



The Joshua Tree

September 19, 2023

WALKING THE GREEN CARPET

To be an effective California Assemblyman, you must spend a lot of time in Sacramento. You need to set up a fundraiser in Sacramento, do a lot of flying up and down the State, attend a lot of meetings, and meet a lot of people there, as shared by **Thurston "Smitty" Smith** during his tenure as California Assemblyman for our District.

As soon as Smitty was elected in late 2019, the first challenge for him was being a new Assemblyman right when the world was shut down due to Covid. But the meetings still happened, just virtually, not in person. His record for the most Zoom meetings in one day stands at 14! Some meetings were with individuals, and others with large groups, all looking for support for their legislation.

While Smitty is a conservative Republican, he learned early the importance of developing relationships with both parties. He learned 20% of legislators will never agree, but 60% can agree to a certain extent on issues that are truly important, such as veterans, crime, education and other important issues. The green-carpeted Assembly Floor consists of 62 Democrats and 18 Republicans and it takes 41 votes to pass any legislation so bipartisanship is of the utmost importance when there is a super majority. Even though Smitty is no longer an elected official, he still maintains relationships with his "Hall Partners" from both sides of the aisle.



He also worked to develop relationships with those on the red-carpeted Senate Floor, which is composed of 32 Democrats and 8 Republicans. If a Bill passes Assembly, it must go to the Senate and pass again, before going back to the Assembly for a vote before it can land on the Governor's desk.

On the Assembly Floor if a vote is a close 30 or 40 votes a recess is taken and groups will huddle together to try and get others to change their votes. In what Smitty witnessed, bribery and threats of lack of funds to a Assemblyman's District, will sometimes cause a person to change his or her vote.

As mentioned earlier, Smitty lost in the last election cycle. He puts that down in part to a fellow Assemblywoman. She wanted to pass a Bill, and Smitty chose to speak in the Chamber against it, and due to his "off the cuff" speech, many changed their votes and the Bill did not pass. Afterwards the woman came up to Smitty and said, "I'll get you back for this". As a result, she donated \$250,000 to oppose his reelection.

Smitty also took a few moments to share some Bills that shockingly never got through. Two such instances was one that would make sexual predator crimes a felony and another where an attack on an officer would be charged as a hate crime. Both died on the Floor.

Currently there are 900 passed bills on the Governor's desk and he must sign them by October 14th or will die and start all over again from the bottom next year.

During his time, Smitty had six legislations passed and is happy for his time there and proud of what he accomplished. Smitty is unsure if he will have a continued career in politics or elsewhere, but he ended his presentation with a message to all. Don't get upset or offended, just get involved.

This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Brad Poiriez
- 4-Way Test:** Steve Murray
- Fine Master:** David North



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thanks to Smitty for coming out and sharing what really goes on behind the

scenes at our State Capital. It was great to hear the good and be educated on the bad. It is a challenging world we live in, but Rotarians can still make a difference.



Don't forget to sign up for our next Fireside at the home of Stew and Diane Anderson on Wednesday, October 4th from 5:30 - 8:30pm. Food will be provided by Jersey Mike's Subs. See page 4 for more information.

If you are a Jeep owner or off-roader please join us for a fun weekend of cruising and camping from October 13th - 15th. Over the weekend we do a challenging run, and the next day a nice cruise in the desert. Its a great weekend with a fire pit, BBQ and more. Please talk to me if you want to be a part of this!

We have a Rotary Enseñada, Mexico Trip coming up from December 15th - 17th, where we will fellowship with the Enseñada Club and visit the orphanage. Please see Ben Tafoya for more information

See you next week!

Steve

Beer Pour!

Thanks to **Pat Thomasson, Arsalee Morales, Margaret Cooker, Dan Dever, Ben Tafoya, Dr. Ron Boyd, Steve & Pam Murray, Jim & Leslie Murray, Denny Wells** plus **Bryan & Wendy Gillespie** for all of your help at the Beer Pour this past Sunday at Hesperia Lakes Park for Mexican Independence Day and the Happy Trails Rodeo! The event was a great success and the Club made money that will help further our many programs that serve our communities.



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



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Big Blue Dice



Ben Tafoya had the chance to grab the Blue Dice and did it, and left the meeting \$450 richer! Steve Murray gave him the promised extra \$100, which Ben gave back for the Basket. The pot will begin again next week with 14 dice and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Dice.

Raffle

During this week's raffle, **David North** donated a bottle of wine that won by **Terry Saenz**. **Bryan Gillespie** was a winner, taking home a "Go Lunch Time Pack" from **Ben Tafoya**, a lantern from **Bill Edwards** and a set of pens from **Mike Johnson**. **Jim Murray** also received a set of pens from Mike.

Bill also donated some hummingbird food and seed planting kit that will be used by Mr. Tafoya, and Terry brought a couple of ICR goodie bags with gift cards that were enjoyed by Bill and **Bo Goulet**. Bo also left the meeting with a Bob's Tire gauge and Terry received a Bob's Tire lunch cooler, both brought by Jim.

Fine Session



State Capital, depressed David severely.

The only other penalty levied was to **Margaret Cooker** in the amount of \$20 for her phone going off during the meeting.

David North was our Fine Master again this week and first began by fining **Mike Page** for bringing Smitty to speak to the Club, because some of the things he shared that happening in the

Rotary Guests

Our only Stand-in this week was **Terry Saenz** who attended in place of **Robert Lovingood**.

Spoon of Exemption

Mike Johnson had another week with the Spoon and shared that Flagstar Bank has home equity loans available for your



next home project! Flagstar has home equity loans at 8.04%APR. With this loan there is no prepayment penalty, lump sum payment, and your payment will remain fixed over the life of the loan.

Flagstar also has home equity solutions to do home renovations, your child's education, debt relief and much more. A home equity line of credit can be as low as 8.74%APR, where you can borrow as needed, which is great for periodic expenses. You have multiple draw options at variable rates.

Please stop by Flagstar Bank in Apple Valley, where Mike is the Manager, to get more information.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$15.00

Collected to Date: \$19,966.52

Total equals: 100,917 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!

Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

- President 2023-2024Steve Murray
- President 2024-2025Bryan Gillespie
- President 2025-2027 Bill Edwards
- President 2027 - 2028 **Please be Interviewed**
- Immediate Past President/Special Projects..... Arsalee Morales
- Treasurer/Scholarships David North
- Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants Margaret Cooker
- Club Service/MembershipBryan Gillespie
- Community Service/Speech Contests Mike Johnson
- International Service..... Ben Tafoya
- Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC/Ethics Essay..... Ron Boyd
- Vocational Service Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

Positions & Committee Chairs

- BOD Secretary Pam Murray
- Billing OfficerEsther Mears
- Dan Stover Music Contest..... Dawn Quigg
- Flowers and Gifts Linda Hove
- Foundation & Grants Margaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor Chris Ackerman
- Membership.....Steve Murray
- Programs Mike Page
- Publicity/Public Relations Rob Kilpatrick
- Public Safety..... Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley,
and John Wickum
- Sergeant At Arms.....Steve Murray
- Scholarships..... David North
- S.T.A.R. StudentsMaureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, 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.,
Mile High Cafe, 8832 Orange St., Hesperia
San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon,
Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St,
Barstow, CA
- THURSDAY:** Apple Valley, Thursday various meeting locations
and times. 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

- Oct 4:** **Fireside with Stew & Diane Anderson!**
5:30pm - 8:30pm
18258 Deauville Drive, SVL
760-245-8816
Bring a Dessert, Salad or Side Dish!
This event is open to family, friends and/
or potential members
- Oct 9:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm -Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
Location: TBA

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



Upcoming Programs

- Sept 26:** **San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus** (Wickum)
- Oct 3:** John Kozyra, St. Mary Executive Director Operations **TOPIC: Sexual Assault in the High Desert - Why is it Underreported and What Can be Done to Assist the Victims** (Page)
- Oct 10:** **OPEN**
- Oct 17:** Colleen Quinn, El Dorado Broadcasters **TOPIC: The History of Radio in the High Desert** (Thomasson)

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