



THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
 Of Rotary*

LILA MOWATT & RALPH THOMPSON CLASSIFICATION TALKS

This week's program will feature Classification Talks by two of our members, Lila Mowatt and Ralph Thompson. When an individual joins Rotary, they are assigned a classification that reflects the principal activity of their current or past occupation or service to their community. The number of members in any given classification is limited. The reason is to bring people together from different fields, industries, and experiences to learn from each other and serve their communities.



Lila Mowatt joined Rotary on February 2, 2022. Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, she spent her formative years in Beaumont, Texas. She graduated from NYU with a degree in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies and received her Master of Arts at Haifa University in Israel. She is the Director of Development & Community Relations for FIRST Washington, that encourages students from diverse backgrounds to be future leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.



Ralph Thompson joined Yakima Rotary in 1993 and was a previous member of the Ballard Rotary Club where he served as club president. Ralph was born in Seattle in 1945 and moved with his family to Yakima in 1956. Upon graduation from Eisenhower High School he attended YVCC, the University of Washington, and received his law degree from Willamette University. From 1967-69, he served as a Peace Corp volunteer in the eastern hills of Nepal. He practiced law in Seattle for 18 years before moving back to Yakima as an Administrative Law Judge. He became a Yakima County District Court Judge from which he retired in 2011 and continued to serve as judge pro tem when requested.

These talks provide a wonderful way to learn about our fellow Rotarians. They are educational, entertaining, fun, and insightful. By sharing their own stories, experiences, careers, and families, Lila and Ralph continue a club tradition that goes back over 100 years.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Clark Permann, Tammy Hanlon
 Inspiration – Clark Permann
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Brad Hansen
 Program – Brad Hansen

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 5th – Rotary District Governor Tom Tochterman
 September 12th – Rotary Picnic
 September 19th – Jacqui Gordon,
 September 26th – District Governor Tom Tochterman

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, August 30, 2024, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Vicki Baker
 City Manager
 City of Yakima
Classification: City Management
 Proposed by: Kathy Miller Parrish
 Endorsed by: Kyle Curtis

SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL



Wednesday, August 28th
 5pm to 6pm
 Single Hill Brewery
 Hors d'oeuvres are on us.
 Drinks are on you.

ROTARY MARKETPLACE THANK YOU'S

On August 16th, Sig Fossum, Brad Kessinger, Jordan Matson and Jim De-Grasse were presented A Perfect Paver award for their work on the Rotary Marketplace. The completion of the Marketplace would not have happened without their leadership and dedication, day after day, setting paver after paver in place. THANK YOU!



ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC

Thursday, September 12
5pm to 7pm
Cowiche Creek Brewery
Food • Fun • Live Music
Sign-ups are underway
for the entire family.



REVIEW

You could tell that it was going to be a great day as President Jim called out a special hi to Brad Kessinger and a big thank you to Greg Luring who served as our greeter along with Jan Luring and Bob Gerst. After greeting, Jan shared a beautiful message about the wonder of the 86,400 seconds that we are gifted with every day. For some lucky Rotarians those seconds began earlier in the day at Hoover Elementary as President Jim and team distributed backpacks full of school supplies (that we put together last week) to every student along with a special kit for all the teachers. Principal Julio Sanchez shared an energy that was inspiring to his students, his staff, and volunteers. 94% of the families at Hoover are at or below poverty level. You couldn't help but walk away thinking that the best thing this club has ever done is give away 614 backpacks.

President Jim announced our annual Seahawk poster giveaway complements of Eric Silvers. The posters feature wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba; if you didn't get one, call Eric. To her surprise, President Jim also recognized our very own Quinn Dalan as the recipient of the Washington State Bar Association Family Law Professional of the Year. She is a rock star in Rotary and outside of Rotary!

Karen Ireland and Pattie Graffe extended an invitation to our first Second Chance Social of the year taking place next Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm at Single Hill Brewery and the annual Rotary Picnic on September 12th at Cowiche Canyon Brewery. Sign-ups are underway for the picnic. Get your name on the list! Jim Berg wrapped up Rotary business with sergeant-at-arms pushing the edge on the taboo subject of politics.

Jon DeVaney had the honor of introducing our featured speaker, Derek Sandison, the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture who provided us with look at agriculture in Washington that included a snapshot using data from the 2022 census of agriculture conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- The value of crops and livestock produced in Washington is \$12.8 billion. There are 32,076 farms statewide. That number is significantly lower than 2017, when there were 35,700 farms statewide.
- The average farm income is \$397,000 and average acreage is 387 acres. If you look at the median farm, income is about \$5,000, and acreage is less than 30 acres. 10% to 12% of farms account for 94% of the \$12.8 billion. The other 88% produce about \$700 million.
- In 2022, the number of farms that were family owned was 95%. Since 2017, the number of family farms in Washington has dropped 13%. The number of corporate farms has increased by 5% and partnerships by 3%. In Yakima County there are 2,523 farms, a decrease of 429 farms from 2017. The number of acres has increased by 11,000. Yakima County is number one in the number of Hispanic farms (489) and Native American farms (76).
- Unlike the rest of America where over ½ of crop lands are devoted to limited commodity crops, Washington is home to over 300 crops. Washington has a very diverse style of agriculture that includes specialty crops like tree fruit and vegetables.
- The #1 agriculture product in Washington is apples with a dollar

value of over \$2 billion. The number 2 through 5 products are milk, wheat, cattle and potatoes. The remaining 6 to 10 are hay, eggs, hops, cherries and grapes. In Yakima County there are 854 farms that are in orchards; we also grow most of the nation's hops in our Valley.

- Washington is an agriculture export driven state. 92% of wheat grown in Washington is exported; 30% of apples are exported. Canada and Japan are our number one and two export partners followed by China, Mexico and South Korea. Frozen French Fries are the number one export product. Chances are that if you are eating a French Fry at McDonalds in the Pacific Rim it came from Washington state. Fish & seafood, wheat, apples, and dairy round out the remaining products. The value of apple production decreased in 2017, due to retaliatory tariffs imposed on apples by India. In a two-year period, it dropped from \$2.43 billion to \$1.95 billion in 2019. India was one of our biggest markets. The tariffs were eventually lifted but it takes work to win markets back.

There is a lot of pressure on the agriculture industry. There are land and input cost increases. There is also labor, water availability, weather disruptions and pest concerns. Tree fruit is very labor intensive. Growers are utilizing the H2A program. It is better suited to large farms than small farms, is expensive, and many of the rules surrounding it are archaic. State-imposed restrictions on overtime pay kicked-in this year. All affects the bottom line. Irrigation is huge. Of the 7 million acres of crop land in Washington, 2 million are irrigated. Our basin is dependent on irrigation and drought prone, we are seeing that this year. One thing going for us is the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan that was put together with the Yakama Nation, all three counties, state, irrigation districts, the City of Yakima, and fisheries to create a plan for water. It has been in implementation for 12 years of a 30-year plan. A work in progress, they are trying to achieve a scenario where customers will not be below 75% of normal allotment of water.

2023 was supposed to be a Farm Bill year for agriculture – there was not one. They are hoping to get one in 2024; as a lame duck year it will probably not happen. Support for the agriculture industry comes from Farm Bill. Examples of funding provided to farmers include conservation and nutrition programs. It helps support activities in agriculture land all across the state. New USDA programs include Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure to improve the middle of the supply chain, Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program, and Regional Agriculture Promotion Program.

Agriculture in Washington is extremely important. We are 12th in the states for agriculture output and home to a very diverse and resilient group of farmers and ranchers. There is a limit to what they can withstand. With a 30% increase in production costs since 2017 there are a lot of reasons for concern. WSU is studying factors that affect bottom line for farms and ranchers; with the goal to use that information to suggest modifications to the existing framework including regulatory.

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2024



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