



## THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope  
in the World*

### CHRIS LUECK INNOVATIONS IN GLASS RECYCLING FOR CENTRAL WASHINGTON



In 2019, a couple of winemakers and residents got together to figure out ways to collect and repurpose empty bottles collected from wineries in the Walla Walla Valley. They bought a machine capable of pulverizing bottles into sand like consistency and Ground2ground Glass was formed. Hoping this material would take the place of natural sand in construction and landscaping projects, it never really gained enough traction and in 2022 they closed local operations and went looking for a more viable solution for the glass waste stream.

At the same time, the Glass Packaging Institute was looking at Eastern Washington as an untapped resource for single source glass recycling options. Together, they began collaborating and refining the Hub & Spoke model to fit local business needs to the geographical distances of the Columbia, Yakima, and Walla Walla Valleys.

Chris Lueck, president of BIG Recyclers, retired in 2016 after spending 40+ years in the food and beverage industry, including being a wine buyer for a small chain of grocery stores in Seattle. After retiring, he wanted something to focus on to benefit his community and beyond. With his connections in the wine industry, he began talking about recycling all the wine bottles used by wineries that ended up in the local landfills.

At our meeting he'll discuss current bottle recycling activities in the region, potential opportunities for increasing glass recycling in our community, and the ways individuals, businesses and organizations can be involved.

#### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Music – Andie Webb  
Greeters – Bill Douglas, Andi Hochleutner  
Invocation – Russ Wilkinson  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Moriet Miketa  
Program – John Cooper

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 2nd – Becky Johnson & Barb Heinzen, Yakima  
& Selah Neighbors Network  
May 9th – Christy Bracewell Trotter, Yakima Valley  
Farm Workers Clinic  
May 16th – Brother Mark Murphy, The Mission  
of World-Wide Education by the De La Salle  
Christian Brothers  
May 23rd – Yakima Rotary Academic  
Scholarship Awards

#### “ROTARIANS AT WORK” DAY



Saturday, April 27th  
Slots are filled for Sarg Hubbard Park and  
the Welcome to Yakima Sign.  
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FILL  
SLOTS AT ROTARY LAKE.  
Work Begins at 9am and will be  
done by noon.  
Contact the Rotary office if you can help.

## 100 JOBS FOR YOUTH

The Jobs for Youth Committee is looking for Rotarians to help with the Youth Career Fair on Monday, May 13th from noon to 7:00pm at the OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center. Volunteers will help teach high school students how to get a job, complete a job application, and participate in mock interviews. You can stay the full time or choose a time period that works best for you. Students will be hired for a 4-week part-time job this summer.

Individuals and local businesses are also needed to provide jobs, sponsor a job, or make a donation toward a job. The cost to sponsor a full job is \$1,300. Any contribution would be appreciated. If you would like to participate with the Career Fair, provide a job, or make a donation please call or e-mail the Rotary office ASAP.

## REVIEW

There was a full house this week to listen to Senator Curtis King give a report of the 2024 Legislative Session. This year's session began on January 8th and ended on March 7th, just as it was scheduled to do so. There were 1,261 bills filed. 381 passed; of those, 200 were from the House and 181 from the Senate. It was extremely busy. There was more collaboration than he has seen in the last 8 to 9 years. Curtis had nine bills that passed the Senate, seven of them went on to the Governor after passing through the House. All of them unanimously. He also had three House companion bills where he dropped a bill in the Senate with someone else dropping the same bill in the House. It was a productive year for the 14th District. Curtis along with his fellow Representatives Corry and Mosbrucker, brought back over \$20 million in projects. They were told that they should expect to get around \$300,000.

There were bills that the majority did not like and did not pass. Curtis highlighted three of them: SB 5770, HB 2114, and SB 5241. SB 5770 would have allowed local governments to raise property taxes 3% from the current 1% percent without voter approval. HB 2114 would have put rent controls in place, and SB 5241 would have given the Attorney General the ability to approve or disapprove hospital mergers. There was another bill voted down called the Electrification Strategy Bill, that would have included fees if your truck idled too long, a requirement for softer tires, and a requirement to electrify all school buses at a cost of \$2.7 billion without infrastructure costs. One bill that did pass was SB 6304 that requires PSE to eliminate natural gas in their portfolio. The cost to do so will be \$8 to \$10 billion, all of which will be passed on to their customers. While this bill was only for PSE, he projected that, in the future, other energy providers will be forced to do the same.

One uniqueness of the session was that there were six initiatives brought by the people. Three were chosen by the Legislature for consideration and passed. I-2113 restored reasonable suspicion standards to allow pursuit of stolen vehicles. I-2081 created a parental bill of rights that would give parents the right to know what is being taught in school and accountability. I-2111 prevents state, county, city, and other local governments from establishing and collecting income tax. The three remaining initiatives to repeal the capital gains tax, repeal the Climate Commitment Act, and allow individuals to opt-out of the WA Cares Long-Term Program will be on the November ballot.

Transportation is a favorite subject; but there are many challenges to face. The bids for mega projects are coming in with huge cost increases; if we don't fund them, the cost will only continue to rise. Salmon culverts in 5 counties are required by court order to have 90% of blocked culverts opened. In 2021 they had \$3.8 billion to make it happen. Last November, they received a message that by the end of 2024 80% would be completed, but they would need another \$4 billion to complete the remaining 10%. Our ferry system used to be the best in the world; today it's in shambles. They recently got rid of a law that said you could only build Washington ferries in Wash-

ington. In the next couple of months bids will be accepted from around the country. The system is behind \$2 billion. Transportation and maintenance are \$8 to \$10 billion short of where they need to be. Moving sales tax from cars and trucks to transportation would provide the needed funds; right now, they go to the operating budget.

He ended with the Electric Vehicle Mandate. The challenges to meeting the 2035 deadline include a critical mineral shortage, lack of infrastructure, and affordability. By 2030 we will need 1.2 million charges around the country; it's not going to happen. The raw materials it takes to make one electric vehicle can make 6 plug-in hybrids or 90 hybrids that use gas too. Those 90 hybrids would over their lifetime reduce carbon 37% more than the one electric vehicle. Washington state won't give incentives to purchase. It was another great program that included questions and answers.

What else happened? We celebrated our newest Rotary Unsung Hero recipients, the Yakima Valley Veteran Honor Guard with a presentation of colors and the award by Past President Rick Pinnell. The impact of their work on our community could be felt by asking our own members to stand if they were a Gold Star family, lost friends in their units, or served in the military. They do 100 to 200 funerals per year from Ellensburg to Zillah; they had one after Rotary and have another three on Saturday. At each funeral, they provide a 21-gun salute, the taps, and present a U.S. flag to the family in honor of their loved one. They are not paid, they do not receive donations for themselves, but for their uniforms and flags. They use donations to subsidize veteran families who do not have enough money to cover a plot and funeral giving peace in knowing that their loved one is remembered for their service to our country. It was a beautiful recognition of an exceptional group of volunteers who truly exemplify Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

Our greeters were Maria Rodriguez and Andi Hochleitner. Tim Carlson raised money for Charities with a law quiz as sergeant-at-arms. President Erin welcomed our guests and shared a need of volunteers for "Rotarians at Work" Day on April 27th. And Noel Moxley shared that sign-ups are underway for the 100 Jobs for 100 Youth Program.



*Unsung Hero Recipients Yakima Valley Veteran Honor Guard*