



The Joshua Tree

December 16, 2025

A FLICKER OF DECEMBER THROUGH SONG



The Club met for the final time of 2025 with our annual Christmas Program, this year brought to us from Excelsior Charter School. Excelsior Xpression is one of two groups taught by instructor **Seth Sooter**.

While Xpression works on complex and classical vocalizations and singing, the other arm, Xcellerate

focuses on performance and dance with singing. The students, which included **Jane Little, Olivia (Gracie) Factora, Dylann Collins, Abigale Rooter, Linda Vargas** along with instructor **Seth Sooter** gave an inspiring performance that left many in the room speechless.

The songs performed were "Text Me Merry Christmas", "Christmas Time is Here", "Joy to the World", and finally "The Pentatonix Medley".

Thanks to Excelsior Superintendent **Dr. Derek King** for putting the program together and sending Rotarians into the final couple of weeks in December full of the Holiday Spirit!

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Dr. Derek King
Flag Salute:	Jim Murray
4-Way Test:	Darron Poulsen
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron



ARSALEE'S AVENUE

Thank you to Dr. Derek King and teacher Seth Sooter for the wonderful Christmas program

this week from Excelsior's Xpression group. They are highly talented and it was such a memorable and emotional performance.



We will be dark the next two weeks, but we will be starting strong in the new year! Please join us when we return on January 6th with a program from Chandale Sutton at High Desert PACE and a very important Club Assembly where we will vote on Steve Murray to finish out Bill's term as President and Brad Letner to be our President for the 2026-2027 Rotary Year. Please attend to have your voice heard!

We need a program for January 20th. Please see Mike Page.

Finally, may your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill. I'm wishing you a new year full of joy and prosperity. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Arsalee

A First Look into 2026



New Rotary Treasurer **Darron Poulsen** held an informal roundtable at this week's meeting to discuss possible ideas to streamline billing to club members in the new year. Some ideas that were discussed included separate invoicing for Foundation and Club accounting. Another idea brought to the table was Foundation billing occurring only twice a year in January and July, and billing every other month for the Club. Another suggestion was to change the Polio Pig from cash to Square payments though ACH.

As mentioned, this was a very informal roundtable and more discussions will be had with the Board of Directors before anything concrete is brought to the membership.

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 in 2 weeks with 9 chips and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed students from Excelsior Charter School's Xpression including **Jane Little, Olivia (Gracie) Factora, Dylann Collins, Abigale Rooter, Linda Vargas** and instructor **Seth Sooter**.

Leslie Murray was on hand as a guest of spouse **Jim Murray** and **Aly Martinez** attended with **Angel Espino**.

Fine Session



Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and in the spirit of the Holidays, decided to give a break to all Rotarians in the room, and only giving them all a fine of \$25! Those receiving fines included **Dr. Derek King, Kirsten Acosta, Chris Ackerman, Darron Poulsen, Bob Basen, Brad Letner, Jim Murray, Mike Page, Bo Goulet, Angel Espino, Arsalee Morales** and even Ryan himself!

Raffle

Ryan McEachron brought some honey from **Michelle Spears** that will be enjoyed by **Arsalee Morales** and **Bob Basen**. **Brad Letner** brought a couple bottles of wine that will give **Bob and Darron Poulsen** the Holiday "Spirits" this year. **Brad and Dr. Derek King** left the meeting with Victor Valley Transit blankets, courtesy of **Chris Ackerman**. **Arsalee** and **Ryan** also received bottles of wine from **Angel Espino**, and **Ryan** wrapped things up with a set of Christmas towels from **Jim Murray**.

Spoon of Exception

It was time to auction the Spoon for the month of January, and **Chris Ackerman** opened the bidding at \$50, but **Arsalee Morales** ended up taking the Spoon for \$100. Join us on Tuesdays in January to hear how Apple Valley Communications will move into 2026!

Christmas Bonus



Past President **Arsalee Morales** was honored this week to give a Christmas bonus of \$250 to our weekly server **Angel Mendoza** from the Bear Valley Country Club. Thank you Angel for all of your hard work and great service week in and week out throughout the year!

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: **\$6.00**

Polio Pig: \$1 + Chip (Bob Basen) \$5 = \$6.00

Collected to Date: **\$21,715.68**

Total equals: 104,410 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	TBA
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.....	Ben Tafoya
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 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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