

The Joshua Tree

November 16, 2021

MR. SMITTY GOES TO SACRAMENTO

Our Club was honored to receive a visit this week from 33rd District Assemblyman **Thurston “Smitty” Smith**, former owner of Smitty’s Concrete Pumping. Smitty also served time as a Director with the Mojave Water Agency and three terms as the Mayor of Hesperia.



Smitty was elected as our Assemblyman in November 2020 following Jay Obernolte’s election to Congress and just finished his first year legislative session. In the Assembly, there are 80 members. 60 are Democrats, 19 are Republicans, and one Independent, which makes it a truly one-party ruled state. Smitty authored two Bills this session, both aimed for Veterans. The first one would allow for a 50% discount for any Veteran starting up a new business, and the second would add a Veteran Status symbol on their Drivers License. Both died in committee, because Smitty wouldn’t support another Assemblywoman’s Bill. He also worked with other members of the legislature to pass AB 359, which makes reciprocity for doctors easier between California and other states. This was signed by the governor last month. Smitty also took the time to share some very bad Bills that were very anti-business and anti law enforcement come through.

Once such Bill that thankfully died was SB359. It would have created a pilot program to tax drivers for the miles driven to force zero-emission vehicle purchases. More electrical cars would mean less gas tax revenue so they wanted to charge for the miles driven to make up the cost.

Another Bill, AB 1346 would require small motor equipment like lawn mowers, chainsaws and leaf blowers to be electric only by 2024. If someone uses a landscaper, they would have to plug into the homeowner’s house to provide their services.

Another Bill that died on the floor would require a tax on guns and ammunition. Smitty’s argument that people who legally buy guns and ammo don’t commit crimes with them, it is the people who steal them, so why would you put a tax on the ones who are not using them for nefarious purposes?

As one might be aware, the Joshua Tree is currently a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act as of October 9, 2020. In February of this year, there was a court hearing in Fresno County that rejected efforts by the City of Hesperia and the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association to remove the Joshua Tree from “candidate status.” The California Fish and Game Commission is going to be reviewing the petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and developing their own report by April 9, 2022.

Finally Smitty spoke about the Inflation. Prices are 5.4% higher this September than at the same time last year. In fact, an economist at Moody’s said that the average U.S. household is paying an additional \$175 per month for basic necessities. It’s basically a hidden tax increase. Smitty promises to continue to fight for businesses, Veterans and water issues throughout the State.

This Week’s Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Jim Murray
- 4-Way Test:** Robert Lovingood
- Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

HOVE'S HELLO'S



Thank you to our 33rd District Thurston "Smitty" Smith for taking the time to come out this week and share all the latest information and year he had in Sacramento. We

cannot wait to hear all that you accomplish over the next year.



Our Christmas Party is just a few weeks away! Make your plans for Thursday, December 9th at Spring Valley Lake Country Club. We will have Bingo, Prizes, Music and More! Cost is \$50 per person or \$95 per couple. Please make sure you sign up so we get a good count.

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.

Jon Hove



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Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was in charge this week and while Fine Masters get one clap, **Stew Anderson** stated that Ryan didn't even deserve a single clap which earned him a \$10 penalty. **Jim Mettler** made a rare appearance from Utah which netted him a \$25 fine, and **Bill Scott** left with \$30 less in his pockets for his wife and daughters celebrating birthdays over the next few weeks. In the "no good deed goes unpunished" category, **Oscar Garcia** paid \$10 for letting Ryan sit at his table at VMI. Other \$10 fines went to **Kirsten Acosta** for still having a Blue Badge, **Dr. Ron Williams** for holding his "Supper with the Superintendent" event and **Arsalee Morales** for having to move the Flag during Smitty's presentation.

Christmas PARTY

Thursday, December 9th • 5:30pm
Spring Valley Lake Country Club
BINGO, PRIZES, FOOD, MUSIC & MORE!
Food Choices: Prime Rib, Turkey, Salmon

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Big Blue Dice



Dr. Ron Williams started us off with a new game this week and wouldn't you know it, he picked out the Blue Dice and won \$200! We start over again next week with 14 dice and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice from the bag.

Rotary Guests

Our only guest this week included **Linda Hove** who came with President **Jon Hove**, and **Miriam Munoz**, Field Representative for **Thurston "Smitty" Smith**, who attended as guest of **Mike Page**. Also in attendance was **Josi Dawson** who was invited by **Gloria Garcia** and **Arsalee Morales** had her daughter Taylor with her this week.

Our Stand-ins this weeks were Chandale Sutton for Pastor Paul Earle and **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Spoon of Exemption

Chandale Sutton had the Spoon this week for **Pastor Paul Earle** and reminded everyone that Life Church is continuing their study into spiritual warfare this Sunday. This weekend they will equip Christians to know the tricks of the enemy, and how to navigate and guard yourself from spiritual attacks. Finally, Chandale shared that after canceling the event in 2020, they will be having an in-person Christmas Eve Service this year!



Raffle

Jim Mettler comes in from Utah and takes away a bevy of goodies! Jim will go home with a Victor Valley Transit water bottle and cell phone charging kit from **Chris Ackerman**, plus an Elementum Services goodie bag of booze from **Oscar Garcia**. **Chandale Sutton** was another big winner by going back to Life Church with a candle from **Jim Murray**, a 2022 Veterans calendar from **Dwight Johnson** and two cans of hard seltzer from Oscar. **Stew Anderson** also won a can of hard Seltzer, as



well as a book from Dwight.

Oscar Garcia didn't do too bad himself, leaving the meeting with a bottle of wine and a \$25 Midway gift card from **Don Lager**. Finally, the most sought after raffle prize came from **Jim Mettler**. He donated a bottle of Layer Cake Wine from South Australia which will be enjoyed by **Robert Lovingood**.



The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$16.00

Polio Pig: \$15.00 + Miriam Munoz: \$1.00 = \$16.00

Collected to Date: \$18,494.20

Total equals: 98,102 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	Need Candidates
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	Need Volunteer
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests	Need Volunteer
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 Buttlerwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum & Jeff Armstrong
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Need Volunteer
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

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, 13165 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

Dec 9: Rotary Christmas Party
5:30pm - Fellowship & Networking
7:00pm - Dinner & Holiday Fun!
SVL Country Club
\$50 per person or \$95 per couple

Dec 13: Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 pm Meeting
ARMAC Insurance Board Room
Rear Building on Yuma

Upcoming Programs

Nov 23: Don Lager **Topic: "The History of Midway Home Solutions"** (Page)

Nov 30: **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**
El Tio Pepe • 5:30pm
12100 Amargosa Road, Victorville

Dec 7: Victorville Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong **Topic:**
"The History and Future of the Victorville Fire Department"

Dec 14: **TBD**

Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



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