



The Joshua Tree



June 16, 2020

LIVING THE FRONTLINE LIFE

There are many essential workers and businesses that have shown heroism during the COVID-19 pandemic such as First Responders, Medical Professionals, and Teachers. Count among them, Transit Operators. Transit is a critical business for infrastructure, and Victor Valley Transit Marketing Manager **Chris Ackerman**, plus Executive Director **Kevin Kane**, were on hand to share the "Frontline Life" of transit operators.



VVTA had a dual task, to both learn and educate Coronavirus to their staff as well as the public simultaneously. Social media posts went from daily to hourly and while the public was being alerted to COVID-19 precautions and service changes, the Directors were working out how to keep everyone employed.

With less riders getting onto buses, there was less need for vehicles and drivers on the routes, so the first step was to move from Full Service (6am – 10pm) to a Sunday Schedule (8am – 6pm). The answer was found with "A" and "B" teams. On one day, half of the operators would drive buses (*A Team*) while the other half (*B Team*) would volunteer to clean buses,

facilities, shelters and high touch points. Those employees who signed on with this work model, would get full time 40 hour pay, and even if they worked much less, VVTA covered the cost of a full week. Those who did not want to clean were paid for their driving hours and were allowed to collect unemployment for the remaining time.

Through March and April, the marketing of the VVTA went into overdrive, and most days were dedicated to Coronavirus marketing and solutions with Car Cards, digital screens, films and social media alerts. Also, during these months their ADA (elderly handicapped, door to door service) operators would perform wellness checks on their passengers.

In May, while information to the public continued, the focus turned towards those living the Frontline Life, the Drivers and staff members. At weekly "Food and Fun Wednesdays", the Administration Staff would feed the crews with homemade street tacos and nachos, plus food from local businesses like Los Pollos Bros and Hawkins Burgers on Wheels. While some food was served at their facilities in Hesperia and Barstow, some was served mobile, while the drivers were on their routes! They also had See's Candy given to them from the Boy Scouts and performed community outreach volunteering with the Benjamin E Jones Community Resource Center.

As restrictions ease up, Victor Valley Transit is well on their way to bringing back full serve to the public. Front door

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Kevin Kane

4-Way Test: Stew Anderson

Finemaster: David North

ORR'S ROARS



We had a full program this week with Honorary member, Club newsletter editor and Victor Valley Transit Marketing Manager Chris Ackerman speak to us and let us know what heroes their staff and drivers are, plus it was wonderful to hear Cindy

Pabla's 4-Way Speech. We are honored for you to represent us at the next level of competition.



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 week we will hear from Assemblyman Jay Oblernolte! Please arrive early and if you plan to bring guests, please contact Margaret Cooker in advance.

Steve Orr

www.victorvillerotary.org

4-Way Speech

As the Club steps further ahead into a sense of normalcy, we brought back our 4-way Speech Contest, where due to time and the pandemic, we only had one participant, but it was a great one! **Cindy Pabla**, a recent graduate of Victor Valley High School gave a passionate speech on how everything that has gone on in the world since the beginning of time, has taken place due to the human connection, whether through peace or the building of empire's, human needs are met. She spoke on Rotary International's work of practically eradicating Polio, as well as Rotary's work to promote fairness and embracing all of beauty and its people.



Cindy won a check in the amount of \$300 and will represent the Club at the Regional level in the High Desert later this month. Cindy will begin the next step of her academic career at UCLA as a Life Science Major, where she is interested in the medical field.

Thanks go out to judges **Paula Porter, Kevin Kane, Bryan Gillespie**, plus timekeepers **Brad Poiriez and Wendy Gillespie**.

Rotary Guests

Joining us this week we welcomed Options for Youth Principal **Wendy Gillespie**, who was with her husband, member **Bryan Gillespie**. Joining us once again was **Jessica Perez** from the MRGroup, and we also welcomed **Dana Hernandez** from Rockn' Our Disabilities Foundation. Our final guest this week was CSULA student **Robert Bruget**.

**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**

Big Blue Dice



We had a rare appearance from Paula Porter who won the chance for the Big Money but drew white..

We will continue next week with 11 dice and \$275 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Fine Session



David North was our Fine Master and began by wishing **Mike Page** a happy belated birthday and congrats on his 28-year Rotary Anniversary. His fine? \$28. **Don Lager** was penalized \$20 for making big money at his store for selling lots of TV's for people quarantined at home, and **Esther Mears** was fined the same amount for the bank's reopening. The final fine of the day was levied against **Jon Hove** for his decision to show "Notting Hill", what David called a "chick-flick", at his upcoming movie night, instead of a sports themed movie. Jon went home with \$20 less in his wallet for that.

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. June 29th to President Steve Orr.

Jessica Perez

Position: Tax Preparer/Process Servicer/Notary

Company: MRGroup

Classification: Service: Tax Preparation

**Sponsors: Bryan Gillespie
(and Stefanie Montoya)**

Raffle

Our speaker today **Chris Ackerman** went home with a USA candle and decoration set from **Esther Mears** at DCB, while **Dwight Johnson, Don Lager** and **Donna Wells** left the meeting with a Victor Valley Transit USB Bus. Esther will enjoy her bottle of wine from **Dwight Johnson**, and **Donna Wells** will have a great week with her bottle of Southern Comfort, also from Dwight. Our President **Steve Orr** took home the final gift, a DCB bag of goodies.

FRONTLINE LIFE

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boarding and fare collections have resumed, and the plan is to move up to their Saturday Service in July and Full Bus Service in August.

Transit workers are both essential and critical to keeping the Victor Valley moving. During this pandemic, they have put their own health on the line

to make sure essential workers can get to their essential jobs. They are truly living the Frontline Life.

Find out more at vvtta.org or follow them on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook @OfficialVVTTA.



NEXT WEEK:

Assemblyman Jay Obernolte

Please let Margaret Cooker know if you will attend and how many guests you are bringing.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$22.00

Polio Pig: \$17.00 + Dice (Paula Porter): \$5.00= \$22.00

Collected to Date: \$17,237.48

Total equals: 95,586 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

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, 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
FRIDAY:	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 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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