



# The Joshua Tree



June 9, 2020

## BEING TOGETHER WHILE APART

They had one week. One week to change everything over. Two years before COVID-19, **Dr. Ron Williams** and his staff at the Victor Valley Union High School District had developed a campaign called “Re-Define, Re-Design and Re-Imagine” for their area schools, and on March 13th, this was the mantra they used to get through the school year. First it was a scheduled 2-week closure, which worked out since it was leading into Spring Break time, but within two weeks it was announced schools were to be closed for the remainder of the year.

The VVUHSD handles 10,500 students in 8 schools within the Victor Valley, and 1,000 staff members, with almost half that number teachers. Due to the short time span, the focus had to change and fast! This unexpected turn of events had the staff communicating with teachers, parents and students over emails, phone calls, press releases and social media. In this 7-day time span the District set up complete online education, supporting 480 teachers and parents with lessons on how to work Zoom, virtual classrooms

and even digital textbooks for students who still had hard copy textbooks in their school lockers.

Even with schools closed, the internal functions they provide to the community still needed to continue, such as payroll. Paying staff, vendors and contracts continued without fail. Many families in the community rely on school breakfast and lunch programs and that program did not cease either, for the remainder of the school year, 15,000 – 16,000 students were fed weekly!

Many families served by the District live well below the poverty line and because of this, they cannot afford Wi-Fi, laptops or tablets, which is essential for students to have in online learning.

To solve this, the District developed Wi-Fi access on their buses and parked them in different locations around the community so students could go to parks and log in for their classes. Along with the buses, they also had Wi-Fi hot-spot devices and brought them to student’s homes as well as Chromebooks for all students. Finally, with the stress of being stuck at home and with some parents being laid off from work, the District helped with mental health issues and set up hotlines for a variety of issues.

Graduation for this year’s Seniors was not like anything they’ve experienced before. The District started with virtual graduations with pre-recorded speeches, they then moved to drive-thru graduations for diplomas. It was a little challenging at first and took a while to do it; about

*Continued on page 2*

### This Week’s Functionaries

Invocation:	Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute:	Ryan McEachron
4-Way Test:	Russ Stringham
Finemaster:	David North

## ORR'S ROARS



Thank you for the great attendance this week for Dr. Ron Williams and his staff who shared just how the VVUHSD handled the Coronavirus crisis and the innovations they've made for the future!



We are going back to the movies! On Saturday, July 25, we will have another "Movie Night at the Hove's" hosted by Jon and Linda Hove! This time we will enjoy 1999's "Notting Hill" with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts. Bring a lawn chair plus dessert or side dish and enjoy some great Rotarian fellowship!

Reminder, the next Past President's' Dinner will be held Thursday, June 25 at Mama Carpino's in the Apple Valley Village. RSVP for this event with Margaret Cooker.

*Steve Orr*

[www.victorvillerotary.org](http://www.victorvillerotary.org)

## Giving Back



President Steve Orr presented Dawn Quigg from the Victor Valley Rescue Mission a check in the amount of \$1,600 for the 20 Rotarians who donated their May lunch meal budgets to the great work of the Rescue Mission.

## Together While Apart... Continued from page 1

30 students an hour, but once they got to the bigger schools like Victor Valley and Silverado, they had it down and got through them in a matter of hours. This year marked one of the highest percentages of graduates and they feel this was due to their great teachers who went the extra mile to work closer with students than ever before.

**Dr. Ron Williams** doesn't know what August 2020 will look like when the school year is set to begin again, but he hopes it will be a combination of physical and digital learning. On the digital side, the District has the Victor Valley Virtual Academy set up and ready to roll out on August 1st, offering 220 standard school credits, great courses, advanced placement and honor classes. The academy is set up for parents who are concerned with sending their children back to school while Coronavirus is still a reality. Although the VVUHSD doesn't know what school will exactly look like in the Fall, there will be classes and the learning will continue.

**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**

## Big Blue Dice



*Dr. Ron Williams gave it a shot this week, but pulled another white dice out of the bag and only took home \$5.*

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

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed some Rotarians from the closing Adelanto Club, **Charles Gehrke**, **Jeanette Gehrke** and **Ken Larson**. We hope you will be joining our Club soon!



Joining **Dr. Ron Williams**, and assisting him with this week's presentation were staff members **Ramiro Rubalcaba**, **Kris Riley**, **Ful Aspar** and **Antonio Hawkin**. Also joining us this week was **Jessica Perez** from the MRGroup.

Our Stand-ins this week were **Dawn Quigg** for **Bill Edwards** and **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

## Fine Session

**David North** was our Fine Master this week and began by back-fining **Ryan McEachron** \$20 for an 8 month old Facebook post about how he was glad Break Dancing was becoming an Olympic sport!

**Russ Stringham** made a rare Rotary appearance and that earned him a \$20 penalty!

**Arsalee Morales** was saved a fine since she is now a home owner...David told her she needs to hold onto every penny.



The final Fine went to **Chris Ackerman** for a "Throwback Thursday" College photo of him rocking a Mullet. David figured the hair was about 20" long so for each inch, he was fined \$20!

## Raffle

**Dr. Ron Williams** was a huge winner this week as he took home BOTH \$30 El Pescador gift certificates and a VTA USB Bus from **Kevin Kane**! The other Rob, **Rob Kilpatrick** also went home with a VTA USB.

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$15.00**

*Polio Pig: \$6.00 + Dice (Ron Williams): \$5.00 + \$4 = \$15.00*

**Collected to Date: \$17,215.48**

**Total equals: 95,542 Doses!**

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



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2019-2020 .....	Steve Orr
Immediate Past President .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Kevin Kane
Club Service .....	Bill Edwards
Community Service .....	Paul Earle
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
Grants/Speech Contests .....	TBA
Scholarships.....	David North
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears

### Members-at-Large:

Dwight Johnson • Jon Hove • Rob Kilpatrick

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley & Greg Benson
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising/Flowers and Gifts .....	Steve Orr
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

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	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.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, AV, 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
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

**June 25 Past President's Dinner**  
Mama Carpino's Restaurant  
22010 HWY. 18, Apple Valley, CA  
Social: 5:30pm • Dinner: 6:00pm

**July 25: Movie Night and Fundraiser at the Hove's**  
5:30pm. Home of Jon and Linda Hove  
Movie: Notting Hill (1999)  
**Please Bring Side Dish or Dessert and Lawn Chairs or Blankets**

**Rotary**   
Club of Victorville, CA

## Upcoming Rotary Programs

**June 16:** Chris Ackerman, Marketing Manager,  
Victor Valley Transit Authority **Topic: The Frontline Life** (Kane)  
4-Way Speech Contest

**June 23: Assemblyman Jay Obernolte** (Page)  
Dan Stover Music Contest

**June 30:** Greg Benson/Rick Bessinger **Topic: First Responders and COVID-19** (Page)

**July 7:** Matt Cabe, Editor, Daily Press **Topic: A Journalist's Perspective of COVID-19** (Page)

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