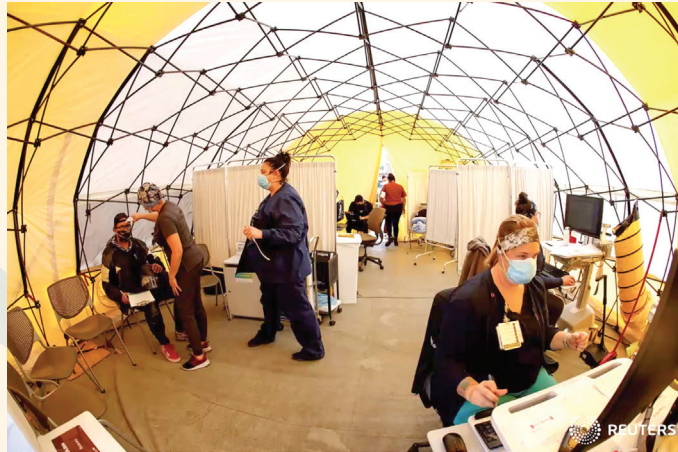


# The Joshua Tree

December 15, 2020

## THE UNRELENTING MARATHON

If you have been watching the CBS National News, BBC, The Headline News Network (HLN), or reading the Daily Press, Reuters, The Washington Post, or The Wall Street Journal, then you know that Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Apple Valley has been running a marathon, and it is taking a heavy toll. In January the Covid marathon began with a sprint and now at the 50-mile mark, the finish line can be seen way in the distance, but it is getting harder and harder to continue and keep going for some. This week, we heard from **John Kozyra**, Chief Philanthropy Officer for Providence St. Mary Medical Center, who spoke of the reality of the Coronavirus pandemic and how they, and other hospitals are trying to cope with the latest surge.



Just by driving St. Mary, one can see the reality. Currently they have two Triage tents housing Covid patients, with another two on the way. On Monday night there were 95 people in their emergency room hallways waiting for beds, and when John spoke to the Club, it was just down 77 residents. Currently 75% of beds are Covid patients and the lobby has been

converted into an isolation ward. The ICU Department is over capacity, with the influx of other non-Covid patients, and they are now having to put ICU patients in regular rooms. This situation changes day to day and sometimes hour to hour. The hospital is truly in a crisis situation and they are doing the best they can with the space that is available. The hospital is currently talking with the County for extra bed space options.

John believes the reason why the High Desert is in such a dire situation to garner such worldwide attention is because our area seems to be inundated with people refusing to follow protocols. Beginning at Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and people refusing to follow mandates of mask wearing and social distancing because “no one’s going to tell me what to do”, “It’s a form of Government control” to “Covid isn’t real” has caused this horrible situation hospitals around the country are in.

There is also a shortage of caregivers, many of whom are on sick leave or sabbaticals due to high stress and burnout. Normally a nurse oversees 2-3 ICU patients, but right now it is averaging around 5 per nurse. Many are working 7 days a week, and the stress and burnout level is running high. The hospital is doing its best to relieve this by providing over 1,000 free meals, gift wrapping services and working on mobile car wash services, to help take their minds off things they need to do when they are off work. Regional Executives have become volunteers by helping clean beds and other duties. Everyone is doing all they can, but it is getting challenging because the serious Covid Cases keep arriving.

The good news is that St. Mary is making great strides in handling the situation. The St. Mary Foundation paid for an on-

*Continued on page 2*

### This Week’s Functionaries

**Invocation:** Chris Ackerman

**Flag Salute:** Steve Orr

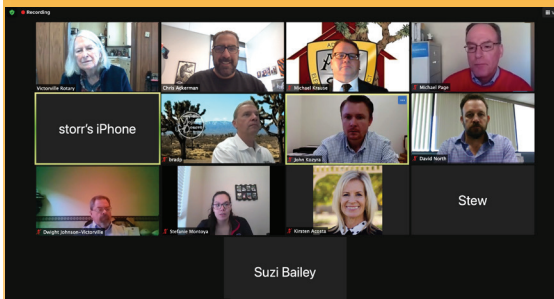
**4-Way Test:** Everyone

## ORR'S ROARS



Thank you John Kozyra and Mike Page from St. Mary for coming to our Zoom meeting this week and sharing the reality of the Covid situation at your hospital. Our hearts go out to all the patients, staff and doctors who

are doing all they can to get a handle on this pandemic.

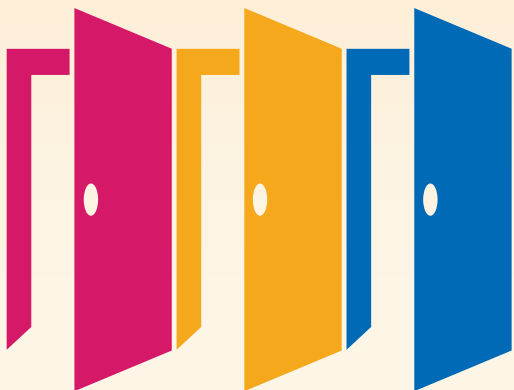


Next Tuesday will be our final meeting of 2020 and I am inviting anyone who wants to speak on their business for 5 minutes to email me by Sunday to [storr@hvvmg.com](mailto:storr@hvvmg.com) and I will put you on the schedule. This is 5 minutes fine free...unless you go over the 5 minute mark, then fines will be levied. You can also do 4 minutes and leave 1 minute for questions.

Our Rotary Editor Chris Ackerman is asking for anyone who would like to send a holiday message to your fellow Rotarians to appear in our year-end issue, to email [chris@signifydesigns.com](mailto:chris@signifydesigns.com) no later than Monday, December 21st. Feel free to include a photo as well to go along with your message.

See you next week...

*Steve*



[www.victorvillerotary.org](http://www.victorvillerotary.org)

## HOSPITAL...

*Continued from page 1*



site Covid Testing Lab, that provides quicker test results for patients as well as staff. Another sign the marathon finish line is just over the horizon is the arrival of the vaccine.

The vaccine will be available for those 16 years or older, but will

begin in a limited supply, with just 20,000 doses for all the Providence hospitals in the State. The vaccine will first go to Frontline Workers and those in long-term care facilities, that produces a strong antibody response. Although one may feel symptoms after getting the shot, it is not Covid, but one's body actually responding and developing antibodies. It has a 95% effectiveness and will be distributed over the next 6 months.

Finally, John shared that Covid is here to stay, but we are in the final stages of the marathon, we just have to run the last 10 miles or so, but we will only get to the finish line if everyone starts following protocols and doing their part. Even though the hospital is overrun with Covid patients, it is imperative for the community to know that the Emergency Room is still available for non-Covid issues such as births, heart attacks, strokes and more. In short, do not delay care! If you have questions or need more information, please reach out to John Kozyra directly at 760-217-9778 or email [John.Kozyra@stjoe.org](mailto:John.Kozyra@stjoe.org).



Please note photos used in this article were taken from the Rotary Presentation and some are from Reuters.

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Stephen Quintero** as a guest of **Terry Caldwell** and our Stand in was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

# Rotary Opens Opportunities

## Rotarians Working Together to “Stuff a Bus”



On December 12th and 13th, Rotarians **Kevin Kane** and **Chris Ackerman** from Victor Valley Transit were honored to partner up with **Bill Edwards** and the staff from Victor Valley Rescue Mission for a “Stuff the Bus” Toy Drive that was held in front of the Victorville, CA Walmart on Amargosa Road. Working in conjunction with area Walmart Management, this inaugural event brought in over 2,000 toys, all thanks to the kindness of the community’s residents.

*“Everyone at Victor Valley Transit was thrilled to partner up with the Rescue Mission. During such a difficult year on many levels, it was heartwarming to see our community come together and fill up our bus with toys that will be donated to High Desert children that may not otherwise have something to open this Christmas.”* shared Chris Ackerman.

Although this was the first time the Rescue Mission has done a toy drive event like this, Bill could not be happier with the outpouring from our community. *“This year has offered unique challenges and needs within our community but at the same time, it has shown the compassion and generosity of our High Desert Community.”*

Along with Victor Valley Transit, the Victor Valley Rescue Mission also receives toys from other organizations that will culminate at the 12th Annual Toy Giveaway on Saturday, December 19 at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds. This Toy giveaway has over 500 pre-registered families for Toys for Kids from 0-17 years of age. The event will also include the distribution of Farmers to Families food boxes for each family. This will be “capped off” with some virtual family entertainment for guests as they remain in their cars and experience a contactless drive-thru event.

Victor Valley Rescue Mission, an outreach ministry of the Rescue Mission Alliance, provides homeless men with opportunities



for addiction recovery, transitional housing, and job training and placement. Outreach services to High Desert provide unsheltered individuals with hot meals, clothing, blankets, hygiene items, a food pantry; and a direct link to hospitals, clinics, and other health-related and community-based services.

Kevin, Chris and Bill, along with the Victorville Walmart on Amargosa have already begun discussions to make this an annual community event, with the goal of making it much larger in 2021.

**SHARE A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE CLUB!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE JOSHUA TREE, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR MESSAGE TO EDITOR CHRIS ACKERMAN!**

*Email your message no later than Monday, December 21st to: [Chris@signifydesigns.com](mailto:Chris@signifydesigns.com)*



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2019-2021 .....	Steve Orr
President 2021-2022 .....	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025 .....	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026 .....	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Kevin Kane
Club Service .....	Bill Edwards
Community Service .....	<b>PLEASE VOLUNTEER</b>
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Jessica Perez
Grants/Speech Contests .....	<b>PLEASE VOLUNTEER</b>
Scholarships.....	Please Volunteer
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears

**Members-at-Large:** Dwight Johnson & Rob Kilpatrick

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Marilyn Buttlerwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teressa DeAtley
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising.....	Bill Edwards
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 Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., 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, 14165 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

**Jan 11:** Board of Directors meeting  
5:30 pm Meeting  
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Hesperia and Silica Roads

## Upcoming Programs

**Dec 22:** 5-Minute Fine Free Member Talks  
(Orr)

**Dec 29:** DARK

**IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART  
TO ANNOUNCE GLEE HEIKES  
HAS PASSED AWAY.**

*Glee was the widow of longtime  
Rotarian Hanley Heikes.  
Glee passed away on  
Monday, December 14th.*

*No Service information has  
been announced. We will share  
information as soon as possible.*

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