



THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine
Rotary*

TOM TOCHTERMAN EXTINCTION IS FOREVER



Tom Tochterman is currently a member of the Chelan Rotary Club although he began his Rotary life years earlier in the Seattle area. After an early career as a military policeman in the United States Air Force he joined his family investment and after 30 years retired for a total new career in nature conservation.

Tom is the founder of Rhino Mercy, a U.S. 501c3, non-profit, established in 2012. In 2014, he co-founded the Internationally recognized Black Mamba anti-poaching unit and received recognition by the Parliament of South Africa for organizing the first all-female anti-poaching unit. In 2016, the group received the United Nations highest environmental

award, Champions of the Earth.

Tom is also board chair of the Rotary Action Group for endangered species and has presented reports on his efforts to save the rhino at two Rotary International Conventions.

He and his wife Julie have three children and two grandchildren and are enjoying semi-retirement in Chelan, Washington.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Erika Rutter, Chuck Stillwaggon
Music – Charlie Robin
Invocation – Doug Rich
Sergeant-at-Arms – Rich Austin
Program – Darrell Blue

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 2nd – Jesse Wineberry, The Making of MLK Jr. Holiday in Washington State
February 9th – Jeff Antonelis-Lapp, Mt. Rainier & Climate Change
February 16th – Karen Troianello, My Life with Title IX
February 23rd – Bete Demeke, Project Mercy

PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, January 27, 2023, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

Teresita Tamez
Assistant City Attorney
City of Yakima
Classification: Criminal Law
Proposed by: Tammy Hanlon
Endorsed by: Jeff Schaap

Rosylen Oglesby
Assistant City Manager
City of Yakima
Classification: City Management
Proposed by: Eric Silvers
Endorsed: Randy Beehler

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REVIEW

If you missed this week's meeting, you missed the opportunity to hear from two impressive students from Davis & Eisenhower High School and Trevor Greene, Superintendent of the Yakima School District (YSD). Together they gave us a report on the YSD and a new program called Student Voice.

Trevor Greene began with an overview of the District and what he's been proud of over the past three years. The common thread between them was partnerships.

- Faith-based partnerships where every school is tied to one or two churches. They come together quarterly to talk about the state of schools and what can be done to unify and support students. It is something that he has never seen anywhere else.
- A partnership with Arizona State University that allows students to stay in school, not have to leave campus or worry about transportation, and gain an AA degree, all free of charge.
- A partnership called *Handle with Care* with the City of Yakima, that addresses domestic violence. Every time a student has a domestic violence interaction at home, the school is notified allowing them to provide support and counseling. It is a big problem in our community; thus far there have been over 700 incidences reported.
- A partnership with Northwest Harvest. During the pandemic the district found itself with a food shortage issue. They couldn't order the large quantities of food they wanted because they didn't have storage. Starting this month thanks to NW Harvest's newly completed 200,000 square foot warehouse, they will have a new dedicated space to store food.
- A partnership with the RAVE Foundation of Seattle Sounders; Adams, Hoover, Barge Lincoln Elementary Schools now have mini-pitches (small soccer field) for the students to play and neighborhood play areas when school is out. MLK Jr. is next.
- Consolidation of Early Learning Centers that were previously spread out all over the district, to one location at Discovery Lab.

The program that he is most proud of is their work with Student Voice. When the YSD went into the pandemic there

were many things to deal with; the one thing that was not put aside was talking to students. They built a Superintendent Student Advisory Council that involved over 100 students from all the secondary schools. Those conversations were the starting point of what would become the Student Voice Policy, a comprehensive policy written entirely by students that aims to enhance and empower student voices in all levels of the Yakima School District. That is where our students from Davis & Ike came to the podium. With copies of the policy provided for us to follow along, they shared the definition of Student Voice, the breakdown of the policy with details within each section, and a request for feedback as they continue to define the final draft for Board approval. The definition of Student Voice was shared as the authentic communication of all students' perspectives and ideas, where students are empowered and student voice structures are implemented by the whole school community to advance educational equity for generations to come. The policy is broken down into four main sections (1) purpose & preamble explaining why the policy is necessary, the responsibilities and opportunities that the YSD is embracing with approval of the policy, and the definition of Student Voice (2) principles declaring foundational statements as well as goals of policy, (3) practices that outline actions that will be enforced when policy is passed, and (4) targeted outcomes with reasons and goals of the policy. It was an impressive presentation for two young individuals. When their work is completed and presented to the School Board for approval it will be a first of its kind in Washington state and one of only a few in the nation.

What else happened? Our music was provided by Andie Webb and featured a video performance of the A.C. Davis High School Band competition at Everett this fall in which they took first place. Rick Pinnell shared a prayer about the gifts we possess and the ability to recognize them and share them with others. Announcements included an invitation to tour Perry Tech in February and sharing about last week's MLK Jr. Peace Walk and Celebration where the Yakima Rotary Food Bank was presented with the Spirit of The Dream Award. Bob Romero wrapped it all up with another great sergeant-at-arms.