



THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Unite For
Good*

JAMES LOVE OAK CREEK BREWSTILLERY



James Love is a people-focused leader, hospitality professional, and business professional with more than a decade of experience developing teams, strengthening workplace culture, and creating meaningful customer experiences. His career has included leadership roles with Verizon, Cellular Sales, and Brooklyn-based MakeLab, where he served as Director of People & Culture.

After years in corporate America, James decided to pursue a more personal and community-centered path. Although he had long dreamed of one day opening a bar or restaurant of his own, he knew he needed hands-on experience in the hospitality industry. That journey led him to Oak Creek Brewstillery in Naches, where he quickly grew from learning the business to becoming a key leader across multiple aspects of the organization. Today, he contributes to team development, operations, guest experience, events, marketing, and the continued growth of the business.

James believes the strongest businesses and communities are built through genuine relationships, thoughtful leadership, and creating spaces where people feel like they belong.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Lisa Sargent, Kate Urwin
Inspiration – Celisa Hopkins
Sergeant-at-Arms – Jim Berg
Program – Dana Eliason
Attendance – Elisabeth Tutsch

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 25th – President Sheri Bissell's Recognition
July 1st – No Meeting – Happy Fourth of July
July 8th – President John Cooper
July 14th – Rotary Trust All Club Celebration

2026 VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS IS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Yakima Rotary Vocational Scholarship. The scholarship is open to recently graduated high school seniors from Davis, East Valley, Eisenhower, Highland, LaSalle, Naches Valley, Riverside Christian, Selah and West Valley AND to current students enrolled or planning to enroll at Perry Technical Institute, Heritage University and Yakima Valley College. Students must be enrolled or planning to enroll at a post-high vocational institution or in a 2-year terminal community college vocational program by June 30, 2027, and at a minimum through 2026 fall quarter. Completion of the chosen program must result in a degree or certification.

Criteria are based on commitment to one's chosen career, school and community engagement, evidence of passing grades, financial need, and communication skills. Finalists will be required to participate in an in-person interview as well. The application can be found at yakimarotary.org under the Youth tab. The deadline for applying is Friday, September 4, 2026.





**YAKIMA ROTARY TRUST
INVITES YOU TO THE
ALL-ROTARY
CELEBRATION**

Gather Under a Downtown Beacon
Tuesday, July 14th
5:30pm

ROTARY MARKETPLACE

Honey-Inspired Fare by The Lion Chef
Lavender-Inspired Cocktails
Complimentary Food & Drink

RAISE THE PADDLE:

An Opportunity to Invest in our
Community's Future
PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 6



ROTARY BOOK CLUB

Looking for a great excuse to curl up with a good book and enjoy some lively conversation with fellow Rotarians? The next book club meeting is Wednesday, June 24th at 5pm at the home of Scott Beyer. The book they will be discussing is *FIVE* by Ilona Bannister, a psychological thriller about five strangers waiting at a train station, where one will die.

Grab your copy, get reading, and RSVP to Dana Dwinell at dana@d2cmu.com.



REVIEW

The room was buzzing with energy and fun as our new members took over every part of the program from the greeters to music, inspiration, sergeant-at-arms, program and the presidency with Mitchell Acosta serving as our president of the day. They did an amazing job!

The only way into the room was through a rookie team member tunnel with cheers and pom poms. It was so much fun! The song of the day was “*I Lived*” by OneRepublic. Chosen by Mike Mittelman, it represented for him that a life well lived is one where you show up fully, give your best, and try to leave things a little better than when you found them. Kaitlyn Gottlieb’s inspirational message about newness was one of the best we’ve heard as she shared that growth happens when we try something new. It challenges our brains, expands our perspectives, and pushes us beyond boundaries we set for ourselves whether it is learning new skills, a new role, or walking in a room where we don’t know many people. Rotary is one of the best places to be new. It is about something bigger than us, new traditions, new relationships, and new ways to serve our communities. At times it can be a little uncomfortable (like getting up and sharing an inspirational message). Rotary allows us to be surrounded by others who offer encouragement and guidance, and a place where none of us has to figure it out alone.

Nothing could have been more fitting than the introduction of a new member as Kaitlin Bealer introduced Barrett Morrison. Barrett was born in Everett and raised in Snohomish. He grew up immersed in a family-run fishing lure business, Silver Horde and Gold Star founded by his great uncle. He still supports through marketing, digital design, and an online presence alongside his dad. In 2012, he relocated to Wenatchee where he served as a leasing consultant and a property manager. Seeking growth, he moved to Yakima to join Home Depot Pro in business-to-business sales. During the Covid-19 pandemic he supported essential organizations by maintaining access to critical supplies. Today he serves as Senior Field Account Manager for Veritiv. Married with two young children, four dogs and two cats, he enjoys target shooting, following Seattle sports, cooking on his smoker, and staying current with technology in his spare time. Welcome him to Rotary – we are so happy to have you as part of our team! Jake Church’s Sheriff’s department themed sergeant-at-arms finished up Rotary business.

Melissa Hill and Megan Nobbs volunteered to lead our program. This has been a year all about getting to know our fellow Rotarians. Melissa took that concept and with help from her fellow rookies put together an interactive “Guess Who” full of fun facts about our Red Shirt Rotarians. What did we learn? The baker of a world famous homemade Butterscotch pie (Chris Gilmer); canyoning in Ecuador (Kaitlyn Gottlieb); sitting in USS Gerald Ford captain’s chair (Jake Church); traveling to over 10 countries before the age of 12, an obsession with rivers, and attending Burning Man twice (Susan Brown-Aaron); traveling to The White House and Pink House in one year (Andres Moreno);

climbed Mt. Fuji to watch the sunrise at summit (Mike Mittelman); wedding officiant (Camille Kellison); recently visited Las Vegas (Barrett Morrison); daughter who is graduating from CWU tomorrow (Lupita Carrillo); spent 6 weeks in Costa Rica building homes in coffee fields (Megan Bewley); painted a beautiful picture (Melissa Hill); learned to ride a horse before a bike, mother was Miss Puerto Rico, father has been to space, and can surf (J.D. Bewley); had two children who’ve played football for the Selah Vikings (Eddie Dibble); and played a Russian Count cursed with stupidity (Corie Burck). What a brilliant way to get to know someone.

Megan followed with her own classification talk. People are always surprised at what she has done for work – that was her focus along with her motto “I Can Do That.” What does she do today? She serves as the Executive Director for the First Tee and as emotional support staff for Jason Kildall at Fuzion Events. She grew up with MTV and cable; because of that she has a deep love for live music. She was always a good student but had a hard time listening and being told what to do. Her first career in life was a hair stylist; she went to beauty school and was in the professional beauty industry for 17 years. She was an instructor, a stylist behind the chair, and became a sales consultant for L’Oreal Professional where she got to travel like crazy. Along the way her kids decided they wanted to play club basketball. She found herself missing being there for them and changed course. She began working for Townsquare Media in sales. She took online marketing and events management courses and began working for Seasons Performance Hall, booking music and handling marketing while also starting a beer festival which she ran for 7 years. Next came her own events and marketing business helping local nonprofits. Today, it’s all about golf and teaching kids the game; something that she loves. Each change in her life came with the words, “I Can Do It.” She loves challenges and new projects and is always willing to try new things. She ended with her family that includes her husband, 6 kids, parents, and a brother – they are cool too!

The meeting ended with a winner of the card draw – congratulations, Randy Searl. President Mitchell used his temporary power one more time asking us to raise our hands and put them down (which we all did). Thank you to the entire group of Red Shirts, Rotary rookies, or new members - they are the BEST!

