

Be a gift to the world



THE JOSHUA TREE



February 23, 2016

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



The D.A.'s Office : Hardworking & Ethical

Hardworking and ethical, that is how Deputy Assistant D.A. **Michelle Lauron** describes the Victorville office of the San Bernardino County D.A. She has spent 21 years as a District Attorney and 3 years as the Supervising DA at our local office in Victorville.

Over the last few years a lot of courts have shut down. Cities such as Big Bear, Barstow, Needles, etc. have put quite a strain on the Victorville courthouse. The staff in Victorville is extremely busy! To handle

the workload there are now 43 D.A.'s in the High Desert and 3 Supervising D.A.'s that now handle anywhere from 700 - 1,000 cases a month! Along with



standard cases, there are also special units working within the D.A.'s office. Some of these divisions are the Gang Unit, Family Violence, Crimes Against Peace Officers, Human Trafficking, Animal Cruelty and the Drug/Mental Health Unit.

As we have discussed in previous issues of The Joshua Tree, the passing of Prop 47 continues to be a pain in the side of the D.A.'s office. Petty theft, which used to be a \$400 split between a misdemeanor and a felony is now \$950 and what used to be upgraded to an automatic felony after 2 convictions is now almost non-existent. Unless in cases of a "Super Strike", which combines theft with a murder, most criminals will not do much, if any time behind bars. For example, drug use of cocaine or heroin is now only a misdemeanor, when it used to be a felony, so if you choose to use drugs, you probably will never see a jail cell.

The D.A.'s office is now seeing a lot of "repeat customers", and is seeing a growing number in auto theft crimes, identity theft and manslaughter cases. The office also has a special unit of attorney's that specialize in only negotiating cases with suspects and their defense attorney's.

On the positive side, the manufacturing and selling of drugs is still a felony and criminals found guilty of violent crimes will be put behind bars for a long time. There has been a steady flow of hiring dedicated staff to the D.A.'s office as well as upgraded technology to make sure criminals are put where they belong.

The Rotary Club of Victorville would like to thank **Michelle Lauron** and all of our District Attorney's for their hard work and dedication in keeping our High Desert safe.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Van Young
Flag Salute:	Mark Taylor
4-Way Test:	Ron Kabalin
Song:	Al Castellucci



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Tafoya Talk...

This week will start the column by asking Rotarians for your thoughts and prayers. This week **Margaret Cooker** hosted the meeting as President **Ben Tafoya** is in the hospital for tests due to a high blood count, which is causing him some sickness. More tragically, please offer prayers to the family of **John and JoAnn Kroencke**, who lost their son Marcus suddenly on Valentines Day. The family is seeking privacy at this difficult time.

Margaret shared some wonderful thank you cards we received from students of Cobalt Institute of Math and Science, who's teacher received a Mini-Grant from the club. With the money, the students got copies of "The Story of Odyssey", which they were so happy to receive and use!

Margaret passed around the latest report from the Rotary Foundation that showed all of the great work the Foundation has done throughout 2015 and plans for 2016.

Mike Page reminded Rotarians of the April 5th visit from **Congressman Paul Cook**. Seating is extremely limited to please reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Dr. Ron Boyd paid a fine to speak on a Career Day coming up on April 29th at Morgan Kincaid Elementary School. If you would like to be involved, please contact Ron to not only help our young students, but promote your business as well.



Finally, our upcoming President, **Dwight Johnson** reported on his 3-day training at P.E.T.S. (President Elect Training Seminar), where he met and learned with Past District Governors and District Governor Elects.

Spoon of Exemption: Carol Yule

Carol Yule had her final time with the "Spoon" and we wrapped it up with another song, a version of Sonny & Cher's "I Got You Babe", but in this version she asked for votes for the VVC Alumni Foundation this weekend.



As always with the end of the month, it was then auction time for a new Rotarian to have the Spoon for March. The auction started high with an opening bid of \$100, but very

quickly went through the roof, with **Don Lager, Rosanne Weathers** and **Robin Cackler** battling over the Spoon! When the dust settled, **Robin Cackler** got the spoon for **Pastor Paul** at Life Church for a whopping \$300!

Rotary Guests

Great job bringing guests today Rotarians, keep it up! **Steve Orr** invited **Casey Armstrong** from Armstrong Fairway Insurance and **Sam Pulice**, visiting from the Apple Valley Rotary Club. **Al Castellucci** invited **Tim Evans** from the Unforgettables Foundation and **Donna Wells** brought former Rotarian and Past President, **Jim Denman** to our meeting. Finally, associates were also invited; **Pastor Paul Earle** invited **Jeff Leach** and **Mariena Scott** from Life Church, **Van Young** brought **David Cain**, and **Don Lager** brought his right-hand man, **Jason Brown**.

Our Stand-in's this week were **Robin Cackler** for **Pastor Paul Earle** and **Tony Cooker** for **Dr. Hough**.

The Polio Pig....

Collected this week: \$14.00

Polio Pig: \$9.00 + Dice (Donna Wells): \$5.00 = \$14.00

Collected to Date: \$12,932.16

Total equals: 87,8932 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



Lucky Blue Dice



Donna Wells was first out of the gate to draw the Blue Dice, but only got a white one and received \$5, which she donated to the Polio Pig. **13 Dice** remain and **\$225** is waiting for another Rotarian next week!

Fine Session

This week **Mark Taylor** returned as our Fine Master, and after being the auctioneer for the Spoon, hit **Rosanne Weathers** first by fining her \$10 by only upping one of her bids by 50¢! **Kevin Kane** was fined \$10 for his past birthday on Valentines Day, **Dwight Johnson** was fined \$10 for calling **Dan Munsey** "Steve Munsey" and \$10 also for **Dr. Paul Stanton**, well, just because we haven't seen Paul in a while. The biggest fine of the day was \$100 to **Jim Denman** for not attending "for a while", which he promptly paid!

Raffle Prizes

Thanks go out to **Kevin Kane**, who brought some sweet raffle gifts this week. A bar of Toblerone Chocolate went to **Don Lager** and a cocoa cup of goodies went to **David North**. Kevin also gave a VVTA USB Drive that went to **Robin Cackler**, who also won a Go Lunch kit from **Rosanne Weathers**, as did **Gary Adams**. A couple copies of "The Transparent Leader II" will be read by **Paula Porter** and **Donna Wells** and a couple of DCB Journals went to **Ron Williams** and **Rosanne Weathers**. Rosanne also won the Midway gift card, which came with a Midway yard stick, **Kevin Kane** won a DCB Calendar and **Paula Porter** took home a Salvation Army Christmas ornament. Paula gave a bottle of wine that will be enjoyed by **David North** and finally, a ticket to the upcoming Evening Affaire went to **Don Lager's** employee **Jason Brown**.

Fiji Cyclone - ShelterBox Update



The ShelterBox Response Team has deployed and responded to the "Once in a Century" cyclone in Fiji. The strongest storm ever recorded to make landfall on the Southern Hemisphere, Cyclone Winston, has ravaged the islands and the 900,000+ people living in Fiji. ShelterBox has activated the response team to the island nation to conduct assessments and facilitate an effective and efficient response. Thousands of homes have been destroyed, dozens of people have been killed, and the Fiji government has made an official request for international assistance. Please see **Margaret Cooker** on how you can help!



CONGRESSMAN
PAUL COOK

April 5, 2016
12:00 noon

Members & Guests*

\$19.00 in advance

Government Guests & General Public

\$22.00 in advance • \$25.00 at the Door

**Bids Open to Sit at Paul Cook's Table
to benefit the Rotary Club of Victorville Foundation**

Bidding not available to Government Guests.

Call **Margaret Cooker** at (760) 243-5928 or
pdgcooker@verizon.net to reserve and pay.

You may also use PayPal at
www.victorvillerotary.org "Pay my Rotary Bill"

NO REFUNDS

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

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
WEDNESDAY:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St., Hesperia 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
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

CALENDAR DATES

- April 9: District Assembly**
Sitting Bull Academy
19445 Sitting Bull Rd., Apple Valley
- April 15: RYLA 2016**
Thousand Pines Camp, Crestline
- April 21: Past Presidents' Dinner**
Mama Carpino's, The Village in Apple Valley
\$20.00
- June 25: Demotion Party**
4:00 p.m. • Dever's Home, Apple Valley

Upcoming Rotary Programs

- Mar 1:** Mary Hennessy, executive Director, Gentiva Hospice **Topic: "Death and Dignity"** (Tafoya)
- Mar 8: Dan Stover Music Contest-Club Level (Yule) - STAR Students Park View, Puesta del Sol & 6th St**
- Mar 15: Mark Carlton, CFA, Trademark Financial Management (Riding)**
-
- April 5: Congressman Paul Cook**
\$19 members, \$22 others if paid in advance; \$25 at the door

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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.