



The Joshua Tree



September 17, 2024

SAVING SMILES AND CHANGING LIVES

The Rotary District 5300 Rotaplast Project is a shining example of how dedicated volunteers and medical professionals can collaborate to change lives. **Sandy Christensen** from the Rotary Club of Pomona has gone on several of these missions and was on hand this week to share about her experience.

Cleft lip and palate are among the most common congenital conditions affecting newborns worldwide. These conditions can lead to significant challenges, including difficulties in eating, speaking, and social integration. In many low-income countries, access to surgical treatment is limited, leaving children vulnerable to social stigma and health complications. Recognizing this gap, Rotary District 5300 mobilized resources and expertise to make a tangible difference.

The mission of the Rotaplast Project is straightforward: to provide free reconstructive surgeries for children with cleft lip and palate. The project operates through partnerships with local medical teams and hospitals in



various countries, ensuring that the surgical procedures are conducted safely and effectively. Beyond surgery, the initiative also aims to raise awareness about the conditions and the importance of early intervention.

Rotary volunteers work with skilled surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nursing staff to organize surgical missions in countries where access to healthcare is limited. These missions often involve weeks of

planning and coordination to ensure that all medical needs are met.

Community Engagement: The project emphasizes the importance of community involvement. Local Rotary clubs help identify children in need and facilitate outreach programs to educate families about the available medical services.

Since its inception, the Rotary District 5300 Rotaplast Project has transformed the lives of thousands of children. Success stories abound, with many children regaining their ability to eat and speak normally, leading to improved self-esteem and better social integration. The project not only changes individual lives but also positively impacts families and communities, fostering a sense of hope and resilience.

The Rotary District 5300 Rotaplast Project exemplifies the power of humanitarian efforts and the impact that dedicated individuals can make in the lives of others.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Arsalee Morales

4-Way Test: Angel Espino

Fine Master: David North

GILLESPIE'S GAB



Thanks to Sandy Christensen who came out this week to share what it is like to be on the District's Rotaplast

mission trips and information on next year's trip to Uganda.



Rick Bui

from the Apple Valley Club stopped by and passed out flyers ahead of the High Desert Veterans Appreciation BBQ on November 9th from 11am – 3pm at Singh Performing Arts Center. They will have a car show with



over 90 cars and lots of prizes have been donated to go out to Veterans. Rick also passed

out some R.E.D. Shirts and encouraged all who received them to wear them every Friday.

The Fireside is next week on September 26th at 4:00pm and will be co-hosted by three Rotary Clubs; Victorville, Apple Valley and Barstow. The food will be Mexican and our District Governor Michael Driebe will be in attendance!

Bryan

In Loving Memory



John Kroencke

1932 - 2024

Memorial Services

October 25, 2024 • 10:00am

Sunset Hills Memorial Park



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Big Blue Poker Chip



*Jim Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, and he did it!
Jim left the meeting \$300 richer from his lucky draw!
We will begin anew next week with 14 chips and \$200 for the
lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip!*

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and congratulated Angel and Karessa Espino on their recent nuptials with a \$20 fine! Walt Alvarez also celebrated becoming a fully-fledged Rotarian will another \$20 penalty, and Jason Lamoreaux paid \$25 in honor of his Rotary Anniversary on September 5th. Finally, Bo Goulet had to fork over \$10 for not paying attention during the raffle session.



Spoon of Exception

Chris Ackerman had the Spoon again this week, and considering the passing of John Kroencke chose to not speak about Victor Valley Transit's upcoming service changes, but instead encouraged Rotarians to reach out and check up on members who we have not seen for quite some time and make sure they are doing well.



Rotary Guests

Rotary President **Bryan Gillespie** brought **Stefanie Montoya** to the meeting, and **Rick Bui** joined us from the Apple Valley Club.

Raffle

Chris Ackerman donated a couple of Victor Valley Transit bean bag phone holders that will be used by **Arsalee Morales** and the visiting **Rick Bui**. **Margaret Cooker** gave away a "Handy Dandy Pocket Kit" that was received by **Bo Goulet** and **David North** let go of another bottle of wine which will be consumed by **Jim Murray**.

Rotarian of the Month



Our Rotary President **Bryan Gillespie** announced his Rotarian of the Month to **Mike Page!**

Mike was selected for his tireless work on programs and events for the Club.

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$25.00
Collected to Date: \$20,733.83
Total equals: 102,446 Doses!
One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



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

Oct 14: **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

HIGH DESERT VETERANS APPRECIATION BBQ
NOV 9TH 2024
11AM-3PM

LOCATION:
SINGH PERFORMING ART CENTER
22311 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308

TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOU. LUNCH IS FREE FOR VETERANS.

FOOD PROVIDED BY **CLASSIC CAR SHOW** **LIVE MUSIC**

DOWN RANGE BBQ **GROOVE C HUNTERS**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Rotary Apple Valley, CA **Town of Apple Valley** **Rotary Victorville, CA**

EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS **US PATRIOT ARMORY** **CARS**

Upcoming Programs

Sept 24: Jason & Chris Lamoreaux **TOPIC "CreekCut - Our Journey Birthing a Winery"** (Basen)

Oct 1: Eric Schmidt, Exquadrum **TOPIC "My Hardest Insurance Customer: Exquadrum"** (McEachron)

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