



THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Create Hope
in the World

BREE BLACK HORSE
WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS YAKIMA CHAPTER'S
WOMEN OF COLOR LEGAL EDUCATION FUND



Bree Black Horse is an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and a senior litigation associate at the law firm of Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton in the Native American practice group. Bree advises Tribal governments and enterprises on all aspects of federal, state, and tribal law, including tribal sovereignty, economic development, treaty rights, and complex Indian country litigation.

Bree is a 2013 graduate of Seattle University School of Law, where she was a Douglas R. Nash Native American Scholar, President of the Native American Law Student Association, and co-founder and editor in chief of the American Indian Law Journal. Bree is a former law clerk to Chief U.S. District Court Judge Brian M. Morris in the District of Montana.

Bree is Chair of the Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Section, President of the Washington Women Lawyer's Yakima Chapter, and Co-Founder and Administrator of the Women of Color Legal Education Fund. She is the Program Director for the 2023 LSAC Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program at Heritage University, which aims to make a law degree more accessible for Latinx and Indigenous people from Central Washington. Bree also serves on the Northwest Harvest Board, the ACLU-WA Board of Directors, and is Chair of the ACLU-WA Legal Committee.

Kilpatrick Townsend recognized Bree as the Pro Bono Associate of the Year in 2022. *The Yakima Herald* featured Bree as one of its "39 Under 39" in 2022 based on her advocacy work in the Indigenous community. Washington Women Lawyers also awarded Bree the Chapter Member of the Year in 2022. She was also recognized in 2022 as one of the "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" for Native American Law by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Bree was recognized as a Washington "Rising Star" in 2022 and the four years immediately preceding for Native American Law by Super Lawyers magazine. Bree is a 2019 recipient of the Public Service and Leadership Award from the WSBA Washington Young Lawyers Committee. The National Center for American Indian Economic Development recognized Bree with its "40 Under 40" Award in 2016.

Bree lives and works in Yakima, Washington.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Kyle Curtis & Drew Harris
Music – Andie Webb
Invocation – Russ Wilkinson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Brad Hansen
Program – Raul Martinez

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 18th – All Yakima Rotary Club Celebration
July 20th – No Meeting
July 27th – Mandy Ketcham, Dementia
August 3rd – Maria Lucero, MLK Jr. Elementary



Catered by Gasperetti's. Don't miss the Wine, Beer, and Fellowship! RSVP by July 14th at robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org.

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, July 14, 2023, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Chase Powell
Producer
Central WA Insurance Agency, Inc.
Classification: Insurance, Personal & Commercial Lines
Proposed by: Bryan Powell
Endorsed by: Scott Wagner

REVIEW

It was a great day to celebrate Erin Black as our new Rotary President. The new Rotary Board were there to serve as greeters and Past President Rick Fairbrook was back to preside over the first part of the meeting. Our music was provided by Erin's daughter, Raelee who played the flute. She did a beautiful job! It was also one of the sweetest things I've ever seen. Tressa Shockley followed with an inspirational message embodying the qualities that make Erin the perfect choice as president. *Leaders in Heels are extraordinary women.*

It may have been the first meeting of the year but there are already opportunities for fellowship and fun. Rotaract President Marc Anthony shared that Rotaract is hosting a cornhole tournament at Bale Breakers on July 16th. He had 4 more sponsorships to fill. In a matter of minutes, he had them all; we might need him for our next auction. Kellie Connaughton talked about the Yakima Rotary Trust and an upcoming social event. The Yakima Rotary Trust is made up of all three Yakima Rotary clubs. Founded by 5 members of our club, it was established as a way for Rotarians to donate large gifts and include in estate planning with the funds used to support and create Rotary projects that transform our community. On July 17th the Trust is holding its annual Mollie Davis Golf Tournament. The following day, on July 18th they are hosting an All-Rotary Celebration at the new Rotary Marketplace. Catered by Gasperetti's, everyone is invited to attend. RSVPs are due by July 14th. Don't miss out! Southwest Rotarians Claudia Gonzalez and Josh Munson served as our guest sergeant-at-arms. With "did you knows" and Erin "isms" they raised over \$200 for Yakima Rotary Charities.

Erin's sisters followed with an introduction as only siblings can do, taking credit for Erin's strength, resilience, kindness, and heart of service. It was another sweet moment of the day. Past President Rick presented President Erin with the official president's pin and the podium was hers to take. She began by sharing how honored she was to take on this role. In the past 12 months, she has attended a Rotary Large Club Conference, PETS, and the Rotary International Convention in Australia. She learned about Rotary, what other clubs are doing, and that people know Yakima. She also shared that while Sunrise is known as the early birds and Southwest has self-appointed as the fun club, we can't forget that our club is the OC (original club) of Yakima.

It has been over a year since, there was a knock at her door asking her to be president. Her preparation has included a lot of listening.

A survey was sent out to our membership. At the Scholarship Dinners, members were asked to share their Rotary moments; why they joined Rotary; and if a new member, what were you looking forward to as a Rotarian. We also had a meeting where we divided into groups to discuss a variety of issues. What she heard was that Rotary needs to change. Our local community and world are changing; in order to remain relevant, we need to embrace change. She heard that we need to build diversity in every sense of the word - ethnicity, age, gender, everything. She heard that members love community service projects and that we love social events. As human beings we crave to be part of something - Rotary allows us to do that. At the RI Convention she heard a speaker named Michael McQueen. He used an ocean metaphor about waves and tides. In an ocean there are waves and tides. Waves are trends that come and go. Tides have the ability to reshape a coastline over time. We may have differences of opinion, but in the end, we are here for the same thing. We are a team.

She shared four words to describe the year ahead, Engage, Adapt, Impact and Reach. Across the country, Rotary membership has decreased slightly. In comparison, membership in Mason's and Kiwanis have declined by 76% and 60%, respectively. We don't want to be there. That is why engagement is so important. Engagement means something different to every person. If something resonates with someone, they'll make time. We need to ask how we can make sure we are welcoming and find out the needs of new members. It takes all of us to engage. Adapting means being open to new ideas and being flexible. That includes asking how many meetings we will have and what they will look like - going offsite, project based, and social activities. Impact is sharing how we are making a difference and reporting it to our members and our community. The last word, Reach is about reaching out to partners in our community who have a similar mission. It means wearing Rotary shirts when volunteering. It doesn't have to be a Rotary event. If we wear our shirts, people will ask questions. It is remembering that not all Rotary projects have to be big. Think of a service project that can be done around a hobby and share your ideas.

Our biggest project this year includes a partnership with Sunrise and Southwest Rotary to address childhood obesity. It is a huge issue in our community. Working as a team, we will be providing families with nutritious recipes, ingredients to make the recipes, and reusable Rotary shopping bags to make healthy, easy meals together. Each family will receive 6 meals over a three-month period. The goal is to serve 400 families. Keeping in mind the word reach, other partners in the project include the Northwest Harvest Distribution Center, Elena Moon, ACT Childhood Obesity Program, ESD 105, Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, Ttáwaxt Birth Justice Center, and La Casa Hogar.

President Erin ended with the presentation of a President Elect pin to Jim DeGrasse, a request to stand and look at our Rotary family, and the surprise of confetti flying through the air. It is going to be a glorious year!

