

The Joshua Tree

December 19, 2023

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH SONG

The Club was in the Christmas Spirit this week thanks to the Victor Valley College Singers, caroling for Rotarians, family members and guests alike.

Led by **Dr. Karen Miskell**, the group of 19 students performed a set list that featured "Christmas is Coming", "Deck the Halls", and "Caroling, Caroling, Christmas Bells are Ringing", written by the only American Carolist **Alfred Burt**. Other songs sung included "Carol of the Bells", "Joy to the World", "Winter Wonderland", "Angels We Have Heard on High", "Away in a Manger", "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas", "We Need a Little Christmas", "Jingle Bell Rock" and concluded with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".



This Christmas Program was arranged by **Kirsten Acosta** and **Chris Nunez** from the Victor Valley College Foundation, who paid for many of the singers to attend the California Community College's Choral Consortium.

At the end of the concert, President **Steve Murray** presented a check to the VVC Foundation in the amount of \$300 for the continued support of the Victor Valley College Singers!



This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: **Bill Edwards**
 Flag Salute: **Jim Murray**
 4-Way Test: **Steve Murray**
 Fine Master: **David North**





MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thank you to Dr. Karen Miskell and the singers from Victor Valley College for the wonderful Christmas

Program that put everyone in the Holiday Spirit as we wrap up our Rotary meetings for 2023. We hope you will come back next year and entertain us again!



Part of our role as business leaders at the this time of year is Christmas Bonus', and I was honored on behalf of the Club to give a bonus check to Angel Mendoza who takes care of us week in and week out. Thank you for all you do for our Club!

We will be dark the next two weeks, but will return on January 9th as we will hear from Leslie Thornburg from Cadiz. On behalf of Pam and myself, we wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! We pray for safe travels and joy to fill your homes over the holiday weekends! Here's to a successful Rotary Club in 2024 with new members, new service projects and Rotary moments!

See you in three weeks!

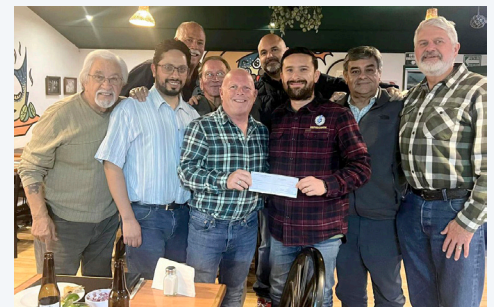
Steve

A Trip to Enseñada

Last weekend, **Ben Tafoya, Russ Stringham, Dan Dever, Jon Hove** and President **Steve Murray** headed to Enseñada to make Christmas brighter for the children at the El Sauzal Orphanage! Thanks to the generosity of the Club and the anonymous \$500 donation, the team provided \$1,300 for these children to have a wonderful Christmas with presents, they would not have had otherwise.

The orphanage was also given \$500 for food and following that, the team went to meet with the Rotary Club of Enseñada and donated \$1,000 for a clean water project, so the children can continue to drink safe, clean water.

Ben shared that the best part of the trip for him was spending a few moments with the children in the orphanage. Not only was he blessed, but the children loved it too!



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



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Big Blue Poker Chip



Rob Kilpatrick had the chance to draw the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue in three weeks with 6 chips and \$400 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Poker Chip.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Dan Dever** \$20 for wearing David's badge by mistake! It was then time for Christmas Trivia with wrong answers earning a \$20 penalty. Those paying up included **Jon Hove, Ben Tafoya, Arsalee Morales, Bill Edwards, Russ Stringham,** and **Bryan Gillespie**. The only ones who escaped fines due to having the correct answers were **Terry Saenz** and **Chris Ackerman**.

Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed **Craig Crawford**, a new salesman with Cal Portland Cement, who was brought to the meeting by **Jon Hove**. Also joining Jon was son **Harrison Hove** and from Victor Valley College we met **Les Gilbert**. Attending

spouses for the Christmas Program included **Leslie Murray** with **Jim Murray**, **Pam Murray** with **Steve Murray** and **Leeann Ackerman** with **Chris Ackerman**.

Our Stand-Ins this week were **Chris Nunez**, who attended for **Kirsten Acosta**, **Kristi Caster** for **Darron Poulsen** and **Terry Saenz** for **Robert Lovingood**.

Raffle

Rob Kilpatrick hit the raffle trifecta this week by winning all three ICR goodie bags with \$10 gift cards from Pañera Bread, Starbucks and Crumbl Cookie donated by **Terry Saenz**.



Rob also donated a Yetti hat that **Ben Tafoya** will wear with the BBQ Apron he received from **Jim Murray**. Ben also left with wine from **David North** and **Leslie Murray** also received a collectors edition wine from Rob.

Chris Ackerman gave away VVTA cell phone holders that went to Jim and David who also went home, along with Rob, with Hummingbird and Wildflower seeds from **Bill Edwards**. Finally, Leslie will enjoy the Cat in the Hat Cocoa Mix from Mr. North.

Spoon of Exemption



Russ Stringham had his final time with the Spoon and shared his adventures with **Joe Yogerst** from National Geographic and their encounters to see the "Mighty Five" National Parks and encouraged everyone to visit

in and around Zion National Park or Duck Creek Campground by using Red Rock RV Rentals!

Its was time to get the Spoon to another for January and **Jon Hove** began the bidding at \$50, but soon got into a back and forth with **Dan Dever**, as the price continued to rise with Jon finally getting the Spoon for \$90.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$18.00

Polio Pig: \$11 + Craig Crawford (Cal Portland) \$2 + Dice (Rob Kilpatrick) \$5 = \$18.00

Collected to Date: \$20,178.33

Total equals: 101,335 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Bryan 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/Membership	Bryan 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 Officer	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dawn Quigg
Flowers and Gifts	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants	Margaret 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. Students	Maureen 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:	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

Jan 8: **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm -Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA



Upcoming Programs

- Dec 26:** DARK
- Jan 2:** DARK
- Jan 9:** Leslie Thornburg, Cadiz Vice President of Operations, **TOPIC: Cadiz: 1990 - Present** (Page)
- Jan 16:** OPEN
- Jan 23:** **High School 4-Way Speech Contest** (Johnson)
- Jan 30:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**

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