



THE JOSHUA TREE

Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



May 24, 2016

Fighting Back Against the Gangs

John Billings, the Lieutenant in charge of the San Bernardino County Gang Unit, is a 20 year veteran of the force. He has seen it all, and due to his exemplary service, is now in charge of the growing gang problem in our County.

The origins of the Gang Unit started with the SMASH Program, that was formed in the mid 1980's as a way to combat crime, drugs and gang violence in San Bernardino County. In the early 2000's the Sheriff Department started to see more and more gang activity starting in San Bernardino County, and in 2004 the first Gang Unit was born. Of course, as we all know in 2011, due to the passing of AB109, a lot of the crimes SMASH used to handle as felonies, were now turned into misdemeanors and with Prop 24 in 2014, soon the amount of time and resources used for the SMASH program, were not equaling out, so it was closed.

In January 2015 there was a special operations bureau reorganization that moved narcotics



investigations to patrol stations, a fifth Homicide Team, and a new fully dedicated Gang Unit.

As of April 2015, there were three dedicated Gang Units, the Desert Team, the Valley Team and a Gang Intelligence Task Force, which consists of the San Bernardino Sheriff, Police CHP and FBI.

The focus of the Unit is to suppress illegal gang activity, with a proactive street level enforcement to target specific gang members and to work hand in hand with the Sheriff Stations and Police Departments. The Unit works very hard to monitor and track illegal gang activity, work with officers as well as inmates for intelligence and undercover work.

Now the good news. Since its inception, just over 1 year ago, all three Gang Teams have made 1025 arrests, of which 719 were felonies, served 190 search warrants on gang members, seized over 200 high powered firearms, identified almost 1,000 new gang members and submitted over 200 cases to the DA's Office with Gang Enhancements, which, if convicted, will send these thugs to State Prisons for longer sentences than they would have normally received for the same crime, had they not been in a gang.

The overall goal is to reduce violence and enhance public safety, which they are doing. Please keep people like **John Billings** and **Sam Lucia** in your constant thoughts and prayers, as they risk their lives each and every day to make our lives safer.



This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation: Pastor Paul Earle
- Flag Salute: Sam Lucia
- 4-Way Test: Jennifer Starbuck
- Song: Al Castellucci



Be a gift to the world



Tafoya Talk...

What an incredible weekend we just had! If you have not heard the news, we were the recipients of Club of the Year at the District 5300 Conference in San Diego! We also took home 1st place in

Youth Programs, 1st place in Foundation Giving due to the generosity of **Dr. Hough** and making her parents Paul Harris Fellows in Memoriam. We would not have received these acknowledgments without the hard work and dedication of the Club members! This was not a "Ben Tafoya" award, but for everyone! We were recognized for such programs as **Brad Letner's** Literacy Project, our S.T.A.R.



Student Awards, Youth Exchange Program and the Water Project in Ensenada. The gauntlet has now been laid down to **Dwight Johnson**, to take home the award next year for the Club!

Lastly, after weeks of being absent, **Pastor Paul Earle** finally received his red badge! It was presented to him by Dwight Johnson who chose to lower the normal \$15 fine to \$10 because he needed prayers for his flight to South America for his Rotary Training. This is mentioned, because it will pan out during the fine session on page 3...



The Polio Pig....

Collected this week: \$16.00

Collected to Date: \$13,144.62

Total equals: 87,9357 Doses!

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

Rotary Guests

This week our George Hensel Essay Contestant, **Kayla Bridges** brought along her aunts, **Kellie Ruff** and **Krisdiaunn Ruff** to see her receive her certificate and check. In attendance we also welcomed **Paul Stark** with Parade of Pianos and pianist **Hugo Sanchez**. **Pastor Paul Earle** invited **Chanbale Sutton** from Barnes and Noble, **Al Castellucci** brought **Roger Wagner** from VVC, **Mary Hennessy** had **Leslie Marty** and **Cathy Caruso** at her table and our president **Ben Tafoya**, invited **Garner Morris** and **Carol Tate** from TLC Realty.

Finally, our Stand-ins for this week were **Tony Cooker** for **Dr. Hough**, **Melanie Lovingood** for **Robert Lovingood**, and **Keith Beeman** for **Dr. Ron Williams**.

Spoon of Exemption: Chris Ackerman

This week, **Chris Ackerman** shared a very recent story on the power of kind words. Chris loves the soda "Pibb Xtra" which is close to impossible to find in cans or bottles in Southern California (you can usually only find it in Texas and Southern States).

Robin Cackler from Life Church messaged Chris a few days ago, and mentioned that she saw some in Kansas (where she is this week), and is bringing some home. She also shared the reason why she was doing this was because at a recent speech Chris was making to another group, he introduced Robin "as his friend", and it meant so much to her.

Please take time to say a kind word to someone, you never know how much it will affect them.



Fine Session



Terry Caldwell was our Fine Master and began with threatening fines for **Chris Ackerman** and **Ben Tafoya** for photos posted at the District Conference with the Governor's Bell Award!

Those who were fined due to the photo was \$10 to both **Steve Murray** for his smile and **Jon Hove** for looking like he was asleep.

Doug Robertson was fined \$10 for begging around town for votes for the "Coolest Cat" Contest, and **Jim Murray** was fined \$10 for bragging at their table about how well he is doing since his knee surgery. Terry then encouraged Jim to go back to work at Bob's Tire. Terry's parents are buried at Montecito Memorial Park in Colton. **Gary Adams** volunteers cleaning headstones for Memorial Day. Terry went there last weekend and theirs hadn't been cleaned. Gary was fined \$10

Finally, **Dwight Johnson** was fined for usurping the Fine Master and giving a discount to **Pastor Paul Earle**, who should have received a \$15 fine instead of \$10 for his Red Badge.

Lucky Blue Dice



Mary Hennessy is truly loved. She actually received a round of applause from the membership for winning the chance to draw the Blue Dice. Sadly, it was not to be and she only went home with \$5 in her purse.

We continue next week with 6 dice and \$400 up for grabs for one lucky Rotarian who can select the blue dice.

Raffle Prizes

Pastor Paul Earle did a wonderful job this week holding **Robin Cackler's** place and taking home a bevy of raffle gifts! He won a Midway gift card from **Don Lager**, a pair of Maverick tickets from **Dwight Johnson** and two Memorial Day themed gifts from **Mary Hennessy** with Gentiva Hospice, as did **Jim Murray** and **Ben Tafoya**.

Cathy Caruso received a pair of Fair tickets from **David North** at DCB, **Todd Sturges** and **Mary Hennessy** will enjoy their Go Lunchtime Kits from **Rosanne Weathers** at Desert Valley Medical and **Steve Murray** donated a RYLA t-shirt and hoodie, that went to **Don Lager** and **Rosanne Weathers** respectively.

Congratulations



Dr. Ron Boyd and **Ben Tafoya** recognized **Kayla Bridges**, who won our George Hensel Essay Contest, who made it all the way to the finals at District Conference and finished as a runner up.

The Club presented her with a \$500 check for her hard work and great effort!

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

June 25: Demotion Party
4:00 p.m. • Dever's Home
Apple Valley

Upcoming Rotary Programs

- May 31:** Jennifer Malara & Brittany Hardy, High Desert Crisis Walk-in-Center
Topic: "Behavioral Health: Partnering with People for Positive Change" (Cooker)
- June 7:** Dr. Minda Stackelhouse, Oro Grande School District
Topic: "XQ Super School Project and the Oro Grande School District" (Hough)
- June 14:** Mike Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney, (Page)
- June 21:** Kevork Kazanjian, Adjunct Faculty Undergraduate Studies, CSUSB and Model United Nations Instructor at Victor Valley College
Topic: "The Trump Phenomenon & Model UN" (Wagner)

Design & Layout By



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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.