

The Joshua Tree

August 4, 2020

The Games Pharmaceuticals Play

This week we heard from **Chris Bubser**, a biotechnology advisor who has built a career in healthcare, working with doctors, scientists, and business leaders to deliver lifesaving treatments to patients. After spending countless hours fighting insurance companies to try and get coverage for her daughter with epilepsy, Chris has been inspired to run for Congress. As someone who knows the healthcare system very well, plus the downsides not only medically but politically, she was on hand this week to discuss why prescription drug costs are so high.



Basic research and development goes into the making of prescription drugs, but it comes at a high price. The ones initially paying the cost are investors, and many times in the billions of dollars. As well as investors, all prescription drugs need to have a patent attached to it that runs for 17 years. Once everything begins with testing and marketing, the patent clock starts ticking.

It normally takes about 10 years for the drug to come to market and then the investors only have 7 more years to make their investments back. This simply is one of the main reasons why

the costs are so high. Plus, depending on the severity of what the drug will treat, the cost could be enormous. According to commonwealthfund.org, “Conditions like multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis and cancer which are treated with what are called specialty drugs and biologics – they have the highest-priced medicine – often \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year, and some drugs for these conditions are priced in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range for an annual treatment. But even drugs for common conditions like diabetes have been increasing astronomically and creating affordability issues for patients, because patients who are being treated

for diabetes take those medicines every day, so year over year increases are having an impact on their pocketbooks as well.”

Once a patent runs out, other companies can then begin marketing generic versions, which makes it much more affordable to the consumer but it means less money for the pharmaceutical companies. They end up passing up the inventing of new, innovative drugs, and instead changing some molecules and just putting out a slightly different type of the same medicine, to extend the patent another 17 years.

Chris then shared some updates on COVID vaccines. There are 140 vaccines currently in development, with 16 being actively tested from all over the world. Sadly, as Americans we are paying more for drugs than anywhere else in the world, so once a vaccine is one the market, you can be pretty sure that the pharmaceutical game will continue...

This Week’s Functionaries

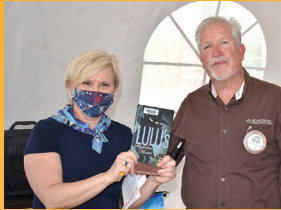
- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute: Arsalee Morales
4-Way Test: Steve Orr
Finemaster: Jim Barnes

ORR'S ROARS



Thank you to Chis Bubser for taking time out of your busy schedule to share the passionate information on the rising costs of prescription drugs in our country.

I was honored this week to present our new members Ersestina Escareno and Jessica Perez with their Rotary Plaques. I know you will both will make a difference not only in our Club but in our community as well.



Bill Edwards shared information on the Rescue Mission's successful backpack giveaway last week and thanked all of the Rotarian businesses for their partnerships at the event. While they gave out of all 1500 backpacks, 26 were kept

aside and will be donated to this year's Read B4K students, to give them a sense of normalcy and let them begin their educational path with the right tools!

Have a great Rotary Week!

Steve



www.victorvillerotary.org

Rotary Auction

If you haven't been to our Club's Facebook page lately, now is the time to revisit it, so you can share all of the auction items that are up for bid, to help raise much needed money for our vast amount of programs. We have six items up for bid through the end of August. These items consist of a Platinum Detail from Greiner, a pair of Garmin VivoFit Trackers & Galaxy Tab A from Heritage Victor Valley, a full security system from Apple Valley Communications, a load of gravel from Robar Enterprises, and a \$3000 Home Makeover from Midway Home Solutions . The Midway Makeover has the highest bid so far in the amount of \$1,700 from **Bill Scott**. It's your turn to outbid him!

Also, up for bid (*though not on Facebook*) is our growing Booze Wagon with electric wine opener and blanket. Please contact **Bill Edwards** to place your bid for that. For the rest of the items, please share on your Facebook pages...even if you are the current high bidder!

SILENT AUCTION **Rotary** Club of Victorville, CA

Security System

System includes a panel keypad, wireless communicator, 7 contacts, motion sensor and a key fob.

BID NOW!

SECURITY FIRE CCTV PHONE DATA NURSE CALL AUDIO VISUAL INTERCOM

SILENT AUCTION **Rotary** Club of Victorville, CA

Platinum Detail **BID NOW!**

GREINER BUICK GMC

PLATINUM DETAIL GIFT CERTIFICATE \$109.00 VALUE

SILENT AUCTION **Rotary** Club of Victorville, CA

HERITAGE VICTOR VALLEY MEDICAL GROUP

2 Garmin VivoFit fitness trackers & a Galaxy Tab A **BID NOW!**

SILENT AUCTION **Rotary** Club of Victorville, CA

\$3,000 **BID NOW!** HOME MAKEOVER

MIDWAY HOME SOLUTIONS

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



President Steve Orr had an opportunity to grab the Blue Dice, but drew white instead and donated his \$5 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.

Raffle

Donna Wells will be doing some reading with the book, *The Art of Recovery*, that was brought by **Bill Edwards**, and **Jeanette Gehrke** will be doing some shopping with the \$25 Midway gift card she won from **Jason Montana**. Finally, the Heritage mystery black box from President **Steve Orr** went home with **Jessica Perez**.

Welcome Back!



It's always wonderful to see a Rotarian return to the fold! At this week's meeting past President **Dwight Johnson** welcomed back two-time Victorville Club President **Charles Gehrke**, who left the Club several years ago to start up the (*now former*) Adelanto Club, where he served two presidential terms there as well. Time will tell if he serves a third term with our Club, but in the meantime, welcome back Charles!

Fine Session



Jim Barnes was once again the Fine Master and although thanking President **Steve Orr** for speaking during the program and providing more information, he was

basically doing a commercial for Heritage, which earned himself a \$10 Fine. Fire Chief **Greg Benson** was hit with a \$10 penalty for being a living breathing flag for the Pledge of Allegiance, **Mike Page** was hit for \$10 for not wearing his badge and **Dwight Johnson** picked up the same amount...Just because.

Jim asked if he was yet able to fine our newest Rotarians **Jessica Perez** and **Tina Escareño**, in which **Margaret Cooker** answered in the affirmative. Margaret was fined \$5 for indicting the new members, but don't worry, both ladies were fined \$5 as well!

Finally, **Charles Gehrke** went away with the final fine of \$10 for his presentation last week, citing Charles was just showing off how healthy he is, and how much we stink at taking care of ourselves.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Jeanette Gehrke**, wife of **Charles Gehrke**, **Taylor Valdes** from Apple Valley Communications who attended with **Arsalee Morales** and **Lindsay Barnes**, who is both the Campaign Manager of speaker **Chris Bubser** as well as daughter of our own **Jim Barnes**!

Our Stand-ins this week were **Jason Montana** for **Don Lager** and **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$15.00

Polio Pig: \$10.00 + Dice (Steve Orr): \$5.00= \$15.00

Collected to Date: \$17,348.48

Total equals: 95,808 Doses!

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





VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2019-2021	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/Ryla & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Dr. Bowtie Brian
Grants/Speech Contests	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
Scholarships.....	Please Volunteer
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.....	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.....	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

Aug 10: Board of Directors meeting
5:30 pm Meeting
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads

Upcoming Programs

Aug 11: Dr. Ron Williams, Superintendent, WUHS
Topic: Virtual Back to School: Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Page)



**I'M
A
PROUD
MEMBER**

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