

# The Joshua Tree

**August 10, 2021**

**HOLDING ON UNTIL SEPTEMBER 4TH**

Where did all the employees go? There is a hiring shortage all around the United States, and **Robert Lovinggood**, President of ICR Staffing, former 1st District Supervisor and Rotarian shed some light on this and helped the Club understand that the problem lies with Stimulus Checks and Cares Act unemployment benefits.



second round was even more money, so it became even more enticing not to look for a job.

The result is a huge impact on business owners. Companies have had to adjust, with increased labor costs, without the ability to raise their fees to customers. Currently, lack of experience can command \$17 per hour with full benefits. Drivers with a Class C License can get \$25 per hour with benefits. In the

The IRS issued three Economic Impact Payments during the coronavirus pandemic for people who were eligible: \$1,200 in April 2020, \$600 in December 2020/January 2021 and \$1,400 in March 2021. On top of that, the Cares Act for individuals who qualify, receive an extra \$600 on top of their bi-weekly \$225 checks. Due to all of this, it truly is financially beneficial for many Americans to stay home, then go to work. For those who used to make \$22,000 a year, now are able to make \$40,000 by not finding a job!

Inland Empire, there are 2,000 forklift jobs that cannot be filled which is driving up costs for these companies.

The outcome of this is a major hiring shortage going on in our country, but it is about to all end. September 4th to be exact. Robert based this off the end of the first round of benefits of \$600. Once the benefits expired people started to be back out looking for work, until another round of unemployment benefits began. The

It has gotten so bad that some companies are now offering bonuses and incentives for employees to show up for their whole work-shift week, as many are taking 3-5 day weekends at times. Say an employee just doesn't show up for work on a Tuesday. The call they receive is not, "You're Fired!", but "Will you be able to come in tomorrow?". Hiring incentives aren't working either. Robert shared an example of someone who was offered a \$10,000 sign on bonus and was turned down! But an end looks to be in sight.

Unless President Biden extends these unemployment benefits, it will all come to an end on September 4th. Robert predicts, as before that once the money isn't being given to them, people will be back out looking for work and soon positions will be filled quickly. Of course, if the benefits are once again extended, it will continue to be challenging for understaffed businesses to run.

Which leaves us with one final question. Once this happens and positions are filled, will HR Departments remember those employees who came to work whenever they felt like it? I think so...

## This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Bill Edwards
- Flag Salute:** Brad Poiriez
- 4-Way Test:** Donna Wells
- Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

## ORR'S ROARS



Welcome back! I had the opportunity to fill in once again for our President as Jon Hove was out again due to a minor foot surgery. Ever dedicated, Jon and Linda Hove still joined us on Zoom!

Thank you to Robert Lovingood for taking the time out of your very busy schedule



to speak to the Club about the Federal Stimulus, which may signal the end of the hiring shortage going on throughout our country.

Dwight Johnson was once again speaking cryptically this week adding to "All hands on deck", with "We are playing with a full deck" and "No jokers in this deck". More information after the August 16 Board meeting, but I think you can figure it out by now.

Don't forget to let Margaret Cooker know if you will be attending next week's Rotary meeting with Congressman Jay Obernolte and how many guests you will be bringing so we have enough food and seats!

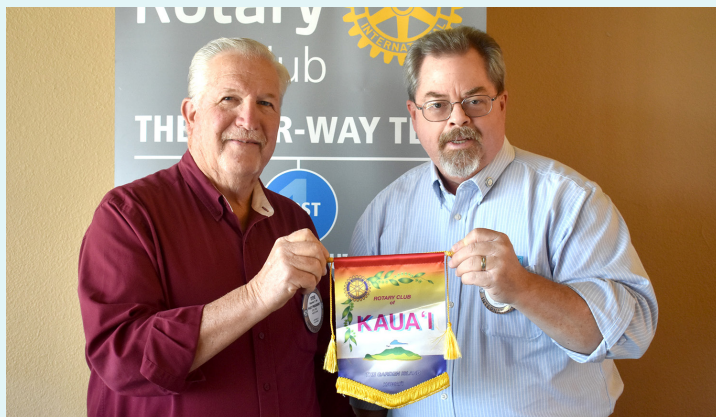
See you next week!

*Steve*



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

## Presentation



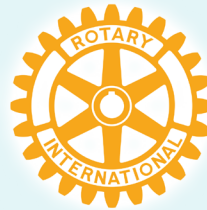
Dwight Johnson presents Past President Steve Orr with a Flag from the Rotary Club of Kauai in Hawaii, where Dwight recently returned from on vacation.

## Rotary Guests



This week we were joined by **Linda Scott**, the better half of Rotarian **Bill Scott**, and some friends from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, **Peter Allan** and **Pat Orr**! Joining our speaker **Robert Lovingood** was **Mike Thrapp** from ICR Staffing.

# Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA

# SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## Big Blue Dice



**Dwight Johnson had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but grabbed a white one and donated his \$5 back to the Polio Pig.**

**We will continue next week with 8 dice and \$350 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.**

## Raffle

There were a bevy of goodies at this week's raffle! A couple of cooling rags from Victor Valley Transit will be used by **Donna Wells** and **Ryan McEachron**. Ryan also went home with a cup from **Esther Mears** at DCB. Esther left the meeting with a bottle of wine from **Dwight Johnson**, who also brought another copy of "Men of Integrity" that was won by **Rob Kilpatrick**, who already received it previously, so he gave it to visiting **Pat Orr**. Continuing on, Rob also will enjoy a \$25 Starbucks gift card he received from **Steve Orr**. DCB was not done yet, as a pair of ear buds will be used by **Tina Escareño**.



The most sought after gift, courtesy of **Dwight Johnson** was a bottle of Larceny Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey that found a new home with **Brad Poiriez**!

**We will have a Christmas Party on Thursday, December 9th at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club! If you'd like to be on the committee to make this our best ever, please contact Arsalee Morales.**

## Spoon of Exemption



Summer is still here for a couple more months and **Oscar Garcia** wants you to be careful. Oscar had another week with the Spoon and although Elementum Services is not an HVAC Repair facility, he warns Rotarians to have their company of choice check their A/C unit condensation lines. These lines can cause water to build up and reek damage throughout your home, which will then require Elementum Services.

Find out more at [elementumservices.com](http://elementumservices.com).

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and began his session by giving a \$25 to **Robert Lovingood** for being late to his own speaking engagement! Although the air quality is very poor due to another summer of fires, **Brad Poiriez** was penalized \$10 for being at the meeting instead of cleaning the air. Fire Chief **Jeff Armstrong** was then asked to pay \$31.50 in honor of the opening of Station 315, but since he was too busy reading his own cover story in last week's newsletter, it was doubled to \$63!



The final fines of \$10 were presented to our visiting Rotarians **Peter Allan** and **Pat Orr** from the Victorville East Club (Apple Valley).

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$25.00**

*Polio Pig: \$18.00 + Peter Allen: \$1.00 + Pat Orr: \$1.00  
+ Dice (Dwight Johnson): \$5.00= \$25.00*

**Collected to Date: \$18,098.63**

**Total equals: 97,311 Doses!**

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



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2021-2022 .....	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025 .....	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026 .....	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President .....	Steve Orr
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
Foundation.....	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Stephen Quintero
Club Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Community Service .....	Michael Krause
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service .....	Jessica Perez
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests .....	Jessica Perez
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Dwight Johnson
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears

**Members-at-Large:** David North, Esther Mears, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum & Jeff Armstrong
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	TBA
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Jim Barnes
Fundraising .....	Arsalee Morales
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 Spring Valley Lake Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, 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., Cracker Barrel, 11612 Amargosa Rd, Victorville San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	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
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

- Aug 16:** **Board of Directors meeting**  
*Revised Date!*  
5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*  
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Hesperia and Silica Roads
- Aug 21:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**  
Home of Jon & Linda Hove  
18970 Appaloosa Rd., Apple Valley, CA

## Upcoming Programs

- Aug 17:** **Congressman Jay Obernolte**
- Aug 24:** Jason Lamoreaux, Owner/Broker Coldwell Banker Commercial and Residential Real Estate **Topic: Update on the Real Estate Market - What's Going On"** (Page)
- Sept 7:** Chris Romero **Topic: The Outreach program - Meal Packaging for Local Hunger"** (Meares)
- Sept 14:** Dr. Ron Williams, Superintendent, WVUSD **Topic: TBD"** (Page)
- Sept 28:** **Red Cross** (Meares)

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