 16 backlogged murder cases. He also highlighted

the launch of their new High Tech Crimes Unit, a growing investigative team that has already helped solve two high-profile cases. Despite these successes, Anderson discussed several ongoing challenges, including the difficulty of recruiting young prosecutors from outside the region to work in the Victorville office. To strengthen long-term retention and build a workforce rooted in community values, the DA's Office is now focusing heavily on recruiting talent from the High Desert and San Bernardino County itself. Anderson also explained the strain placed on staff by the need to retry cases from 25 to 30 years ago due to recent legislative changes in certain penal codes, requiring prosecutors to revisit and reconstruct decades-old evidence and testimony.

Another topic Anderson spoke proudly about was the office's "Civil Liberties Program," an educational initiative taught in local high schools. Designed to help students understand their rights and responsibilities in the justice system, the program encourages young people to

Continued on page 2

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Dr. Derek King
Flag Salute:	Brad Letner
4-Way Test:	Arsalee Morales
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron

MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to District Attorney Jason Anderson for coming to our Club this week to share so much

information, as well as the strengths and challenges facing his office. We appreciate you taking the time to come see us.



Please note that we will be dark on both December 23rd and December 30th to give everyone time to focus on the holidays with their friends and loved ones.

We will have a Club Assembly when we return on January 4th for the Club to vote for myself to finish out Bill's year as Club President through June 2026, and for Brad Letner to become Club President for the 2026-2027 Rotary year. Please make sure you attend this important meeting to have your voice heard.

We hope to see you next week for our December 16th meeting as we will have a Christmas program from Excelsior Charter School!

Steve

Jason Anderson

Continued from Page 1

participate in court proceedings as a member of their team, not through coercion. Anderson emphasized that empowering youth through civic education builds stronger relationships between the justice system and the community, while also inspiring the next generation of legal professionals.

Across its various locations, including offices in San Bernardino, Victorville, Rancho Cucamonga, and Joshua Tree, the DA's team of attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and support staff work diligently to keep cases moving and ensure that justice is fair and accessible. One of the office's most essential roles is supporting victims and witnesses. Advocates help individuals navigate the complexities of the legal process, offering emotional support, court preparation, and safety resources during what is often one of the most difficult moments of their lives. Recent cases continue to demonstrate the office's wide-ranging responsibilities, from homicide and violent crime to fraud, child protection, and significant use-of-force reviews.

For residents across San Bernardino County, the District Attorney's Office remains a cornerstone of community safety and accountability. Through its prosecution of serious crimes, its support for victims, its commitment to ethical transparency, and its investment in local youth, the office works every day to uphold justice and protect the rights of all who call the High Desert and surrounding regions home.

CLUB ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2026

Members will be voting on:

Steve Murray to be Rotary President through June 2026 and Brad Letner to be Rotary President for the 2026-2027 year.

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Big Blue Poker Chip



Bob Basen had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another. We'll continue next week with 10 chips and \$300 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed the security detail for **Jason Anderson**, **Ralph Hellsjrom** and **Reggie Pahia**, and **David Wylie** from VVWRA attended with **Darron Poulsen**. Our only Stand-in for this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Raffle

Ryan McEachron brought some honey from **Michelle Spears** that will be enjoyed by **Rob Kilpatrick** and **Bob Basen**. Bob wasn't done yet though as he received a VVTA coffee mug from **Chris Ackerman**, a bottle of wine with a carrier from Rob and a Bob's Tire coffee tumbler from **Steve Murray**.



Ryan also gave away a goodie bag from the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Celebration that went home with **Don Kennard**, and finally, Ackerman donated a Victor Valley Transit blanket that was won by **Dr. Derek King**.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and fined \$5 to Rotarians who were not wearing their Pins that included **Craig Garrick**, **Darron Poulsen**, **Rob Kilpatrick**, and **Angel Espino**.

Spoon of Exception



Jon Hove had the Spoon this week and shared that Hi-Grade is in the process of permitting 640 acres across from the Barstow Landfill off Barstow Road, HWY 247.

The BIG Project being built by the BNSF Railroad is slated to begin construction during the 4th quarter of 2026 or the

1st quarter of 2027 and they are working hard to obtain the mining permits, mining equipment and a RMC batch plant in place for the start of the project.

The permit will encompass 120 acres of the 640-acre site. There are over 16,000,000 tons of aggregates needed for the entire project and they have quoted approximately 4,000,000 tons so far. It will take several aggregate suppliers to service this project.

The project is expected to require over 1,000,000 cubic yards of ready-mix concrete. Most will be produced by on-site central mix batch plants. Hi-Grade will stand ready to produce and deliver any ready mix concrete the project will require.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$16.00

Polio Pig: \$11 + Chip (Bob Basen) \$5 = \$16.00

Collected to Date: \$21,709.68

Total equals: 104,398 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2026	TBA
President 2026 - 2027	Please be Interviewed
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.....	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

- Jan 13** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395
- May 2** **Rotary Golf Tournament**
Apple Valley Golf Course
\$100 per Player • \$400 per Foursome

Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA

Upcoming Programs

- Dec 16** **Christmas Music Program presented by Excelsior Xpression, Led by Sam Sooter (King)**
- Dec 23** **DARK**
- Dec 30** **DARK**
- Jan 4:** Chandale Sutton, High Desert Pace
TOPIC "TBA" (Page)
+ Club Assembly
- Jan 13:** **4-Way Speech Contest** (Espino)
- Jan 20:** **OPEN**
- Jan 27:** **Dan Stover Music Competition** (Espino)

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