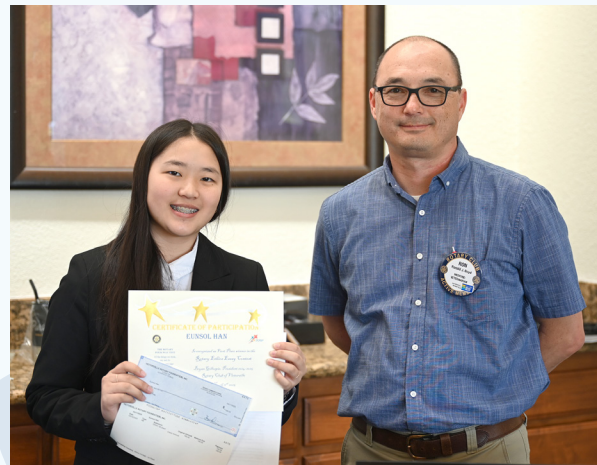


The Joshua Tree

March 11, 2025

RACISM, MENTAL HEALTH AND AI



This week the Club announced the finalists and winner of this year's George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest. All three students came to us from University Prep, and the event was hosted by **Dr. Ron Boyd**.

The first runner up was **London Munlyn**, who took home \$75 for her essay about real life racism she has had to deal with in her own life and the negativity she had to feel from fellow students. Where she is now, she is glad the incidents occurred, because it has shaped her and motivated her to educate others on African-American culture.

Our second runner up was **Jeannine Jauregui**, who also took home \$75 for her essay entitled, "It's Okay Not to Be OK". During her essay, she spoke of her real

life struggle with mental health and panic attacks that derived from her goal of academic excellence. She was faced with the dilemma whether to hide her issues to her family or be open and honest. In the end, she chose to not to overdue her drive of academic excellence, and allow herself time to be a teenager.



This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Bryan Gillespie

4-Way Test: Bo Goulet

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

The winner of the George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest was **Eunsol Han**, who not only won \$150, but will compete at the District Conference, where she could win \$3,000! Her winning essay dealt with a dilemma she faced when she was struggling to get an important school project done, and could've used AI do it for her instead. While she went back and forth over the thought of AI writing her paper, in the end she opted not to use it and honoring the integrity of the assignment.



GILLESPIE'S GAB

Thank you to all of our students, Eunsol Han, London Munlyn, and Jeannine Jauregui, who read their George

Hensel Ethics Essays to the Club this week. Congratulations to Eunsol who took top honors and will represent the Club at the District Conference.

I also want to give a shout out to Darron Poulsen for also giving us an update on the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority.

Our next service project will be making our Easter Baskets, which will take place on April 15th. There is still time to donate, so sign up, donate, and make these baskets our largest yet! We are also looking for volunteers to help pass out the baskets in teams. Please sign up and see lives changed right before your eyes!

On September 6th we will celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a Club with a big fundraising event at the Spring Valley Lake Community Center! With great food and a look back on our many years as a Club, we will also be giving away \$10,000 that night! We will be selling 100 tickets at \$250 each with one lucky person getting some surprise wealth! We are looking for people to join the event committee, so please let me know if you'd like to be a part of the fun!

Until next week...

Bryan

An Update from the VVWRA

By Darron Poulsen

The Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VVWRA) is working diligently with the local Cities, Town and the County to help bolster and improve the water resource management practices in our region. **Darron Poulsen**, VVWRA General Manager, provided an update on several projects that aim to improve the availability of recycled water to the region for the purpose of recharging the underground aquifer and for irrigating golf courses and landscape features. Today, the VVWRA produces over 4 billion gallons of recycled water annually. That water is discharged directly to the Mojave River or put into percolation ponds for recharge. Only 3 million gallons, .001%, of the total recycled water produced is used by local agencies for irrigation purposes.

In cooperation with the Mojave Water Agency and our local communities, plans are being discussed to develop a One Water solution for the Mojave Basin. A One Water projects looks at all sources of water equally. Every water source inclusive of ground water, recycled water, storm water and imported state project water contribute to the overall health of the Mojave Basin water supply. Historically these sources of water were managed separately each with their own set of goals and vision as to how to manage them. A One Water Project looks to develop plans that include all the water sources, seeking to find overlap of projects where unified funding and regional needs analysis help develop more impactful projects. Darron provided an example of these types of projects by describing the need for more storm water recharge basins in the region. New climate conditions are bringing less but larger rain events to our local area. These large rain events cause significant damage to roads and other infrastructure as these large flows follow their historical path to the Mojave River. To minimize this damage and to focus recharge in the local area large retention basins could be built to capture that water before it gets to the river and flows downstream for the benefit of other agencies. The One Water Concept would look to work together with these storm water management practices and would collaborate in building these recharge basins so that recycled water and imported state water project water could also be put into the same basins to increase the positive impact to local groundwater.

Continued Page 4



**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ryan McEachron had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another.

We will continue next week with 10 chips and \$300 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip!

Rotary Guests

Joining our essay students this week, we welcomed their respective mothers **Miriam Jauregui**, **Joyce Hwang** and **Patrice Williams**. Our only stand-in this week was **Alejandra Martinez** for **Angel Espino**.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and due to time could only give out one fine, which was to the rare visit from Rotarian **Maureen Mills**, which resulted in a \$20 fine!

Raffle

Arsalee Morales was a double prize winner this week taking home a blanket from Victor Valley Transit, courtesy of **Chris Ackerman**, and a Victor Valley Rescue Alliance tumbler from **Bill Edwards**. Chris also gave away a VVTA highlighter set that will be used by **Bryan Gillespie** and Bryan donated a BBQ Grilling Set that was taken home by Ackerman.

Mike Johnson received a bottle of wine from **David North** and Mike gave away a Providence St. Mary pen & notepad set, plus a water bottle, which were both won by **Ryan McEachron**.

Our final double prize winner this week was parent **Patrice Williams**, who left the meeting with a pocket knife from **Bo Goulet** and a cocktail smoker kit from President Gillespie.

Spoon of Exception



Arsalee Morales had the Spoon this week and shared information on Apple Valley Communication's \$99 Spring Security Special. Please call Arsalee at 760-247-2668 for full details.

An advertisement for Apple Valley Communications. The background is blue with yellow poppies. The text reads: "APPLE VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS Spring Security System Special \$99 Call Now For Details 760-247-2668 APPLEVALLEYCOMMUNICATIONS.COM HOME SECURITY FROM AVCOM OFFERS YOU PEACE OF MIND AVCOM".

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$20.00

Polio Pig: \$15 + Chip (Ryan McEachron) \$5 = \$20.00

Collected to Date: \$21,186.83

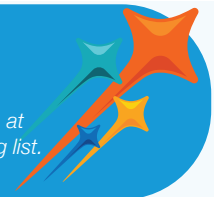
Total equals: 103,352 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA





VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Ron Boyd
Club Service & Membership	Bill Edwards
Community Service/Speech Contests	Mike Johnson
Vocational Service	Please Volunteer
International Service	Ben Tafoya
Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects	Rob Kilpatrick

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary	Pam Murray
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Please Volunteer
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets	Please Volunteer
Interact (Junior Rotary)	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator	Please Volunteer

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, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. 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

April 7: **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

Upcoming Programs

Mar 18: **OPEN**

Mar 25: Ryan McEachron **TOPIC**
"Understanding the County Board of Education" (Page)

Poulsen...

Continued from Page 2

Darron also shared information on Cadiz and Fenner Valley Water Company larger water resource project located in the remote part of the Mojave desert by the small town of Amboy. There is a large underground aquifer in this part of the desert that holds more water than Lake Mead and Lake Powel combined. The Cadiz company is looking to utilize the basin to safely extract water for use in our local area and also act as a water bank for other agencies that may want to move water into the Cadiz Aquifer from the Colorado River. VVWRA along with the Mojave Water Agency and other communities in the Mojave Desert are considering a future partnership with Cadiz to help construct a larger version of the One Water Project by adding an additional water source to the overall water portfolio currently available for the Mojave Basin. Cadiz has plans to construct new pipelines and recharge basins that could enhance the current One Water plans being developed by VVWRA. This new partner and the larger scope of a potential future project working with Cadiz could provide opportunities for additional funding sources and grants that could help lessen the financial contributions from our local agencies and make the projects more affordable.