



# The Joshua Tree



July 9, 2019

## THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC HITS HOME

In the last 15 years, over 300,000 people have died from opioid overdoses, and in only the next 5 years, another 300,000 will also pass away from this epidemic. **Bill Edwards**, Club Rotarian and Director of the Victor Valley Rescue Mission spoke with some great authority on this subject, as a past addict himself, 12 years clean.

In 2017 an estimated 271 million people were recorded using drugs, and it is now 30% higher than it was 10 years ago. Places such as Africa, Asia, Europe and our own USA have seen the increase as well as the cannabis legalization have played a big role as well. Opioids are not limited to just pain pills, Fentanyl has been noted in the majority of the above mentioned deaths as well as Meth, Heroin, and cocaine have also played a part. In fact a lot of these drugs are now being combined into a kind of "super drug" which is causing faster addiction and more overdoses.

Here is how close it hits to home. Right here in Victorville the first Pharmacy in the "Operation Faux Pharmacy" Investigation by Federal Prosecutors, was Oasis Pharmacy. Owner Pauline filled at least 345 fraudulent prescriptions for oxycodone over the course

of just one year. Many of the prescriptions also included alprazolam and promethazine with codeine, also known as the "Holy Trinity" of pain pills. Using the name and DEA registration of a retired doctor, all in all they illegally gave out about 62,100 tablets of oxycodone! This was the first case to be charged under "Operation Faux Pharmacy".

With 2/3 of global deaths caused by Opioids and 35 million people suffering from addiction, it is getting out of hand. In fact, one county in Virginia alone once sold more opioids for half the whole country could use!

It is going to take everyone working together to tackle this problem. One way is through teaching about what these drugs do and how addictive they actually are. At the Victor Valley Rescue Mission, there is a 9 month recovery program, which not only deals with helping people get off their dependency, the hows and whys, and getting into the Word of God, to steer people clear from getting re-addicted. Find out more at [www.vvrescuemission.org](http://www.vvrescuemission.org).



### This Week's Functionaries

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Invocation:  | Matthew Farias  |
| Flag Salute: | Arsalee Morales |
| 4-Way Test:  | Steve Orr       |
| Finemaster:  | Ryan McEachron  |



# ORR'S ROARS



Thanks to **Bill Edwards** to speaking to the Club this week on the dangers of Opioid addiction. You are right Bill, the media does need to report on it more, not just when a celebrity suffers from it!

Luci Solar Lights are back. These are a fundraiser for the Club, so please see **Margaret Cooker** to buy some for your summer outdoor gatherings!

Speaking of Margaret, she shared this week that we will once again have our "Principals' Breakfast", where we will meet with area school officials to share with them about a variety of our programs, such as S.T.A.R. Students, Scholarships, and Music & Speech contests.

**Don Lager** gave a membership update. He is currently calling members who do not show up very often to our Luncheon's and is encouraging them to send someone instead as a stand-in. Don encourages other members to do the same.



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

## Raffle

The spouse is the good luck charm it seems! **Bill & Marianne Edwards** went home with the lion's share of the raffle gifts this week, taking home a copy of "The Transparent Leader III", donated by **Dwight Johnson**, the \$25 Midway gift card from **Don Lager**, a bottle of wine plus dark chocolate M&M's from **Steve Orr** and a USB bracelet from **Kevin Kane** at the VVTA! **Ryan McEachron** also received a USB bracelet and a bottle of wine from **Jim Mettler** at Cal Portland.

The final raffle gift was won by the person who donated it; an AMC gift card was donated and received by **Dwight Johnson**! Hey, fair is fair!

## Spoon of Exemption

While he spoke of traffic last week, **Dwight Johnson** chose this week to talk about the Summer! Once a quarter, El Dorado Broadcasters puts out a magazine and this one is all about Summertime Fun! With recipes, DIY projects, tips and more, there are also ample ad opportunities for you and your business. The next issue will be their annual Football issue, which is a one stop guide to not only the NFL Season, but also local High School and VVC Football! Contact Dwight for more information and how to best advertise your business!



## Rotary Club Text Messages

**To all members - If you'd like to receive text messages and reminders from the Club, please e-mail Margaret Cooker at [pdgcooker@verizon.net](mailto:pdgcooker@verizon.net), call 760-243-5928 the name of your cell phone carrier or go into [DaCdb.com](http://DaCdb.com) and enter it.**

**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**

## Big Blue Dice



*Bill Edwards got the opportunity for some big money, but pulled a white dice out of the bag for a \$5 win, which he donated back to the Polio Pig.*

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

## Celebration of Life

The family of **Al Castellucci** will be holding a Celebration of Life on Sunday, July 28 at the 7th Day Adventist Church, located at 16070 Lorene Dr in Victorville. A time was not given yet.

## Badge Upgrade!

This week Fine Master **Ryan McEachron** presented **Dwight Johnson** with his official Past President's Badge and **Steve Orr** with his official Club President Badge. Congrats to both of you fine leaders!



## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master this week, and has moved on with the times. In the past, Fine Masters have looked to the Daily Press to see who should be penalized, but now all he has to do is take a peek at Facebook!

In doing so, **Kirsten Acosta** was fined \$23 for her 23rd wedding anniversary and in the "Where were you during the Ridgecrest Earthquake?" Arena, **Bill Scott** was hit with a \$10 penalty for putting his boat in the water at the time, as was **Don Lager** for being in Pismo Beach and **Margaret Cooker** was also hit with a \$10 fine for being in a chair one minute and under a table the next!

## Paul Harris Fellow

**Margaret Cooker** announced a new Paul Harris Fellow! **Marie Langley** was given the honor of membership for her dedication of giving to the Rotary Foundation with a certificate and first of many pins! Thank you Marie for your generosity.



**CLUB ASSEMBLY**  
**Tuesday, July 23rd**  
**Voting on 2020-2021 Club President**

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$19.00**

*Polio Pig: \$14.00 + Dice (Bill Edwards): \$5.00 = \$19.00*

**Collected to Date: \$16,485.78**

**Total equals: 94,142 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
Community Service .....	Paul Earle
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/Ryla & TLC .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Dr. Breda Leach
Grants/Speech Contests .....	McKenzie Tarango
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 Buttlerwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Teressa DeAtley & Greg Benson
Club Service .....	
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Public Safety Awards.....	Rick Bessinger
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Marie Langley
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 Adelanto Club meets 2nd Wed. at Chamber Room at Adelanto Stadium at 11:30 a.m., and the 3rd and 4th Wed. at Budweisers, Adelanto Rd, Adelanto at 8am. 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

- July 13: New Year Celebration**  
Home of Bill & Linda Scott  
18136 Pier, Spring Valley Lake • 4:00pm  
(Counts as a Fireside)
- July 22: PAST PRESIDENT'S MEETING**  
5:30 pm • El Pescador Bar
- July 27: Movie Night at the Hove's**  
6:00 pm • Home of Jon & Linda Hove  
Bring Lawn Chair & Side Dish
- Aug 12: Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30 pm Meeting  
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Hesperia and Silica Roads

## Upcoming Rotary Programs

- July 16:** San Bernardino Sheriff Department Gang Team **TOPIC: "Update - Gang enforcement"** (Bessinger)
- July 23:** Michael Hingson, Author Thunderdog **TOPIC: "Surviving 911 as a Blind Man on the 78th floor"** (Mears)
- July 30: EVENING ROTARY MEETING: 6:00PM**  
**BJ's Brewhouse: Donia Plaza, Amagosa Rd**

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