

# The Joshua Tree

**November 9, 2021**

## **BURYING THE DEAD WHILE TRYING TO SAVE THE LIVING**

It was one year ago that the flood gates opened at Desert View Funeral Home and Memorial Park, as shared this week by General Manager **Allen Williams**. It was during this time that Covid deaths went through the roof.

Pre-Covid, while the Funeral Home received a few calls per day from families looking to cremate or bury a loved one, all of a sudden they were fielding 20-25 calls per day! With this many calls coming in on a daily basis, Allen needed to close



up Desert View for two main reasons. The first reason was to protect their staff, and second was because they needed to turn the funeral home into a morgue. They had so many bodies due to Covid-19, they had to buy saw horses and plywood to stack them up. When Corporate offered to send Allen a refrigerator truck, he told them they would need to send a whole fleet, as they could fill a whole truck in one day!

They kept up by running their cremating services 24/7 and hold burial services all day long. Burial services became only graveside services, with no viewings or chapel services. They only allowed ten people at each service and had to stay 20 ft. away from staff. Desert View's sister funeral homes would send Allen 12-15 cremations per

day which made their job even harder. In the end, for the first time in Allen's career, he had to tell families, "No", as there weren't enough hours in the day to take care of their backlog.

The industry itself was also thrown in a mess. Casket making companies went from receiving a couple of calls per day from many funeral homes around the country to build caskets, to the same amount of companies now ordering 20 per day.

After 4-5 months, things slowly began to go back to normal, due to people protecting themselves and others by getting vaccinated. Since vaccinations became widely available, it was almost like the Covid faucet was shut off. As the community reopened Desert View began getting back to normal, with more car crash deaths, suicides and homicides over Covid-19 deaths. Currently they take about 1-2 calls a day from a Covid death, and all are from unvaccinated people...None from people who have been vaccinated. Allen predicts Covid will be around for many years in one way over another.

To conclude, Allen shared one piece of important information. If a loved one passes away due to Covid, as long as you have the Death Certificate lists Covid as main cause or contributory of death and the report from the Funeral Home, FEMA will cover the whole cost of the cremation or burial. Allen has seen many family members change their minds about getting the vaccine once a loved one dies, but sadly, many still follow the disinformation train that people buy into.

Thank you Allen for sharing your insights, as hard as some of it was to hear, and doing your part to not only put the dead to rest, while trying to save the ones who are still alive.

### **This Week's Functionaries**

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Don Lager
- 4-Way Test:** Russ Stringham
- Fine Master:** David North

# HOVE'S HELLO'S

Thanks to all of the members who showed up this week to hear Allen Williams from Desert View Memorial Park share the truth about Covid-19 and its deadly effect



on Funeral Homes. Thank you for sharing your experiences with the Club.



We are still needed volunteers for Vocational Service Chair, Dan Stover Music Chair, and Presidents for the upcoming Rotary years. Please see me if you need further information.

Sees Candy is now available for the holidays! See Margaret Cooker to place your order.

Arsalee Morales gave another update from Bingo Night and we have now raised over \$9,000 towards the Club! Thank you again all who helped!

Don't forget we will feature Assemblyman Thurston "Smitty" Smith next week here at Rotary, invite potential members and guests and lets fill the room!

*Jon Hove*



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## Fine Session

Hitchin a Ride! **David North** was our Fine Master and began by presenting **Rob Kilpatrick** with a \$20 fine for a photo. David messaged Rob asking for a ride to Rotary, but Rob sent back a photo of a car driving away into the sunset!

**Terry Caldwell's** turns 84! After wishing him a happy birthday, David gave Terry a present of a \$24.50 fine. **Bill Edwards** was penalized \$10 for both his 5th year as a Rotarian and for celebrating 33 years of marriage!

Finally, **Mike Page** paid for sharing news on his daughters! His daughter **Kimberly Page** will be competing in the Golden State Athletic Conference, All Conference in Cross Country for the 3rd consecutive year.

**Kylie Page** qualified for CIF Cross Country prelims at Mt. SAC which will be this Saturday, November 13 and daughter **Katherine Page** is currently preparing for her third marathon! Mike received \$20 fines for each daughter, resulting in \$60.



## Getting His Basket...Finally!



**Don Lager** made a rare, retirement Rotary appearance this week, and thanks to **Linda Hove**, Don was finally presented with the basket he won during the Silent Auction portion at "Move Night at the Hove's", way back in August!

# SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## Big Blue Dice



*Dwight Johnson got the Blue Dice and received \$450.*

*We start over next week with 13 dice and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice from the bag.*

## Rotary Guests

Our only guest this week was **Linda Hove** who came with President **Jon Hove**, and our only Stand-in this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

## Spoon of Exemption

**Pastor Paul Earle** had the Spoon this week and reminded Rotarians that while our speaker this week spoke of people dying, Life Church is preparing people for the afterlife!



The Church just began a series on Spiritual Warfare, to help Christians fight against the power of the enemy, especially to give hope to those who are suffering from depression and fear in our community. Find out more at [wlifetchurch.me](http://wlifetchurch.me) or call their prayer line at 877-745-2451.

## Raffle

**Russ Stringham** and **Rob Kilpatrick** were huge winners in this week's raffle! Rob received Sees Candy from the Club, a copy of "Men of Integrity" and two bottles of wine from **Dwight Johnson**, plus two Victor Valley Transit water bottles from **Chris Ackerman**, which he shared with **Corey Beck** and **Fire Captain Jeff Armstrong**.

Russ won a \$25 Midway gift card from **Don Lager**, a DVD and a 2022 calendar, as did **Pastor Paul Earle**.



# Christmas PARTY

Thursday, December 9th • 5:30pm  
Spring Valley Lake Country Club

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$12.00**  
**Collected to Date: \$18,478.20**  
**Total equals: 98,070 Doses!**

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



# Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



The Joshua Tree is a Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Victorville  
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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at  
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2021-2022 .....	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025 .....	<b>Need Candidates</b>
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/Ryla & TLC .....	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service .....	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests .....	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
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.....	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause
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., Denny's, 13165 Main St., Hesperia 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

- Dec 9:** **Rotary Christmas Party**  
5:30pm - Fellowship & Networking  
7:00pm - Dinner & Holiday Fun!  
SVL Country Club
- Dec 13:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30 pm Meeting  
ARMAC Insurance Board Room  
Rear Building on Yuma

## Upcoming Programs

- Nov 16:** **Assemblyman Thurston "Smitty" Smith** (Page)
- Nov 23:** **TBD**
- Nov 30:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**  
El Tio Pepe • 5:30pm  
12100 Amargosa Road, Victorville

Rotary  
Club of Victorville, CA



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