

The Joshua Tree

December 31, 2021

2021: THE STORY SO FAR

This Rotary year of the **Jon Hove** presidency got off with a laugh... literally! We began in early July with **Jim Barnes** and his friends entertaining everyone with some great comedy and humorous anecdotes. The second meeting was also quite a bit different, as the speaker never showed up! The format of that meeting was quickly changed and allowed for each person in attendance to give a 5 minute update on their business or their personal lives. What a way to start off the Rotary year!



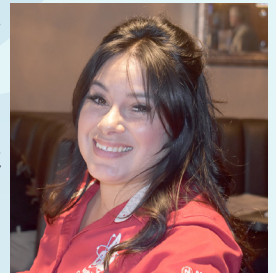
We heard from many members at our new meeting home at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club. Some of our member speakers included **Ryan McEachron, Oscar Garcia, Robert Lovingood, Dr. Ron Williams, Jim Cox, Pastor Paul Earle, Don Larger,** and Fire Chief **Jeff Armstrong** who shared about his visit to Rotary Park.

As well as hearing from our members, we also hosted a few very large meetings. We had a visit from our Congressman **Jay Obernolte** who gave an update on his first year in Washington D.C. Also from the political field we heard from 33rd District Assemblyman **Thurston "Smitty" Smith** as he shared the latest updates from Sacramento. But our biggest meeting was the return of our Teacher Mini-Grants! We gave away 39 Grants in the amount of \$10,768.39.



We also has speakers from those who are working to make the world a better place and help those who are less fortunate. Speakers included **Chris Romero** from The Outreach Program and their great meal packaging program. The program started by Rotarian **Floyd Hammer**, has grown into Clubs around the country packing meals for those in their communities suffering from food insecurity. We also met **Erin Fox** and **Raul Diaz** from the Red Cross. They shared information on the many different areas of volunteerism available through the American Red Cross.

We hosted a couple of 5th Tuesday evening meetings in our first six months. Our first one was held at The Republic in Spring Valley Lake in August, and most recently at El Tio Pepe just a few weeks ago. Attendance has been light for these, so please make sure you attend to keep them going!



We also heard from people who are doing great things for our community such as the Mojave Water Agency, Victor Valley College and **Allen Williams** from Desert View Memorial Park. But by far the most popular visitor was **Nina**, the firearms sniffing dog with the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department!

What will 2022 bring? Now that the Covid Omicron variant is spreading rapidly, its anyone's guess. New mandates have been put into place and some service organizations have already moved back to virtual meetings. There has been no decision made for our Club as of yet, as we still plan to meet on January 4th. Only time will tell.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Another December is upon us and as is customary, we are giving our President the time off and I am taking over the column. So strap in, get ready and foot down...

We have survived a lot of Club's who are now longer meeting on a regular basis, but is our survival in actuality really just dying a slow death?

There is a lot to do to make a Rotary Club successful and it takes a lot of people to assist, so the workload doesn't fall on just a few shoulders. Those shoulders after a while will start to become to heavy and things will get dropped. While our weekly attendance has been steady, it is nothing like it was pre-2020, but life is different now and we must accept it. When I hear Mike Page pleading with Rotarians to help come up with programs it makes me sad. When I see the same people handling fundraising events, it also causes me some concern. Even if you cannot attend weekly, there is so much you can do to make your Rotary experience memorable. Let's commit to more involvement in 2022 and help make our Club thrive! We have a great opportunity here, let's make the most of it.

Ackerman

PS - Yes, I do actually have my own Funko Pop!



www.victorvillerotary.org

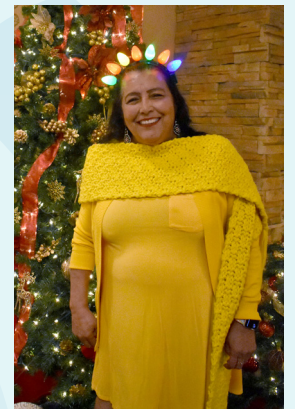
A (Half) Year in Pictures



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

A Holly Jolly Good Time!

In December we held our annual Rotary Christmas Party, and for the first time it took place at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club with great food, live music, and Bingo! Thank you to everyone who came out. Enjoy these images of our Christmas event. Special Thanks to **Arsalee Morales, Bill Edwards** and rest of the committee who made the night a rousing success!



Ensenada Orphanage Update

2021 has been a Challenging year for our Home. Much of what we are dealing with is related to the ongoing pandemic. The border only opened in November after being closed 18 months. There have been very few visitors to our Home. Without visiting groups, our children have not had the blessing of playing with visitors - no VBS, craft projects, games, etc.

We also have had almost none of the painting and construction work projects that we desperately need. Visitors also love bringing fun food for our kids; this hasn't been happening much either. Our children have not left the grounds of our Home- - for school, church, events, etc. except for health issues. On Sundays we have a Bible lesson for the kids. Children continue with remote learning. We have a converted classroom and have added extra internet for the kids' online schooling. Children use laptops and tablets. Last year and this year, we have used Giving Tuesday funds to purchase needed devices.

Our children are healthy, protected and sheltered. Most of our staff is vaccinated. In Mexico, just as in the U.S., the Covid vaccination is highly controversial. Accessible, high quality health care in Mexico is not readily available. This is the reason that the children have not left the grounds. Our kids have video conference visits or phone calls with their families, not in person meetings. The goal is to protect the entire El Sauzal family, both children and Staff.

God always has a purpose. Will you help us continue the work of raising children in the fear and admonition of the Lord by praying and giving? Help 2022 be a year of change at our Home.





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	Ryan McEachron
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	Need Volunteer
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

Jan 10: Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 pm Meeting
ARMAC Insurance Board Room
Rear Building on Yuma

Upcoming Programs

Jan 4: The Everleigh Sisters **Topic: "2 Ladies with NO History - a Detective Story from the Rotarian Fellowship of Genealogists" PART 2** (Cooker)

Jan 11: OPEN

Jan 18: OPEN

Jan 25: OPEN

Rotary 
Club of Victorville, CA

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