

# The Joshua Tree

December 31, 2023

## VICTORVILLE ROTARY: THRIVING IN THE FIRST HALF



**David North, Mike Page, Linda Hove, and Terry Saenz** all showcased their dedication.

The first half of the 2023/2024 Rotary year has flown by, and the Victorville Club has achieved a lot to be proud of! After July's leadership transition, with **Steve Murray** stepping up as President, the Club focused on several key areas:

### GROWING THROUGH NEW MEMBERS:

**Chris Ackerman**, Victor Valley Transit stalwart, transitioned from Honorary to full-fledged member after 8 dedicated years.



**Jason Lamoreaux** of Coldwell Banker and his commercial agent

**Kyle Vizzo** joined our ranks, bringing valuable expertise.

**Darron Poulson**, Manager of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, added his skills and passion to the team.

### RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE:



The "Rotarian of the Month" program shone a light on outstanding contributors: **Mike Johnson** (Rotarian of the Year!),

### SERVICE PROJECTS RECONNECT US:

Partnering with Life Church for their "Second Life Clothing Drive" brought members together while providing vital support to the community.



Selling beers at the Hesperia Days Mexican Independence Celebration and raising funds for the Enseñada Orphanage Christmas showcased our commitment to local and international needs.

### BUILDING FELLOWSHIP BEYOND MEETINGS:

Casual gatherings like Movie Night at the Hove's fostered personal connections and strengthened camaraderie.

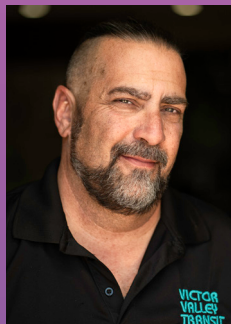
5th Tuesday Evening Meetings, like dinner at Pancho Villa's, added a social twist to the Rotary experience.



### INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY:

The Victorville Rotary Foundation channeled

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

It's January, everyone's favorite month for grand pronouncements and epic self-improvement

plans. While President Murray is taking a well-deserved break from "Murray's Minute," I want to share some wisdom on navigating the minefield of New Year's resolutions. Let's be honest, most resolutions fizzle out by February, victims of lofty goals and vague dreams.

But fear not! This year let's build resolutions that stick, whatever your area of growth – be it spiritual, physical, relational, or financial. Here's the secret weapon: the power of intention and planning.

1. Capture the Dream: Ditch the fleeting whispers in your head. Write down your goals! It doesn't need to be a Pulitzer Prize novel, just a clear, concise statement of what you desire. Think of it as the blueprint for your dream life.

2. Assemble Your A-Team: We all need support. Enlist a dream team of mentors, partners, and groups (like our amazing Club!) who will cheer you on and hold you accountable. Don't forget the resource squad – books, classes, podcasts – they'll fuel your journey with knowledge and inspiration. Remember, write your team down too!

3. Baby Steps to Giant Leaps: Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will your success. Break down your goals into small,

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## January Birthdays

<b>Jason Lamoreaux</b>	<b>January 6</b>
<b>Jim Murray</b>	<b>January 10</b>
<b>Ryan McEachron</b>	<b>January 31</b>

## January Anniversaries

<b>Ron Wilson</b>	<b>33 Years</b>
<b>Jim Murray</b>	<b>47 Years</b>
<b>Jon Hove</b>	<b>40 Years</b>
<b>Ben Tafoya</b>	<b>47 Years</b>
<b>Kevin Porter</b>	<b>38 Years</b>
<b>Robert Lovingood</b>	<b>32 Years</b>
<b>Kirk Riding</b>	<b>30 Years</b>
<b>Keith Metzler</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
<b>Steve Orr</b>	<b>2 Years</b>

## Partner Birthdays

<b>Jodi McEachron</b>	<b>January 11</b>
<b>Chris Lamoreaux</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Melanie Lovingood</b>	<b>January 19</b>
<b>Sharon Page</b>	<b>January 22</b>
<b>Susan Porter</b>	<b>January 30</b>

## Wedding Anniversaries

<b>Mike &amp; Sharon Page</b>	<b>29 Years</b>
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**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



## Half Year in Rotary

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our generosity: \$8,000 for Victor Valley College Scholarships, funds for Teacher Mini Grants, \$1,800 for the El Sauzal Orphanage, \$1,000 for the Rotary Club of Enseñada, and more.

### LEARNING FROM INSPIRATION:



Compelling speakers enriched our lives: elected officials like former Assemblyman **Thurston "Smitty" Smith**, current Assemblyman **Tom Lackey**, and U.S. Representative **Jay Obernolte** shared their insights.



Community leaders like **Ted Alejandre**, **Nicole Orr**, and **Coleen Quinn** provided unique perspectives.



Pharmacist **Curt Emick's** timely talk on the dangers of fentanyl resonated deeply.

Members like **Darron Poulson** and **Chris Ackerman** showcased their expertise, further enriching the learning experience.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

As we embark on the second half, President **Steve Murray's** focus remains on expanding membership and finding new service opportunities. Together, let's build on this strong foundation and make 2024 a year of even greater impact!



## Editor...

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achievable steps. Start with a jog instead of a marathon, or a sugar reduction plan instead of cold turkey. Remember, progress, not perfection, is the name of the game. And yes, write those steps down!

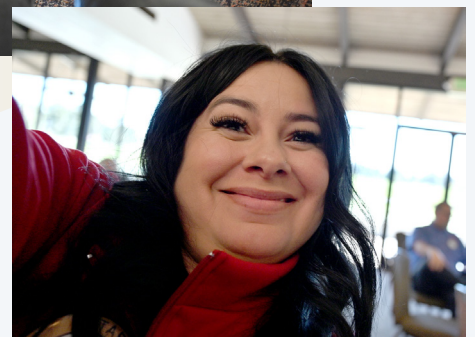
4. Celebrate the Victories: Reaching those mini-milestones deserves fanfare! Whether it's a guilt-free slice of cake or that Amazon treasure you've been eyeing, give yourself rewards for your hard work. It's the fuel that keeps the motivation fire burning.

5. Find Your "Why": This is the magic sauce. Write down why this goal matters deeply to YOU. Not for someone else, not for societal pressure, but for you. When you connect with your personal "why," the drive to succeed becomes unstoppable.

So, let's ditch the vague hopes and embrace intentional goal-setting this year. Write down your dreams, build your support system, celebrate your wins, and find your "why." Remember, transformation starts with small steps and a powerful purpose. Go forth and conquer, Rotarians!

## Photos of the (Half) Year

*Courtesy of David North...DON'T Give him the Camera!*





**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

- President 2023-2024 .....Steve Murray
- President 2024-2025 .....Bryan Gillespie
- President 2025-2027 ..... Bill Edwards
- President 2027 - 2028 ..... **Please be Interviewed**
- Immediate Past President/Special Projects..... Arsalee Morales
- Treasurer/Scholarships ..... David North
- Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants ..... Margaret Cooker
- Club Service/Membership .....Bryan Gillespie
- Community Service/Speech Contests ..... Mike Johnson
- International Service..... Ben Tafoya
- Youth Service/RYLA & TLC/Ethics Essay..... Ron Boyd
- Vocational Service ..... Bill Edwards

**Members-at-Large:** Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

- BOD Secretary ..... Pam Murray
- Billing Officer .....Esther Mears
- Dan Stover Music Contest..... Dawn Quigg
- Flowers and Gifts ..... Linda Hove
- Foundation & Grants .....Margaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor ..... Chris Ackerman
- Membership..... Bryan Gillespie
- Programs ..... Mike Page
- Publicity/Public Relations ..... Rob Kilpatrick
- Public Safety..... Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley,  
and John Wickum
- Sergeant At Arms.....Steve Murray
- Scholarships..... David North
- S.T.A.R. Students .....Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

**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, Thursday various meeting locations  
and times. 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 8:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Jan 22:** **Past Presidents' Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

**Rotary**  
Club of Victorville, CA



**Upcoming Programs**

- Jan 9:** Leslie Thornburg, Cadiz Vice President of Operations, **TOPIC: Cadiz: 1990 - Present** (Page)
- Jan 16:** Allen Williams, General manager, Sunset Hills Memorial Park and Funeral Home **TOPIC: Consolidation of the Death Care Industry** (Page)
- Jan 23:** **High School 4-Way Speech Contest** (Johnson)
- Jan 30:** **OPEN**
- Feb 6:** **OPEN**

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