



Rotary





THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY

The Joshua Tree



April 29, 2025

HAVANA GOOD TIMES WITH ROTARIANS!



A group of Rotarians gathered this week for a "5th Tuesday Evening Meeting", and for the first time had dinner at Havanazucar Cuban Restaurant in Hesperia. Drinks were poured, appetizers shared and delicious food was eaten. In attendance for the meeting was incoming President **Bill & Marianne Edwards, Ben & Jan Tafoya, Chris Ackerman, Dan & Kris Dever, Brad & Theresa Letner, David North, Bill & Linda Scott, and Arsalee Morales.**

The next 5th Tuesday will take place on July 29th, so make your plans now to join us.

www.victorvillerotary.org



GILLESPIE'S GAB

Thank you to everyone who came out to this week's 5th Tuesday meeting. Unfortunately I was

unable to attend, but I heard the food and fellowship was fantastic!



This weekend is a Superbuild in Mexico! I cannot wait to share information and photos in the coming weeks!!

On May 20th, we will have our Read B4K Graduation. Please see the flyer next to my column and make plans to attend.

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 Bill Edwards know if you'd like to be a part of the fun!

Bryan



Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA

Read B4K Graduation

May 20, 2025 • 5:00pm

**RB21 Dr. Ralph Baker
21st Century Learning Center.
15456 El Evado Rd • Victorville CA 92394**



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

A Hidden 'Army' is on the Frontlines of Immunization in Pakistan

You may never have seen a community health worker. You may not even have heard the term before. But these individuals, many of them volunteers, play increasingly important roles in health care systems around the globe. And they're essential to Rotary's health initiatives — especially the fight against polio and other diseases.

Community health workers are usually women. They have expansive personal networks that enable them to identify and connect with underserved people living around them. They often go from house to house, providing basic medical interventions and advice. In many countries, they're the main workforce administering polio vaccinations.

Another common focus of their work is maternal and child health, but even that can involve immunization support, says Svea Closser, a medical anthropologist and a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

"They will do some basic checks, prenatally, and often accompany women to the hospital when it's time to give birth. Then they'll follow up after the baby is born to encourage the mother to get the baby vaccinated," says Closser, who has studied community health workers in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and other countries. "And besides working with the polio campaigns in almost every country, they will also provide additional support for other vaccines: getting people to the places where the vaccines are being given, allaying parents' fears about vaccines, things like that."

Administering vaccines and educating people about the need for them are among the most important parts of a community health worker's job. That's particularly true in Pakistan, one of only two countries where the wild poliovirus still circulates. (The other is Afghanistan.)

More than 400,000 community health workers are deployed across Pakistan, including in the most remote regions. It's a squad that's second in size only to Pakistan's real army, says Israr Ul Haq, who has a key role in overseeing the vast group. He's a social and behavioral change specialist for UNICEF, one of Rotary's core partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



Ul Haq recently talked about the demands of finding, training, and managing nearly half a million community health workers. In Pakistan, they're divided into frontline workers and social mobilizers.

Q: What do frontline workers and social mobilizers do?

Frontline workers go from house to house to vaccinate. Social mobilizers take the message of the importance of polio

vaccination — and not just polio vaccination, but also the health and well-being of children and mothers — to the community.

Q: Do you need to find workers who live in every community, all over Pakistan? Yes. It is very important for people to have social and emotional attachments to the workers who end up at their doorsteps. Social mobilizers should be well known in the community, so we have to pick from the community. It's not like we can bring in somebody from outside.

Q: Why not? It's like, "The people from within us would never harm us." We need to win people's trust. We need for people to understand why we stress the importance of polio vaccination more than anything else. That social buy-in is very important. After 28 years of this program, more than 95% of people open their doors to get their children vaccinated.

Q: What qualifications do you look for when recruiting health workers? We predominantly work with females. We have a conservative society where men from other families are not allowed to go inside people's houses. Access to mothers is very important, and it's next to impossible in some areas for men to talk to the mothers. But in far-flung areas where it is very difficult for females to travel, it's very difficult to get females to do this work. And then we end up getting males from within those societies.

Q: Are there other challenges in recruiting workers in remote areas? The workers should be educated enough to read and write, but it depends on the literacy rate in the area. In areas where we have low literacy rates, we have taken on older females who could not read and write but were known in their communities.

Article by By Etelka Lehoczky



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	Please Volunteer
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	Bill Edwards
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

- May 12: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- May 20: Read B4K Graduation**
5:00pm • Ralph Baker Center
15456 El Evado Road
Victorville, CA 92394

Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



Upcoming Programs

- May 6:** Ryan McEachron **TOPIC**
"Understanding the County Board of Education" (Page)
- May 13:** Jessica Crouch, Rhea Lana's of thr High Desert **TOPIC "Clothing and Connecting the Community"** (Page)
- May 20: OPEN**
- May 27: OPEN**
- June 3:** Dan Munsey, San Bernardino County Fire Chief **TOPIC "TBA"** (Page)

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