

The Joshua Tree

March 14, 2023

MISSING A FRIEND, A MOM, & A DOG NAMED AUTUMN

The definition of “Ethics” is: moral principles that govern a person’s behavior or the conducting of an activity. Rotarians heard that this week at the annual George Hensel Ethics Essay Competition. Hosted by **Dr. Ron Boyd**, the essays have previously been read and awarded, but for most Club members, this was their first time hearing them.



George R. Hensel Ethics Essay Contest is designed to challenge high school students to analyze ethical issues and concerns confronting them in today’s complex world. Rotarian, businessman, and philanthropist, **George R. Hensel, Ph.D.**, privately funded this contest before his death in 2012. Students submit essays to their local Rotary Clubs and may, at the club’s discretion, present their essays at a club meeting. Winners at the club level advance to the District Level and four winners at that level are awarded monetary prizes. The top three runners-up receive cash prizes of \$500 each, plus \$200 for their teacher, and the winner at the District Level gets \$3,000 plus \$1,000 for his/her teacher. The overall winning essay is presented at the District Conference.

Student **Megan Metzler** from CIST was unable to attend due to a test, so Dr. Boyd stood in to read her essay. Megan wrote about how she grew up playing soccer her whole life. She has had the same tight circle of teammates as her friends since childhood. In time, she became Team Captain, and things seemed to be going well until her best friend became influenced by others and began

bullying her teammates. Megan’s ethical dilemma was deciding if she wanted to attempt to resolve the issue with her friend. She also needed to decide if it was easier to avoid a situation that would very likely end badly. Doing the right thing meant looking past the years of friendship and determining if a bullying type of behavior was acceptable. When faced with a dilemma, Megan defines ethics as deciding what’s most important, whether it only affects you or everyone. In the end, the friendship was lost, but her teammates stood behind her and now have become her greatest friends.



The next runner up was **Aaliyah Hobson** who talked about her dog Autumn. She met the German Shepard in 2015 when she was in 6th grade the dog became

her best friend. They loved to play, sleep, and go hiking together. The dog was a huge comfort to her during the Covid-19 Pandemic. As Autumn became older, she noticed that she was having trouble walking downstairs and soon began having problems balancing. It was soon revealed that Autumn had spinal damage and soon became paralyzed. Aaliyah began to carry her around everywhere

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This Week’s Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute: Russ Stringham
4-Way Test: James Rightmire
Fine Master: David North

ETHICS ESSAYS

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but noticed that the dog, once full of life and high spirited, had now become distant and lethargic. Soon it became an ethical dilemma of life or death. Ethics is far greater than just what is right or wrong. Ethics helps us decide what is best for us versus what is best for the others involved. Ultimately, she decided putting her dog down the most ethical thing to do, even though she still struggles with the “what-ifs”. She concluded by sharing that we need to give our choices the respect they deserve because we make our choices merely based on our knowledge in the present moment.



Finally, we heard the essay from our finalist **Jada Davis**. In the summer of 2020 Jada was 14 and was a straight A student with aspirations to be a doctor, a lawyer, or even a CEO of some big company that she would start. When it came time for online classes, she was up an hour before classes, cooking breakfast for her dad who had work and mom who was sleeping or just waking up. She'd clean up, get dressed, and log onto her classes with her camera on and would interact with her teacher and other students. She had only been in school for less than a week when it had happened, her mom passed away. Jada's biggest support, the one who encouraged whatever decision, career path, or action was gone. As she started experiencing true grief, Jada stopped doing everything she once did. She was never up on time and waited until the last minute to join her online classes. Jada didn't bother to turn on her camera and stopped talking and interacting with the class. She didn't even take notes anymore. Jada slept through all her classes. Jada's ethical dilemma was to either pick herself back up and keep working towards her goal or give up completely. Through teachers and close friends, Jada is still trying to climb her way back up, and struggles some days, having a hard time breathing or running to the bathroom and just start breaking down into tears. For Jada, ethics are someone's morals and principles that makes them who they are. She is going forward to obtain her goals, as her mother would want her to do.

The runners up received checks for \$75 and Jada, as the winner was presented with a check for \$150. Her essay will be judged at the District Conference for the championship. We are rooting for you, Jada, but not just for the essay contest...



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

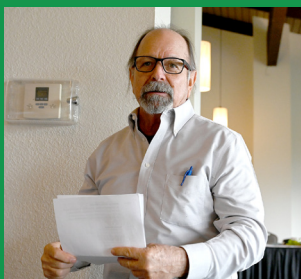


MIKE'S IKE'S

*Wow, my first column!
Thank you to Arsalee
Morales for entrusting
me to run the meeting in*

her absence this week. I also want to express my thanks to Dr. Ron Boyd and students Jada Davis and Aaliyah Hobson for this year's George Hensel Ethics Essay readings. Good luck to Jada at the final at District Conference.

Bob Basen took a few moments to share information on all the exciting speakers at this year's Real Estate Symposium put on my Coldwell Banker Commercial. We know Bob will do great at the event.



We need volunteers! On March 26, Majestic Cycles will host the Victorville Stage Bicycle Race in Victorville and our Club has been approached to pour beer that day as a 50/50 fundraiser. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 that day and we need volunteers from the Club to make that happen. Please see Arsalee or Steve Murray to sign up.

We are looking for donations and items to purchase for our Annual Easter Baskets. Please see Arsalee or Steve Murray to sign up!

Until next week, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to always try just one more time."

Mike

IMAGINE ROTARY

Big Blue Dice



Dr. Ron Boyd had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but picked a white one and saved the chance for another Rotarian. The pot continues to grow next week with 6 Dice and \$400 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice.

Raffle

In the raffle this week, **Dr. Ron Boyd** took home a bottle of wine from **David North**, and **Mike Johnson** won a bean bag phone holder and expanding water bottle from Victor Valley Transit, both courtesy of **Chris Ackerman**.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and due to having to rush off for a meeting only had time for one fine, which went to **Mike Johnson** in the amount of \$25 for telling bad "Dad Jokes."



Mike Johnson Bad Dad Joke

If a child refuses to sleep during nap time, Are they guilty of resisting a rest?

Help Wanted

Rotarians! We have only had 4 Rotarians to sign up for the Beer Pouring Fundraiser at the Victorville Stage Bike Race on Sunday, May 26! This event is a fundraiser where 50% of the money collected goes directly to our Club.

If we don't get anymore volunteers in time for the event, then we will have to back out and will lose a lot of money that we need to provide much needed services to our community and beyond.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Rotary Guests



Dr. Ron Boyd brought two of his staff members, **Jennifer Welch** and **Jasmin Bush** to the meeting this week. We also met **Sylvia Harris**,

Operations Manager for Victor Valley Transit, who attended with **Chris Ackerman**. The Club also had a visit from Rotarian **Wen Chen** from Pasadena, and is in a Rotary e-Club. She visits Clubs to talk about Organ & Human Trafficking.

Our only Stand-in this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$9.00

Polio Pig: \$4 • Dice (Dr. Ron Boyd) \$5 = \$9.00

Collected to Date: \$19,641.52

Total equals: 100,71 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Need Candidates
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Jon Hove
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Club Service	Steve Murray
Community Service	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service	Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: David North, Mike Johnson, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

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
4-Way Speech Competitions	Mike Johnson
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Steve Murray
Programs	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations	Need Volunteer
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, Jeff Armstrong 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:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Mile High Cafe, 8832 Orange St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, <i>No Longer Meeting</i> 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 10: Board of Directors Meeting

5:00pm -Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA

April 22: District Assembly

Sitting Bull Middle School
Apple Valley, CA • 8am - 2pm

May 5-7: District Conference

Horseshoe Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV
4-Way Speech Contest (Saturday Breakfast)
Dan Stover Music Contest (Saturday Lunch)

June 24: Demotion Party

5:00pm • Home of Dan & Krisi Dever

Upcoming Programs

March 21: Richard Radcliffe, VVC Professor **Topic:**
**“Overview of the Noncredit
Program at VVC”** (Acosta)

March 28: Mike Johnson **Topic: “Thunder,
Lightning & Peace: High Schooler
CEO Aiding Veterans with Trauma”**
(Johnson)
**4-Way Speech Contest Regional
Competition**

April 4: **Dan Stover Regional Competition**
(Edwards)
Easter Basket Assembly

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