



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
 Of Rotary*

DAVID KEARBY ST. ANDREWS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



David Kearby is the executive director of TRIP, a national transportation research non-profit headquartered in Washington DC. Besides managing the day-to-day operations, Dave also serves as a spokesperson to the news media. Prior to joining TRIP in 2020, Dave served with the Associated General Contractors of Washington state for more than a decade in central Washington where he was also a Rotarian with the Downtown Yakima Rotary Club. Active in the Selah community he served as a school board director as well as being elected to the city council before his move to the nation's capital. With the ability to work remotely during the pandemic he and his wife Sharon moved to Boise so their daughter Alexis could finish high school in person as she was returning from a year as a Yakima Rotary sponsored Youth Exchange student to Germany. With her graduation and transition to college, Yakima became their home again along with a new membership in Southwest Rotary.

Rotary and a love of golf provided an opportunity for Dave to participate in the St. Andrews Rotary International Fellowship Golf Tournament, an annual event that brings Rotarians from all around the globe to play at the "home" of golf that includes the fabled Old Course. Dave will share his experience, how he became involved, the why behind Rotary Fellowships, and how we can become part of the more than 100 officially recognized fellowships and connect with others who enjoy the same hobbies, interests and professions.



FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Curt Wilson, Joel Ylvisaker
 Inspiration – Sheri Bissell
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Bob Udell
 Program – Brad Hansen
 Attendance – Magaly Solis

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 13th – Shaquem Griffin, Black History Month
 February 20th – Andi Hochleutner & Dr. Foti Panagakos,
 Classification Talks
 February 27th – Darcie Roberts, Local Fine Art
 March 6th – Vicki Baker, Yakima City Update

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, February 7, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

David Desmarais
 MMD Sales, Inc.
Classification: Wholesale, Fruits & Vegetables
 Proposed by: Dave Bolm
 Endorsed by: Mike Broadhead



HAPPY ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

to Paul Trotter



SAVE THE DATE ROTARY SKI & SNOWSHOE DAY



Save the date of Friday, March 14th for a great day of fun and fellowship just minutes from Yakima at White Pass Ski Area.

Come and enjoy the stunning views of Mt. Rainier downhill skiing or the beauty of the forest with a guided snowshoe tour. Sig Fossum and the Sporthaus will be on-site with demo skis for you to try at no charge.



Can't make it or don't ski? Join us for dinner at Bron Yr Aur Brewing Company in Naches. Pizza is on us; drinks are on you. All three Yakima Rotary clubs are participating. Guests and prospective new members are invited. Mark your calendar today!

ONE DAY ROTARY LEARNING INSTITUTE Something New – Something Different -Something Great

Do you want to learn more about Rotary? Rotary Leadership Institute is a District one-day meeting suitable for members of any Rotary knowledge. Learn about everything from The Rotary Foundation, to how to create a positive membership experience, to new leadership skills, and learning about service opportunities outside your own Rotary club bubble. Yakima is hosting this once-a-year event on Saturday, March 22nd at the Yakima Greenway Visitors Center from 8:30am to 3:30pm; lunch is included.

This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with members from other clubs, exchange ideas, and build potential new collaborations. Space is limited. Contact the Rotary office today to get your name on the list of participants.

REVIEW

Our program this week with Brett Lovins was exceptional. Introduced by Celisa Hopkins, Brett shared his personal story of addiction, recovery, and his current work helping others through his business Sober Curious Consulting create Recovery Friendly Workplaces. Brett is an example of living in recovery. The word recovery was a word that at one time would have stopped him in his tracks. He wasn't interested in talking and put up a barbed wire fence to protect himself. Curiosity was not allowed in his sphere. Today it is becoming more and more common for people like him to step up and speak out and normalize conversations.

There are addiction problems in workplaces whether we are aware or not. The term Recovery Friendly Workplace is not something that he made up. It was started in 2018 in New Hampshire by the then governor, Chris Sununu. He found that the things he had done in his private workplace addressing the issue of addiction translated well to the populist. What he created is the gold standard. Many states have followed suit. Washington is one of them with the WA Recovery Alliance. Statistics show that 17% of the U.S. population has a substance use disorder (SUD). One in 10 of those individuals have a severe addiction; 70% are full-time employees. 2/3 of the population have been affected by SUD. Brett was a high-performing employee. He never set out to be an alcoholic and addict. He had his first beer at age 13. At some point, moderation didn't work, willpower didn't work, it wasn't a moral failing. It was a lot like holding your breath, you can only hold it so long before he needed alcohol or drugs. It was hard! Once he started, he couldn't stop.

His sobriety began on May 28, 2013. Twenty days sober he walked into an event with his employer Cisco in Miami. Right off the plane he gets told they are going to meet for a team dinner. There was music playing; everyone was handed shots. No one knew he was an alcoholic and addict. He didn't take the shot. For the next 8 years, he kept attending all the events. He stayed quiet. In 2018, he saw a documentary called "The Anonymous People". Much like the movie Rocky it was a call to arms to come out of the shadows. In 2020, his friend Jeff Meyer died from an overdose. At Jeff's memorial he overcame his fears and began to share his own story. In 2021, he took a class called "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown with a message that you have to be vulnerable to find your way to courage. After 8 years at Cisco, he started to make noise as a single voice in a company of 80,000 employees. The next 3 years, he began sharing his story. Cisco asked him to speak to their entire employee base. He said yes, and in 15 days, he went from knowing no one at the company in recovery to knowing 200 people. Things began to change, including

revisions to their bylaws and the creation of webinars and blogs. They hosted their first sober happy hour at a sales conference – it was the first event that sold out.

Growing up, his grandfather constantly asked him "if he was going to do his best." Today he is trying to do his best through his work helping other organizations and companies by sharing the benefits of reaching out to their employees. Recovery is possible. He was authentic, impactful, with a heartfelt message appreciated by us with a standing ovation.

What else happened? Our greeters this week were Ryan Smith and Elisabeth Tutsch. Selling Super Bowl board squares were Dana Dwinell and Sara Watkins. Rick Pinnell shared a recent story he'd read about a group of parents bragging about the colleges their children had chosen and one set of parents who reluctantly shared their son had signed up for the Marines, the silence that followed, and their newfound sense of pride after attending his basic training graduation. He asked to thank our service men, women, and veterans, and to remember our historical freedoms come from the military, not our politicians. President Jim shared that we raised nearly \$4,000 for California fire relief and recognized two of our members: Paul Trotter for his one-year Rotary anniversary and Rodrigo Renteria-Valencia for his new title as the new Dean of Graduate Education, Research & Strategic Initiatives at CWU.

Mike Norton introduced our first new member of 2025, Paul Needham. Paul was born and raised in Yakima and graduated from Eisenhower High School where he enjoyed running cross-country and wrestling. As a teenager he loved to spend time working on projects alongside his dad; one of those was building the Meadowbrook Family Fun Center. He attended YVC for one year before transferring to WSU. After three years of college and having no idea of what he wanted to do, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. After graduating from WSU, he managed lumberyards in Oregon and Washington before coming back to Yakima to open "Play it Again Sports" with his dad. He met his wife Shannon on a coed soccer team that the store sponsored; they are parents to 2 boys. Today they are the owners of Yakima Canine Club on 2nd Avenue offering boarding services, training and grooming services. When not working they enjoy RV traveling visiting National Parks and their boys at college. We are so happy to have him as part of our Rotary Club! Steven Gustafson finished up Rotary business with a TV commercial themed sergeant-at-arms.



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