



The Joshua Tree

May 19, 2026

ROTARIANS GRADUATE FROM CEMENT 101

Don Kennard from CalPortland Cement returned this week for Part 2 of his informative "Cement 101" presentation, giving members a deeper look into how one of the world's most important building materials is produced and used in everyday life.



Don began with a quick review of the difference between cement and concrete, a distinction many people often confuse.

Cement is the binding ingredient, while concrete is the finished product created by mixing cement with sand, rock, and water. He explained that modern concrete is strengthened with rebar, or reinforcing steel, which helps control cracking. As Don noted, cracks in concrete are inevitable over time, but rebar helps hold the material together and maintain structural integrity.

Members learned that cement itself is made from four key raw materials, remembered by the acronym "LISA": Limestone, Iron Ore, Silica Sand, and Aluminum. The production process begins in a quarry where limestone is mined before being crushed and ground into a fine

raw material. The material then enters a massive rotating kiln heated to temperatures approaching 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. During this intense heating process, a chemical reaction called calcination occurs, transforming calcium carbonate into calcium oxide while releasing carbon dioxide.

Don walked Rotarians through the various stages of cement

production, including the raw mill, kiln, clinker cooling, finish mill, and final shipping process. He explained that the clinker created in the kiln is later ground together with gypsum and limestone to create Portland cement. Gypsum plays an important role by helping control the setting time of the cement.

The presentation also highlighted the global scale of the cement industry, with China producing more cement than any other country in the world. Don discussed the environmental challenges facing the industry, particularly the difficulty in reducing carbon dioxide emissions because CO₂ is released not only from fuel usage, but also from the chemical process itself.

Beyond sidewalks and highways, Don showcased the many applications of cement-based products used throughout modern society. These include concrete paving, residential construction, tilt-up commercial buildings, concrete pipe systems, soil stabilization projects, underground utility vaults, burial vaults, and many other precast concrete products.

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Maureen Mills

4-Way Test: Steve Murray

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thank you to Don Kennard for giving us another lesson in cement. We are all excited to know that

moving forward, we will be able to teach others that cement and concrete are not the same thing!

District Assembly will be held this Saturday at Granite Hills High School. If you plan to be on the Rotary Board of Directors, it is important for you to attend. The event will also have the finals for the Speech and Music Competitions!



Following this year's Read B4K Graduation, Brad Letner and Maureen Mills were presented with a proclamation from California Senator Suzette Valladares.

Less than 60 days until we draw for our big 50/50! We are currently hovering around \$800 with half of that money going to one lucky Rotarian! Each ticket is \$5 or you can purchase 5 for \$20. Winner will be drawn on June 30, 2026.

Steve

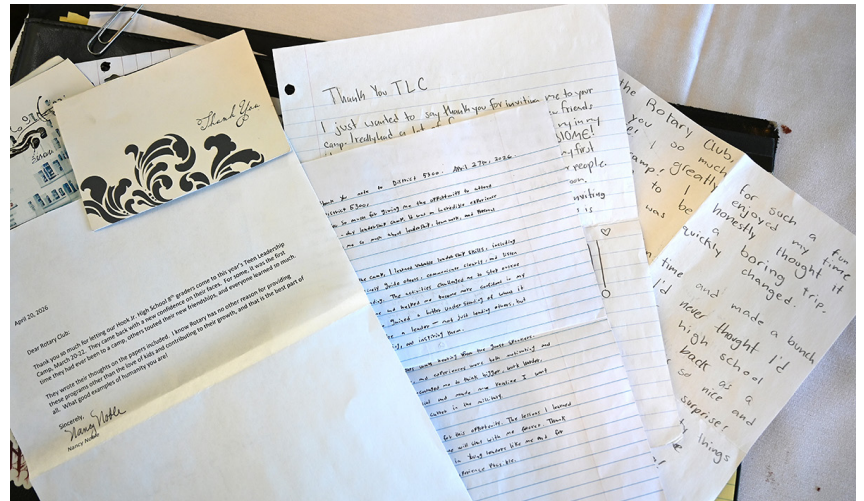
Don Kennard

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One topic that especially caught the attention of members was ICF homes, or Insulated Concrete Form homes. Don explained that these structures are growing in popularity because they offer exceptional insulation, helping homes stay cooler with less dependence on air conditioning. ICF homes also provide impressive sound reduction, strong fire and wind resistance, and additional earthquake protection, making them both energy efficient and durable.

As always, Don blended technical expertise with an engaging presentation style that made the complex science behind cement production understandable and interesting for everyone in attendance. Rotarians walked away with a greater appreciation for the materials literally helping build the communities around them every day.

A TLC Sized Thank You



Nancy Noble and students from Hook Jr. High School that we sent to TLC (Team Leadership Camp), gave the Club thank you letters for their experience, thanks to our Club. Be proud, we are making a difference in children's lives locally.

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Jon Hove had the opportunity to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another. We will continue next week with 11 chips and \$275 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle



from **Chris Ackerman**. **Brad Letner** was also a double winner, taking home a set of soap from **Pam Murray** and a book of bourbon tasting from **Steve Murray**. The final gift of the day was a Bob's Tire cap, that will be worn by Mr. Espino.

Rotary Guests

This week our Stand-ins was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Spoon of Exception

Don Kennard had another week with the Spoon and asked all Rotarians, including those reading here, the interest level in taking a tour of the CalPortland Cement Plant. The tour would include technical support and a Cement Blast, but takes a commitment, as the tour is 3 hours long. Please see Don if you have an interest.



Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and began by fining a whole table consisting of **Jon Hove**, **Harrison Hove**, **Arsalee Morales** and **Chris Ackerman** \$10 each for talking too much during the meeting. Jon and Harrison also received another \$10 each for bragging how their grandson/son was the smartest child above all others. **Mike Page** also received a \$10 penalty for still not knowing the difference between cement and concrete!

CLUB ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2026

REVIEW AND APPROVE:

Budgets for 2026-2027

Board of Directors for 2026-2027

President for 2027-2028

Proposed Board 2026-2027

- Steve Murray - Past President
- Pam Murray - Executive Secretary
- Darron Poulsen - Treasurer
- Bryan Gillespie - Marketing Chair
- Jon Hove - Foundation Chair
- Ben Tafoya - International Service
- Ryan McEachron - Youth Service
- Arsalee Morales - Club Service
- Craig Garrick - Community Service
- Angel Espino - Vocational Service
- Ron Boyd - Director
- Bob Basen - Director



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2026	Steve Murray
President 2026 - 2027	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President/Club Service	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Steve and Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Dr. Ron Boyd
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Angel Espino

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships.....	Kirsten Acosta
Billing.....	Pam Murray & Darron Poulsen
Public Service Awards.....	Arsalee Morales
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Brad Letner
Grants.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Brad Letner
S.T.A.R. Students	Chris Ackerman
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 21** **Apple Valley Club 70th Anniversary**
 6pm at Apple Valley Golf Course
- June 20** **Demotion Party**
 Home of Bill & Linda Scott
 Time: TBD
- July 25** **Movie Night at the Hoves**
 Movie: TBA
 Time: TBD

Upcoming Programs

- May 26** Matthew Coughlin, Executive Director,
 Moses House Ministries **Title: "When
 the Parent Thrives, So Does the
 Child"** (Page)
- June 2** Tony Winkel, Mojave Water Agency
 Senior Principal Hydrogeologist **Title:
 "The Hide and Seek River"
 (Part 2 of 3)** (Page)
Club Assembly
- June 9** **OPEN**
- June 16** **OPEN**
- June 23** Tony Winkel, Mojave Water Agency
 Senior Principal Hydrogeologist **Title:
 "The Hide and Seek River"
 (Part 3 of 3)** (Page)

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