

The Joshua Tree

April 20, 2021

ROTARIANS ROLLING HIPPOS

Luke Vorstermans is a member of the Rotary Club of Gibsons, British Columbia and is the Chair of their Club's International Service Committee. This week Luke spoke to our Club about Hippo Water Rollers for women in South Africa.



In 2016, Luke helped launch the Help Us Roll 1000 Hippos Campaign that put the spotlight on the innovative Hippo Water Roller. The project quickly rolled across Canada and the US and now over 100 Rotary Clubs have fundraised and delivered 800 Hippo Rollers to vulnerable women in South Africa.

On any given day, over 780 million women collectively spend 140 million hours hauling water for their basic household needs. The traditional method of collecting water involves carrying repurposed, five-gallon buckets, weighing about 40lbs each on the head. It's a burdensome and time-consuming task that enslaves women to a cycle of poverty and tradition.

The problem does have a solution: the hippo water roller. The simple design of the hippo roller to transport water is a shift in thinking. Instead of carrying heavy buckets on their heads, the hippo roller places the weight inside its "wheel." It can carry five

times as much weight but since it is rolled on the ground, even a small child can easily manage a full roller.

This simple tool can change the lives of millions of women and children in rural communities. A single hippo roller carries enough water to meet the basic needs of

seven people per day. It gives them access to better hygiene, sanitation and living conditions. Families can now easily collect enough water to grow their own vegetable gardens. The hippo roller, with its large drum capacity, frees women and children from this daily chore of hauling water for their households. Fewer trips to collect water means women and children can spend their time on more productive educational and economic opportunities.

In response to the COVID Pandemic, the Hippo Rollers have been used to form a collaboration between Canadian and South Africa Rotary Clubs to deliver 1000 Survival Garden Kits to help vulnerable women start vegetable gardens and create food security.

In many rural settlements in Southern Africa, women are the frontline workers. As the coronavirus upsets the familiar community routines, unemployment, business failures, school closures, and social isolation have become the new reality. With little income and sparse government assistance, women are faced with providing food for their families by resorting to growing their own food.

Providing women in these informal settlements with a Survival Garden Kit that includes the tools and seedlings to start small homestead vegetable gardens, is the most immediate

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards

Flag Salute: Dwight Johnson

4-Way Test: Steve Orr



Thank you so much to Luke Vorstermans for taking the time to visit us via Zoom this week to share about the Hippo Water Roller Project. It just shows how much a small Rotary Club can do once they put their

passion behind a project. I challenge our Club to help raise funds to donate at least a few Hippo Water Rollers.

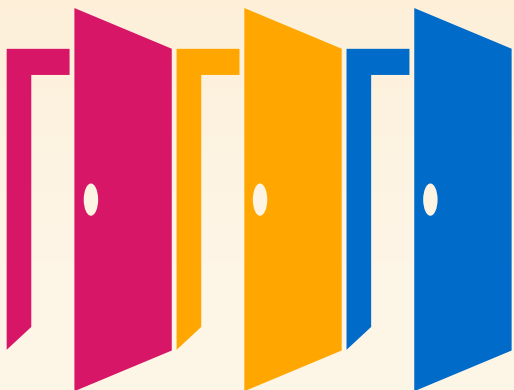
Finally, we received some great letters and emails this week, including one from the Southwest Gas Foundation who have chosen our Foundation's Service Projects to support and have given a donation gift of \$250 to help us continue our programs to help those locally, nationally and internationally.

Don't forget it's District Assembly time! You should have received an email from Dacdb with registration info for the Zoom sessions. If you need assistance, please contact Margaret.

I am happy to say I will finally be demoted on Saturday, June 26! After a two year stint as your Rotary President, I will be passing the baton over to Jon Hove at the home of Bill & Linda Scott. The party starts at 5:30pm and I hope to see you all there.

Finally, all members of the Past Presidents' Committee, we will be having a meeting at El Pescador at 5:30pm on April 27th.

Steve



HIPPO WATER ROLLERS

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and productive action we can take to help them create food security and self-sufficiency during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Encouraging women to establish survival gardens has short and long-term benefits: (1) While the coronavirus is an immediate threat, its impact will be felt for years, (2) Small homestead farming is doable and relatively easy (when water is readily available), (3) While the need is immediate, a survival garden also creates food security for the future. (4) Growing one's own food is not just self-sustaining; it's rewarding and empowering, (5) A mother's drive to provide for her family is her core passion. What she needs is the 'how', and (6) Simple tools and an easy way to transport water makes the Survival Garden Kit a viable option. Already 150 kits have been delivered.



Their goal is to raise the funds to put a hippo water roller into the hands of 1000 women in rural Africa. While it barely scratches the surface of the need, they see their mission as starting the momentum to create a paradigm shift on how a chore is done. The gift of a hippo water roller delivers an immediate benefit to those who need it the most... women and children. Best of all, it requires no training, no skill and no tools to implement this empowering innovation.

Since launching the Help Us Roll 1000 Hippos project, over 125 Rotary and Interact clubs have joined in to help deliver this life-changing tool into the hands of 1000 women and girls in South Africa.

As of Jan 2020, their efforts have funded 545 rollers, and almost a dozen Rotary clubs in South Africa are involved in their distribution through their local projects. These clubs add value by including seeds, trees, tools, personal products, etc.... whatever serves their local projects. Each Community Handover is videoed to provide marketing and social media materials. This club-to-club relationship really works!

Information on fundraising projects, hippo roller races, marketing materials and connecting with other Rotary clubs, email: Rotary@rollahippo.org.

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



Chris Ackerman had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but drew a white one and saved the chance for another.

We will continue next week with 12 dice and \$250 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Raffle

In this week's raffle, **Chris Ackerman** donated two pairs of Victor Valley Transit USB Buses and hand sanitizer that were taken home by **Tina Escareño** and **Dwight Johnson**, while Ackerman himself won a \$25 Home Depot gift card from Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group.

Read B4K

The Rotary Club of Victorville serves many people, and one of our very special programs is our Read B4K program, that has been a part of our Club for the last 5 years. While we don't always hear or see the benefits of this program once the children graduate from the program, the Club received the below email, that is a great example of why we are Rotarians:

"This email is way overdue. I just wanted to let you know that if it wasn't for you and this program, my kindergartner would not be reading right now. Being a mother, all I want to do is teach my daughter everything. I knew I couldn't do it without help. Mrs. Colleen, you came to me at the beginning of the 2019 school year offering a free reading program that was going to teach my 4-year-old to read. My daughter is now 5 and is top reader in her kindergarten class! We owe that to you Mrs. Colleen. Thank you for offering this wonderful program to help our children succeed in life!"

Rotary Guests

This week we once again welcomed Jay Obernolte aide **Christopher Scott** and **Coleen Luque** once again as a guests of **Steve Orr**.

Evening of Comedy

Get ready to laugh on a new date! The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Summerlin is having a Comedy Night and we are invited, virtually of course! The event will be held on Saturday, May 22 at 6pm at the home of Jon and Linda Hove. For the Cost of \$60 per person, there will be a BBQ, a silent auction, and some great comedy, all on the big outdoor screen in the Hove's Backyard. Plus, half the money you spend goes to our Club! If you'd like to attend, please contact **Bill Edwards**, **Steve Orr** or **Margaret Cooker**.

Spoon of Exception

President **Steve Orr** had the Spoon again this week and shared that the Gym at Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group is just about to re-open! When it does open it will be for members only for starters.

For someone to become a member, all they need to do is have HMO type health insurance and choose one of their doctors as their primary physician. The gym will have classes for every person from the beginner and light training to intense workouts.



The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$10.00

Polio Pig: \$5.00 + Dice (Chris Ackerman): \$5.00= \$10.00

Collected to Date: \$17,852.23

Total equals: 96,818 Doses!

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

Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



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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.

VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| President 2019-2021 | Steve Orr |
| President 2021-2022 | Jon Hove |
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| Community Service | PLEASE VOLUNTEER |
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| Youth Service/Ryla & 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 27: Past Presidents' Meeting**
5:30 pm El Pescador Bar, Victorville
- May 10: Board of Directors meeting**
5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads
- May 22: Night of Comedy**
6:00 pm Home of Jon & Linda Hove
\$60 per person / \$85 In-Home Livestream
- June 12-19: Taipei Convention (Virtual)**
- June 26: Demotion Party**
5:30 pm Home of Bill & Linda Scott

Upcoming Programs

- April 27: Ethics Essay Contest - Club Level**
(Boyd)

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