

The Joshua Tree

March 9, 2021

EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING

This week we were so happy to have **Jan Gonzales**, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent **Maureen Mills** from the Victor Elementary School District join the Club via Zoom, to share how VESD has adapted to distance learning and what is coming up in way of returning students back onto their campuses.



Currently 80% of teachers are conducting their classes from home, while the remaining 20% teach from inside their classrooms. Each school day there is time of live interaction with students and daily instructional minutes are at least 180 minutes for kindergarten, 230 minutes for grades 1 to 3, and 240 instructional minutes for grades 4 to 12. Physical education

minutes have been waived though, due to school closures.

Since the current school year began in August 2020, there has been a 96% participation rate among students, and all of them, now including kindergarten and first graders, have Chromebooks as well as hot-spots devices, if needed, for learning. In addition, the schools are doing occasional home visits and distribute regularly textbooks that don't come in digital form and materials as needed.

The future has all eyes on reopening and welcoming children back on campuses. The District has established a process for cleaning and sanitizing, and all employees must track symptoms at home before coming into work. Each site or department has established a single point of entry where employees must enter and have temperature and symptoms checked daily. As one can see, there is a standard operating procedure for everything they are doing.

There is also a community feeding program through VESD that serves breakfast and lunch to not only their students, but any child between the ages of 3 to 18 who qualifies. Since June 2020, they have served well over 1 million meals, and for those students who are handicapped or cannot make it to school, their meals are delivered to them.

On March 1st, all VESD schools began an after school tutoring program available for students falling behind on Mondays and Thursdays for 2 hours.

They plan to begin Phase One on April 5, when students return from Spring Break, allowing 25% of students each day return to school. The percentage of students allowed will increase as Covid cases lower. Each desk will have protective screens, as well as masks, hand sanitizers and other PPE equipment.

Thank you to both Jan and Maureen for all of the hard work you are doing to keep education alive for High Desert students, whether in person or at home.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Michael Krause

4-Way Test: Kevin Merrill

ORR'S ROARS



Thank you so much to Jan Gonzales and Maureen Mills from the Victor Elementary School District who took time this week to give us an inside look at distance learning

in our community. We look forward to our children getting back into classrooms safely and healthy.



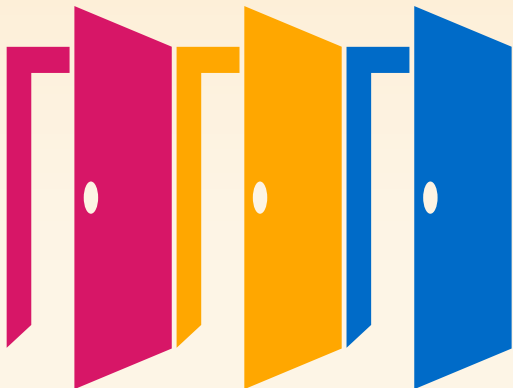
I also want to share what a pleasure it was to have Kevin and Lisa Merrill from the Rotary Club of Harrison, Arkansas join us this week. It was great to meet you and find out about the 5th rule of the 4-Way Test!

Jessica Perez encouraged all members to show up in person next week to show support for the 4-Way Speech Competition and encourage members to go out into the community and seek donations for all of our great programs.

If you are planning on attending next week, please be aware that you MUST sign both a Club and Foundation waiver form to attend in person.

Steve

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



www.victorvillerotary.org

Spoon of Exception

Chris Ackerman had the Spoon for Victor Valley Transit this week and continued to share about VTA's Vaccine Xpress! The Vaccine Xpress is a FREE Door-to-Door Service to vaccine sites in Victorville or Apple Valley. For those who are qualified to get the vaccine, first book an appointment for the Hook Community Center or Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church at sbccovid19.com/vaccine/locations, then call 760-948-3030 and book a ride on the Vaccine Xpress.



Currently, those 65 & over, first responders, medical professionals, teachers and food handlers are qualified for the vaccine, but one group is sorely missing. A group of professionals who are right in front of the public every day, risking their health and safety to take people where they need to go. Yep, you guessed it, Transit Operators and Staff. Please contact your State Legislature, and let them know that transit operators should be recognized by the State of California for the vaccine.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



Jon Hove had a chance to grab the Blue Dice, but drew White and donated his winnings back to the Polio Pig.

We will continue next week with 13 dice and \$225 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Rotary Guests

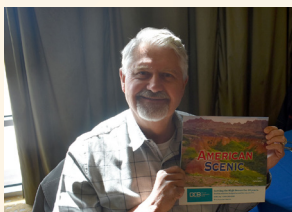


Our guests this week included VVTA Facilities Director **Ron Zirges**, who attended the meeting with **Kevin Kane** and **Coleen Luque** who shot our meeting for marketing. We also welcomed Jay

Oberholte aide **Christopher Scott** and very special guests **Kevin and Lisa Merrill** from the Rotary Club of Harrison, Arkansas.

Raffle

In this week's raffle **Steve Orr** went home with \$25 Midway Home Solution gift card from **Don Lager**, while both **Jon Hove** and **Jim Murray** won "American Scenic" 2021 DCB Calendars from **Esther Mears**. Finally, **Ryan McEachron** will get a small break at the pump with the \$25 ARCO Pump Pass he went away with from President Orr.



Fine Session

The Club took another step towards normalcy this week by bringing back Fines! The first Fine Master back was **David North** via Zoom. David began setting his sights on **Margaret Cooker** with a \$20 fine, but in honor of International Women's Day, he made **Steve Orr** pay it.

Keith Metzler recently celebrated 25 years with the City of Victorville which netted him a \$25 penalty and finally, **Mike Page** will have to hand over \$20 for not holding a vaccine dose aside for David!

New Rotarian



Past President **Jon Hove** was on hand to induct a new member to our Club, the newly assigned Victorville Sheriff Captain, **John Wickum**. Sponsored by both **Rick Bessinger** and **Keith Metzler**, Captain Wickum has been part of the County for 30 years, with 25 of those years in the High Desert. John looks forward to making an impact not only in our Club, but throughout the whole community.

The Polio Pig

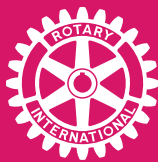
Collected this week: \$16.00

Polio Pig: \$9.00 + Guests from Harrison, Arkansas Kevin and Lisa Merrill: \$2.00 + Dice (Jon Hove): \$5.00= \$16.00

Collected to Date: \$17,760.23

Total equals: 96,634 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2019-2021	Steve Orr
President 2021-2022	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service	Bill Edwards
Community Service	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
International Service	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Jessica Perez
Grants/Speech Contests	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
Scholarships	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership	Don Lager
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large: Dwight Johnson & Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor	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 San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs 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 12: Board of Directors meeting
5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads

June 12-19: Taipei Convention (Virtual)

Upcoming Programs

Mar 16: 4-Way Test Speech Contest (Club level) (Perez)

Mar 23: Terry Caldwell, Topic: History of the Southern California Logistics Airport (Page)

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