



**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA 

THE **JOSHUA TREE**



OCTOBER 18, 2016

A Visit to VVTA



Rotarians this week were treated to a great off-site meeting hosted by **Kevin Kane** and other staff members from the Victor Valley Transit Authority.

The company was formed in 1992 as the VVTSA, and right at its inset, began using CNG fuel instead of diesel, a natural fuel which is cheaper and less pollutant. They also began

a "Down the Hill" bus service, which has since evolved into other concepts and they dropped the "S", to what we have today, the Victor Valley Transit Authority. The company began working out of a small trailer located at the Victorville Publics Works Yard until they moved to Hesperia in 1999, taking over the old Apex Tool Rental store but it soon proved to still be too small. In fact, two employees worked inside a converted shipping container!

During these early years, the VVTA began to put away funds in anticipation of building a new and first ever bus facility. Before that was to happen, the VVTA created a CNG Fueling station and much more which took the

building of a facility a little farther down the line.

In 2007, the dream of this building began but due to some budgeting and construction issues, it took quite a bit longer to finish, but finish it eventually did, and now the VVTA has a fantastic facility which allows for more programs near and far.

Bus service around the Victor Valley is only one small part that Kevin and his staff do at the Transit Authority. Their NTC Commuter provides commuter bus service to Fort Irwin's National Training Center (NTC). The five-day work week schedule serves the High Desert cities of Hesperia, Victorville, Helendale, Barstow and Fort Irwin. Service is first-come, first-serve basis. Luxury buses feature reclining seats, 110-volt power outlets for electronic devices, onboard restrooms, and wireless internet connectivity.

The Paratransit service provides qualified individuals who meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements with low-cost paratransit bus service within the Victor Valley. This is a complementary to fixed route bus service, offering low-cost curb to curb service to individuals who meet ADA requirements and are certified.

The VVTA Vanpool serves High Desert commuters who commute throughout Southern California, delivering big savings & reducing traffic congestion.

Along with all of these services, the VVTA has also recently acquired the Barstow Area Transit and the VVTA Needles CarShare features hourly rental starting at just \$5 an hour. In partnership with Enterprise Rent-A-Car, vehicles are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for those needing to get to courthouses, medical appointments, and even shopping.

For more information visit vvta.org.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Van Young
Flag Salute:	Sam Lucia
4-Way Test:	Doug Robertson
Song:	Al Castellucci

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ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY



Dwight's Writes

This week we had the first off-site Rotary meeting of my term and it was not only fun and informative, but well attended too. **Kevin Kane** did a great job and I loved hearing the history of the VVTA and the tours that followed. Thank you Kevin for opening up your business to us.

At this week's meeting we had a Club Assembly to pose the question of **Brad Letner's** request to serve two terms concurrently from 2018 - 2020. It was voted in favor by Rotarians in attendance with **Mike Page** making the motion and **Sam Lucia** with a second to it. **Brad Letner** will now serve two terms as the President of our Club after **Dan Munsey**.

I am excited to announce that I have added **Marie Langley** as a Board Director. Marie came with a lot of recommendations and we know she will bring a lot to the table.

Brad Letner spoke on the struggles and triumphs of the Read B4K Project. The Project is still struggling to find a good amount of volunteers to assist our six kids this year. They are just starting out and struggle with sounding out letters, and need help, but once Christmas comes, they will be reading words. Please consider helping out just once a month on a consistent basis. Good news though is that

District Governor Elect **Raghada Khoury** wants to make it her Area Program throughout the District!

First Lady **Trish Johnson** made a large batch of cookies for all of the October birthdays, but the only one who was in attendance was **Gary Adams**, so he received a bag of sweets for his special day.



Finally, my thought of the week is "Learn to do things right and then do them right every time." - **Bob Knight**.

Off-Site Fun!



Raffle Prizes

This week's **Kevin Kane** at VVTA provided a bounty of raffle prizes, but so did **Rosanne Weathers** at Desert Valley Medical Group, so most of the prizes were combo gifts from both companies to give out to members.

A DVMG light extender and VVTA thumb drive bus went to **Jimmie Smith**, another light and VVTA tote bag went to **Gary Adams** who also took home a VVTA Cup and VVTA water bottle! **Brad Letner** won a DVMG light and a VVTA lunch bag and finally **Dr. Roger Wagner** also went home with a VVTA cup!

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$15.00

Polio Pig: \$10.00 + Dice (Brad Letner): \$5.00 = \$15.00

Collected to Date: \$13,608.15

Total equals: 88,264 Doses!

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



Rotary Guests

Due to the fact that we had an off-site this week, we had no guests, but **Jimmie Smith** once again stood in for **Mark McKay**.

Fine Session

This week **Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and he began by calling out **Jim Murray**. Jim recently got back from a trip up to Seattle by to see his son, and then spent a couple months coming back down along the coast and visiting wineries. Jim was given a \$50 because Ryan doesn't see him that often!

Sam Lucia was congratulated for winning his recent lawsuit, but was given a \$25 fine for the "selfies" he has been posting on Facebook recently. **Mike Page** received a fine as well in the amount of \$10 for asking **Kevin Kane** a question about the delayed construction of VVTA during his presentation that Kevin did not want to discuss.

Speaking of **Kevin Kane**, he was given a fine free pass for life from Ryan for saving taxpayers over 45 million over the years at VVTA. **Marie Langley** and **Rosanne Weathers** were also given a fine free pass because Desert Valley sponsored Ryan's campaign fundraiser!

Finally, **Don Lager** was also fine free this week due to the excitement Ryan's kids get every time they drive by Midway and see the big inflatable witch!

Lucky Blue Dice



Brad Letner got the chance to get some big money for his wallet this week, but the blue dice stayed in the bag!

Next week we will have 5 dice and \$425 up for grabs for the one lucky Rotarian who can select the blue dice.

Spoon of Exemption

Dr. Roger Wagner decided to defer this week on speaking about Victor Valley College and instead shared his recent



overseas trip to South Africa for a 2 week Safari and visits to the Rainforest and Kruger National Park.

Dr. Wagner told the Club how this trip was quite a bit different than a trip to the Zoo,

where he got to see up close the "big five" of safari animals, such as baboons, zebras, hippos, rhinos, lions and assorted monkeys. To bring the point home, he shared that on their 4th night there, they were given a whistle and could not go out at night without an escort, due to a lion kill in the compound!



Photos provided by Dr. Wagner

Angle Tree 2016

The 2016 Angel tree is coming very soon. Please help a local High Desert family have a Christmas this year, by picking up an Angel Tree tag for one person, or for a whole family, and spread some holiday cheer to those in need.

See **Stew Anderson** or **Van Young** for more information.





VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2016-2017	Dwight Johnson
Immediate Past President/International.....	Ben Tafoya
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Administration ...	Margaret Cooker
Incoming President 2017-2018/Membership	Dan Munsey
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service & President 2018-2019	Brad Letner
Community Service	Victor Rocha
Youth Service/Scholarships	Van Young
Vocational Service	Alicia Anderson

Members-at-Large:

Steve Orr • Mark Taylor • Dan Dever • Rob Kilpatrick • Marie Langley

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Billing Officer	Jennifer Starbuck
Sergeant At Arms.....	Gary Adams
Song Master	Al Castellucci
Programs	Mike Page
Wine, Jazz & More	Brad Letner
R.Y.L.A./TLC/Public Safety Awards	Teresa Coomes
Flowers and Gifts	Trish Johnson
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 Adelanto Club meets 2nd Wed. at Chamber Room at Maverick 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, Los Domingo's 1520 Main St, Quigley's Outlet Center, Lenwood, noon University Prep, 13853 Seneca Rd, 2:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Apple Valley Country Club, noon 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 24:** **Past Presidents Meeting**
5:30pm • El Pescador, Victorville
- Oct 27:** **HD Fireside - District Governor Luciano de Sylva at AV Chamber**
5pm • 16010 Apple Valley Rd, Apple Valley
- Dec 1:** **2016 Club Christmas Party**
5:30pm • \$45 per person
Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse
Meal Choices: Chicken Cordon Bleu,
Prime Rib or Salmon

Future Rotary Programs

- Oct. 25 :** **District Governor Visit** (Johnson)
BOD meets with Governor at 10.30 am to review club and then gives his annual address to the membership
- Nov. 1 :** San Bernardino County Assessor - Recorder - County Clerk, Bob Dutton
TOPIC: "Calico and the Silver King Mines" (Page)
- Nov. 8 :** Colonel Taylor, Fort Irwin **TOPIC: "Ft. Irwin"** (Letner)
S.T.A.R. Students from Village and Liberty
- Nov. 15 :** **Annual Veterans Day Program** (Letner)

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