



Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

The



Joshua Tree

September 15, 2026

THE POWER OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

For **Mark Mariscal** of the Altadena Rotary Club, Rotary isn't simply an organization he belongs to. After 25 years as a Rotarian, he describes himself as a "professional volunteer," and his presentation to the Rotary Club of Victorville demonstrated just how powerful volunteerism can be when it is combined with the resources of The Rotary Foundation.

Mariscal, who has served as District 5300 Foundation Chair, shared the story of his own community following the devastating Eaton Fire. The disaster hit the Altadena Rotary Club personally: approximately half of its members lost their homes, including Mariscal himself.

Mariscal explained that volunteering is ultimately about making our communities better. In Altadena, that meant responding directly to neighbors whose lives had suddenly been turned upside down. The club provided assistance to more than 1,000 individuals who suffered total losses, helping with housing subsidies, gift cards, rental assistance, food distributions and other immediate needs.



Mariscal also provided a look at something many Rotarians may not completely understand: what happens to the money we contribute to The Rotary Foundation.

The Foundation essentially allows the generosity of individual Rotarians and clubs to be pooled, invested and ultimately returned to communities through grants and programs. Through Rotary's SHARE system, Annual Fund-SHARE contributions eventually help provide both District Designated Funds

and money for Rotary's World Fund.

That system can make a local contribution significantly more powerful when clubs pursue larger projects. For example, when District Designated Funds are committed to an eligible Global Grant, The Rotary Foundation's World Fund currently provides an 80% match. If \$11,000 in DDF were committed to a Global Grant, the World Fund could add another \$8,800, turning that \$11,000 into \$19,800 toward the project before other eligible contributions are included.

There are several ways Rotarians can direct their Foundation giving. PolioPlus supports Rotary's historic effort to eradicate polio worldwide, including vaccination, disease surveillance and other work necessary to stop transmission.

Global Grants fund larger international projects with sustainable and measurable results. They can support humanitarian projects, graduate-level scholarships and vocational training teams in Rotary's areas of focus.

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Jim Cox

4-Way Test: Arsalee Morales

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

www.victorvillerotary.com



LETNER'S LETTER

Thanks to Mark Mariscal for joining us this week and reminding us of the power of the Rotary



Foundation to make a difference in our community and around the world!

Next week, Sep 22 is a big one. Our first Community Roundtable is at 5 PM in Conference Room D at Victorville City Hall. We'll hear from more than half a dozen local agencies about what's going on in our community and what they're working on. The more we know about what's happening around us, the better we can apply our time, talent, and treasure where it can make a difference. And bring a friend!

Then September 29 is our Fifth Tuesday Community Service Focus. We're getting out of the meeting room and touring the City of Victorville's homelessness initiative. We'll get a first-hand look at what the City is doing and where Rotary might be able to help.

These are two great opportunities to learn more about our community and see where Rotary can make a difference.

Brad

Mariscal

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Disaster Response helps Rotary districts respond to communities affected by disasters, supporting relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The Endowment Fund is designed to provide Rotary with a permanent source of funding. Contributions are invested in perpetuity, with a portion of the investment earnings supporting Rotary programs year after year.

Annual Fund-SHARE is one of the primary ways contributions eventually come back to Rotary districts. Under the SHARE system, a portion becomes District Designated Funds that districts can use to support grants and other Foundation activities, while another portion supports the World Fund.

The common thread is simple: giving to The Rotary Foundation provides resources that allow Rotarians to turn ideas into action, whether that action takes place across town or across the world.

Our clubs raise money locally because we see needs in our own communities. We support scholarships, nonprofits, families and organizations close to home. But giving to The Rotary Foundation extends that same spirit of service beyond the boundaries of an individual club, and, through grants, can ultimately bring resources back to local communities as well.

The experience of the Altadena Rotary Club following the Eaton Fire is a powerful example.

When disaster affected their own members, Rotarians who had spent years helping others suddenly found themselves among those needing help. Yet the club continued serving its community, helping hundreds of families begin the long process of recovery.

That's what the Foundation is ultimately about. It isn't simply a fund or a line on a Rotary budget. It is Rotarians around the world putting resources together so that when someone, somewhere, needs help, fellow Rotarians have the ability to respond.

And as Mark Mariscal reminded us, that's what being a "professional volunteer" is all about.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Big Blue Poker Chip



Brad Letner had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved it for another!

We will continue next week with 9 chips and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Spoon of Exception

Arsalee Morales continued with the Spoon this week, and shared that Sciens will be at the 42nd Annual High Desert Home Improvement & Lifestyle Show, taking place October 2-4, at the San Bernardino Fairgrounds. They will have great security system specials at the show, so please make plans to attend.



Raffle

Chris Ackerman gave away a trio of goodies this week for some happy Rotarians, beginning with a VVTA canvas shoulder bag that will be used by **Alyy Martinez**, and a VVTA Stadium bag, that **Brad Letner** will use next time he goes to Allegiant Stadium to watch the Raiders play. Finally, **Darron Poulsen** will enjoy the Apple Valley Air Show with a pair of tickets, also donated by Ackerman.

ROTARY CLUB OF VICTORVILLE



ROTARY'S 76TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
DINNER FOR TWO AT 6:00 PM
DRAWING STARTS AT 7:15 PM

SPRING VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
12975 ROLLING RIDGE, SPRING VALLEY LAKE

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CURRENT AND FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR PROJECTS

Fine Session



Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and began by giving **Terry Caldwell** a \$10 fine by heading to Ohio State for some football, and **Dr. Derek King** was

penalized the same amount for presenting to the San Bernardino County Board of Education this week.

Also paying \$10 was **Craig Garrick** for continuing to park planes at SCLA, and **Darron Poulsen** was fined \$10 for telling speaker **Mark Mariscal** that the VVWRA tried to help put out the Eaton Fire with reclamation water.

Rotary Guests

Our Stand-in this week was **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**.



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2026 - 2028	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary	Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Foundation.....	Jon Hove
Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Club Service	Arsalee Morales
Community Service	Craig Garrick
Vocational Service	Angel Espino
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Directors/Members-at-Large.....	Bob Basen & Dr. Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree/Marketing	Chris Ackerman
Recording Secretary.....	Pam Murray

Positions & Committee Chairs

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
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

Oct 5	Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm Board Meeting Coldwell Banker 12138 Industrial Blvd., Suite102 Victorville, CA 92395
Oct 17	76th Anniversary Fundraiser 5:30pm Doors 6:00pm Dinner • 7:15pm Drawing Spring Valley Lake Community Center 12975 Rolling Ridge, SVL

Programs & Events

Sept 22	Community Roundtable 5:00pm • Victorville City Hall, 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville, CA 92392
Sept 29	5th Tuesday Community Service Time & Location: TBA Homelessness Initiative
Oct 6	OPEN
Oct 13	2nd Tuesday Fun: Scandia Night Out 5:00pm Scandia, 12627 Mariposa Rd, Victorville, CA 92395
Nov 10	2nd Tuesday Fun: Scandia Night Out 5:00pm Los Domingos Restaurant Apple Valley
Nov 17	2026 Teacher Mini-Grants

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