

Be a gift to the world



THE JOSHUA TREE



January 5, 2016

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



Natural Born Capitalist

Don Lager refers to himself as a "Natural Born Capitalist", and he isn't wrong. A man who has grown a family business that started in the 50's, Don is a man who has a passion for retail sales, not to mention motorcycles, fly-fishing and traveling.

In 1951 Don's father moved the family from Montana to Victorville. Now, Victorville in the 50's was much different than what it is today. The first family run business was a hardware and appliance store at George Air Force Base, where they specialized in Government contracts.

When the contracts went away the family opened business on Midway Street in 1959. Business was good and in 1961 opened their first store front in Victorville. Back in those days, Don and his brother used to be taken up to the dump to climb down and strip washers and dryers for parts, that the family would use to fix washers and dryers for their customers. Times were tough back then. There were only about 7,000 people living in Victorville and Apple Valley was just getting started, with its only access, a two lane road.

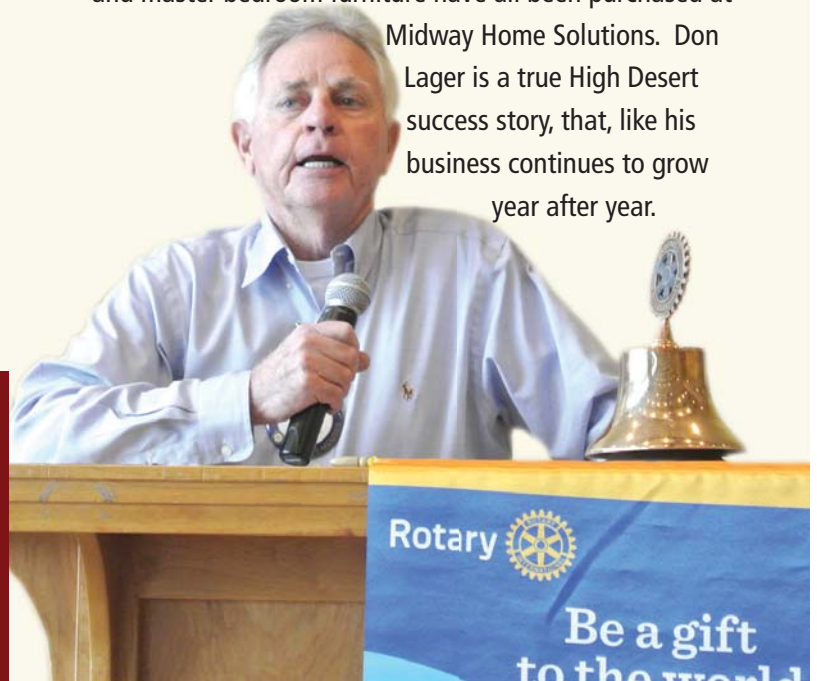
But with hard work, and dedication they outgrew that location in the early 60's and moved into the (then thriving)

Victorville Shopping Center. Even their new location was too small to handle the demand of High Desert residents, but luckily in those days you could leave your doors unlocked and actually leave the merchandise outside without fear of theft.

In the 70's business was booming. By this time Don had purchased the company from his father and started to add more and more items to Midway. Finally in 2003 they moved into the old K-Mart in Victorville and now have a 24,000 sq. ft. showroom and a 40,000 sq. ft. inventory facility, all in one location.

Any resident who claims to call the High Desert their home, knows the name Midway Home Solutions. In this writer's home, all appliances, couches, major electronics, and master bedroom furniture have all been purchased at

Midway Home Solutions. Don Lager is a true High Desert success story, that, like his business continues to grow year after year.



This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	John Hulterstrom
Flag Salute:	Sam Lucia
4-Way Test:	Dwight Johnson
Song:	Al Castellucci



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Tafoya Talk...

First off let me take a moment to wish you all a wonderful and successful New Year! We have a lot of exciting events and opportunities coming up in 2016, so stay informed and involved!

As you could see from the weather this past week that El Nino is here and a lot of wet weather (and hopefully some snow), will be with us for a while. **Dan Munsey** has sandbags available for any Rotarians that need them to shore up any slide areas or to protect your home for flooding.

The NFL football playoffs are in full swing and now is the time to choose where you will watch the Big Game! Well, we have the place for you; the annual Super Bowl part at the Home of **Russ and Gaylynn Stringham!** Stay tuned for more information and further details.

Romance is in the air! Please join us Thursday, February 11th at El Pescador Restaurant at the Green Tree Golf Course for our annual Valentine's Dinner. Cost for the event is \$45 per person. Stay tuned for time and more details.

The Polio Pig....

Collected this week: \$20.02

Polio Pig: \$14.02 + Ron Williams: \$6 = \$20.02

Collected to Date: \$12,887.75

Total equals: 87,843 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

Spoon of Exemption: David North



David North had his first meeting with the Spoon, and used it to bring forward **Cari Thomas**, Regional Director at Inland Empire United Way, Desert Communities Region, where David serves on their Board of Directors.

Cari spent some time sharing some of the great projects that the United Way is involved in, such as "Kid's Packs", that makes sure school children are

kept fed 7 days a week, and backpack fundraiser of school supplies. In 2015 they filled 1,000 backpacks of supplies for needy children in the High Desert.

To financially support these endeavors, the United Way needs donors, and is why they are promoting their "Challenge for Children" Benefit, that will be held on February 18th at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario. Sponsorships and tickets are available. Please email jlamb@ieuw.org for more information.

Fine Session

Dan Munsey was our Fine Master again this week and started out by reading an article from the Daily Press on a robbery that occurred in Barstow by an suspect by the name of...Ron Boyd. **Dr. Boyd** was fined \$5 for not changing his name. For those that took sandbags from Dan this week were also fined for waiting till the last minute to protect their homes. This fined were \$5 for **Terry Caldwell**, \$20 for **Margaret Cooker** and only \$2 to **John Kroencke**, because as Dan puts it, "He is such a nice guy". Finally, **Rosanne Weathers** was fined for pointing out a typo in this very newsletter, but since editor **Chris Ackerman** was fine free this week, Rosanne received the \$5 fine instead. (Note from editor: Har. Har. Har.)



Rotary Guests



It was a family affair this week at Rotary! **Don Lager** brought his daughters, staff and even granddaughter to hear him speak. He was joined by **Chandra Jones, Jane Tanygan, Lora Battee and Kelsey Battee**. **David North** invited **Cari Thomas** from the United Way and **Dan Munsey** welcomed young professional **Jill Wierzbicki**. Finally, **Tony Cooker** was a stand-in this week for **Dr. Hough**.

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Raffle Prizes

Our President **Ben Tafoya** was the big raffle winner this week! Ben received an autographed copy of Don Ferrarese's Biography "Big Leagues...Bigger Heart" (book jacket designed by your favorite Joshua Tree editor!) from our speaker **Don Lager**, a set of golf balls, a copy of "The Transparent Leader, from **Dwight Johnson** and a Go Lunch Time Kit from **Rosanne Weathers**. Other winners of Go Lunch kits were **Stew Anderson** and **Dwight Johnson**.

Dwight gave out a pair of 2016 calendars from Mojave Water Agency that went to **Terry Caldwell** and Don Lager's granddaughter. Other prizes were a Midway gift card that will be added to the collection of **Gary Adams**, a coffee mug will be used by **Stew Anderson** and a holiday spoon holder from **Dr. Hough** will be packed away and used next season by **Donna Wells**.

Speaking of **Dr. Hough**, she donated another sought after raffle prize. A pair of sandals socks, that look like sandals. They will be shown off on the feet of **Dwight Johnson** at next week's meeting.

Lucky Blue Dice



Our speaker **Don Lager**, had the chance to take home some money, but the blue dice won!

8 Dice remain and \$375 ready for one lucky Rotarian at next week's meeting.

Love is in the Air!

Please Join the
Rotary Club of Victorville
for our Annual

Valentines
Dinner

Thursday, February 11, 2016

\$45 per person

El Pescador Restaurant
Victorville, CA

R.S.V.P.
with Margaret Cooker

VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President	Ben Tafoya
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary/Foundation	Margaret Cooker
Incoming President/Membership	Dwight Johnson
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service & President 2016-17	Dan Munsey
Community Service	Brad Letner
Youth Service/Scholarships	Ginger Ontiveros
Vocational Service	Jim Barnes
International	Dan Dever

Members-at-Large:

Rob Kilpatrick • Mark Taylor • Russ Stringham

Positions & Committee Chairs 2014-2015

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Sergeant At Arms.....	Gary Adams
SongMaster	Al Castellucci
Programs	Mike Page
Wine, Jazz & More	Dan Munsey
Cards and Calls	Pam Murray
Newsletter	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., 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 Hesperia, 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St.
WEDNESDAY:	Adelanto Club meets 2nd Wed. at Chamber Room at Maverick Stadium at 11:30 a.m., and the 3rd and 4th Wed. at Astro's Burgers, 11619 Rancho Rd, Adelanto at 8am. San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Quigley's Outlet Center, Lenwood, noon University Prep, 13853 Seneca Rd, 2:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Apple Valley Country Club, noon Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon High Desert, Mimi's Cafe, Victorville, 7 a.m.
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

CALENDAR DATES

Feb. 7: Super Bowl Party
TBA - at the Stringham's Fellowship at 2:00pm

Feb. 11: Valentine's Dinner
Time TBA
El Pescador Restaurant
\$45 per person

Upcoming Rotary Programs

- Jan 12:** Dr. Tomas Morales, President California State University, San Bernardino
STAR students Discovery & Irwin (Page)
- Jan 19:** Merlin Aalborg, COO Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group **TOPIC: "Healthcare Today: it's not your parent's healthcare anymore!"** (Orr)
- Jan 26: Public Service Awards** (Coomes)

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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.