



The Joshua Tree

November 21, 2023

THE DECEPTIVE LIES OF BIG PHARMA

The Pharmacist was back. **Curt Emick** joined the Club again this week about the drug crisis in America today. As a pharmacist for 45 years, Curt is extremely passionate about the opioid crisis and has devoted his life to exposing the truth about these dangerous drugs.



While his focus last time was on the synthetic opioid Fentanyl, and this time began his talk on OxyContin. Oxy was introduced in 1996 and in its first year on the market had sales of 48 million and in 2000 jumped to 1.2 billion! There were 670,000 prescriptions written in 1996 and over 14 million written in 2001 and 2002 combined. Part of the rise was due to a deceptive lie from Purdue that said there was only a 1% addiction rate with their drug. That was because they were purposely basing it on a study of hospitalized people taking it for 3 days after cancer treatments. In addition, primary care doctors were prescribing it to non-cancer pain patients. By 2003 nearly half of all physicians prescribing OxyContin were primary care physicians. In 2022 there were 106,999 OxyContin overdose deaths in the United States alone!

Another drug touched on was Xylazine, which goes by the street of "Tranq". People are now using it as a drug, which is used as a sedative and muscle relaxer for dogs, cats, horses and other animals! This drug can cause bradycardia, hypo-tension, and depression to the central nervous system and repository tract.

Have you heard that Cannabis (Marijuana) and CBD are non-addictive and actually good for you? Another big lie. Adults as well as children are using Cannabis and CBD products daily in such items as foods, oils, lotions, gummies, capsules and even cosmetics as they are told it treats pain, depression, insomnia and many other symptoms. Here is the truth.

Cannabis use disorder is a medical condition in which a person is unable to stop using marijuana despite it causing health and social problems in their life. Psychosis is another severe medical condition in which thoughts and emotions are affected that contact is lost with external reality.

General side effects of using CBD include liver damage, interference with other medicines, drowsiness, diarrhea, mood swings, irritability and reduction in male testosterone.

In drug use among college students, marijuana is king with 32.6% as active users. Right behind in with 13% is cocaine and hallucinogens!

Please come to the next Rotary meeting as Curt will take questions on this epidemic from attendees.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards
Flag Salute: Ben Tafoya
4-Way Test: Ryan McEachron
Fine Master: David North



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thanks to Curt Emick for coming back this week and sharing more information of

the devastating effects of drug use in our country. We look forward to having you here next week to answer questions from our members.



Please sign up for our Christmas party at Chateau Chang on December 4th! Fellowship at 5:30pm and dinner at 7:00pm. We will also be playing our annual Christmas Bingo game with four fun filled games and fabulous prizes!

Mike Johnson is looking for volunteers to assist Bill Edwards and Chris Ackerman with their annual "Stuff the VVTA Bus" event happening on December 2nd and 3rd at four area WalMart stores. A blessed time is guaranteed for all to see the joy in local families making a difference for a child this holiday season. See Mike to join this Rotary service project or see the ad on this page for more information.

Esther Mears will be retiring and we are in need to a new Club Billing Officer. Please see myself or Margaret Cooker for more information.

See you next week!

Steve

Presents for Enseñada



President **Steve Murray**, **Ben Tafoya**, and other Rotarians have seen how challenging life is for the children at the orphanage in Enseñada, Mexico that we support. These children don't have anyone showing up with Christmas presents on December 25th, so the Club is doing something about it!

The Club is currently raising money that will be taken down there, and given to the orphanage director who will buy presents for the children at the Enseñada Walmart. This week, members donated another \$66. With last week's collection of \$129, as well as \$50 donations from Ben, Steve, **Dan Dever**, **Russ Stringham**, **Ryan McEachron** and others, we are well on our way! Joining that will be an anonymous Rotarian donation of \$500. If the team left today, they would bring over \$1,295.00 for presents to the children!

We still have a couple weeks left to go, let's keep it going!!

Stuff the VVTA Bus!

December 2 & 3, 2023 • 8am - 5pm

High Desert Walmart Locations!

11896 Amargosa Rd Victorville • 13401 Main St Hesperia*
20251 Hwy 18, Apple Valley • 12234 Palmdale Rd, Victorville

Bring a New, Unwrapped Toy and Stuff the Bus!

First 200 Children Who Drop off a Toy at Each Location will get a FREE VVTA Coloring Book!

DONATE LOCAL...STAYS LOCAL
 All toys Collected will be Distributed to Local Children.
 More Information
facebook.com/VVRescueMission

A Partnership Between

VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT

* Saturday Only Event



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ben Tafoya had the chance to draw the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue next week with 11 chips and \$275 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Poker Chip.

Raffle

Ben Tafoya was a big winner at this week's raffle. Ben left the meeting with a Christmas gift from **Bo Goulet**, a bottle of wine from **David North** and a Victor Valley Transit Bus USB Drive from **Chris**



Ackerman. Ryan McEachron also took home a VVTA USB Drive. Ryan, David and Ackerman all took home the last of the ugly Christmas Sweaters from **Bill Edwards**. Bill also gave away a set of wine glasses and a cookie pan that went to guest **Dan Harley**, and a pack of hummingbird and butterfly wildflower seeds that will be used by Ackerman.

Finally **Terry Saenz** brought some I.C.R. goodie bags with \$10 gift cards that will be enjoyed by Mr. Harley and Mr. Edwards.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Bo Goulet** \$20 for becoming a boat captain and penalized the same amount to **Bob Basen** for having a great time in Baja, Mexico.

Keith Metzler was given a \$20 penalty for officiating the soccer game which featured the daughter of **Arsalee Morales**. Since her team won, the fine was passed to Arsalee, but paid for by **Bill Edwards** in thanks for her help at Rescue Alliance Turkey Giveaway.

It was time then for Thanksgiving trivia, and those Rotarians walking away with fines for incorrect answers included **Linda Hove** (\$10), **Mike Johnson** (\$23), **Mike Page** (\$20) and **Ben Tafoya** (\$65).

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed Apple Valley Rotary Club President **Dan Harley** who was invited by our President **Steve Murray**. Our Stand-ins this week was **Xiwli Wang** for **Darren Poulsen** and **Terry Saenz** for **Robert Lovingood**.

Spoon Of Exemption



Rob Kilpatrick had another week with the Spoon and this week and encouraged everyone to visit <https://bit.ly/3HDf9U7> and let your voice be heard in regard to the Apple Valley Highway 18 Access Plan.

David Evans and Associates want to better understand the public's needs, and accessibility issues to transform the corridor into something everyone wants to use. Survey closes at the end of December.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$14.00

Polio Pig: \$9 • Chip (Ben Tafoya) \$5 = \$14.00

Collected to Date: \$20,118.33

Total equals: 101,215 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

PLEASE NOTE

**There will be NO Newsletter
During the Weeks of
November 28 • December 12**



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 & GrantsMargaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor Chris Ackerman
- Membership..... Bryan Gillespie
- 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

- Dec 4: Rotary Christmas Party**
5:30pm • Chateau Chang
15425 Anacapa Rd, Victorville, CA
- Dec 11: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm -Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



Upcoming Programs

- Nov 28:** Curt Emick, Pharmacist **TOPIC: Q&A
with the Pharmacist** (Page)
Presentation of Teacher Mini Grant #90
- Dec 5:** OPEN
- Dec 12:** **Assemblyman Tom Lackey** (Page)
- Dec 19:** **Christmas Program with the Victor
Valley College Singers** (Acosta)
- Dec 26:** DARK
- Jan 2:** DARK

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