



THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

NEW MEMBERS & ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES: THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Since July 1, 2024, we have had 16 new members introduced with 2 more new members being introduced this week. If we go back one year to 2023-24, that number increases another 20. Each of these remarkable individuals represent all aspects of our community from law enforcement to education, banking, agriculture, insurance, design, real estate, medical, judicial, government, law, manufacturing, and non-profit organizations.

This week, we are continuing a tradition that allows our new members to take over the entire program for the day that includes greeting, inspiration, sergeant-at-arms, president of the day and the program with classification talks by Alyssa Ford and Rodrigo Renteria Valencia. If you haven't had the chance to introduce yourself, now is the time.

New members bring energy, ideas, diverse perspectives and resources. By meeting regularly to get to know each other, we learn, create friendships, and make lasting change in our community, ourselves, and across the world.



SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship Committee,

This award means so very much to me. Education is an investment, and Rotary is investing in mine. When discussing investments, most often we refer to the monetary kind, like a 401(k). Investments are designed to build wealth, to increase value as time progresses. This investment that you have made in me, however, is different. There will probably be no direct benefit or accrual of funds resulting from this scholarship, simply one more student in education. This is why it means so much to me. When my employer pays for my lifeguard certification, it is directly improving our workplace, expanding the recreation options my summer camp offers. But this scholarship is striving to build a future full of students who positively impact the world.

I want to share a little bit about my educational background and some of the reasons I am excited to pursue mechanical engineering. When I was in middle school, I started building and flying balsa-wood gliders for competition. When I got to high school, I progressed to far more complicated rubber-powered airplanes that fly around in lazy circles in my school gymnasium. This had started as simply a way to get into a STEM organization, but through it, I found a love for detail-oriented engineering work. Taking advanced math classes through Running Start gave me an insight into future careers. I also joined Washington Aerospace Scholars with the Museum of Flight. Last year, before participating in this program, I was waffling about what I wanted to do after high school. I wasn't sure that engineering was the road for me. But when I went to the WAS residency, everything became clear. Now I am excited to continue learning about this field and continue progressing towards my career.

Next year, I am going to attend Gonzaga University. When I received my financial aid package, I got a lot of assistance from the school, but not enough for me to attend without significant financial hardship. I was a little bit disappointed, but also more motivated to continue with my scholarship hunting. Getting this scholarship has given me tremendous hope. Hope that I can attend Gonzaga without amassing significant debt and also hope that I am on the right path. All this is to say, thank you. On a personal level, thank you for this award.

With this scholarship, I hope to make the world a better place by using my education to make a positive impact on the people around me. And on a larger level, thank you for investing in the futures of students like me. My mother said that when she attended school, there were simply fewer scholarship options available. It is people like you who are making a difference in the world we live in, so thank you. Your investments have a tremendous impact.

Sincerely,
Peter Whitney

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – New Members
Inspiration – Ryan Griffiee
Sergeant-at-Arms – Sy Ruiz
President – Yvette Inzunza
Attendance – Alex Ditto

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 19th – Kjersten Braaten, Tree Top
June 26th – President Jim DeGrasse Recognition
July 3rd – No Meeting, Happy 4th of July
July 10th – President Sheri Bissell

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Monday, June 16, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Sam McClung

Executive Director

Yakima Symphony Orchestra

Classification: Yakima Symphony Orchestra

Proposed by: Dana Eliason

Endorsed by: John Baule

REVIEW

With our program speaker calling in sick, Past Presidents Darrell Blue and Doug Rich immediately said yes when called and put together two short presentations: one on presidential campaign buttons and the other about private education. They did a great job!

Collecting campaign buttons is one of Darrell's hobbies. His first campaign button was given to him by his father; an Alfred Landon, GOP pin. Today he has several thousand. There wasn't a lot of campaigning done in the early presidential campaigns in our country. You'd see occasional posters, pictures and ribbons, but nothing beyond that. The first campaign with something that looked like a button was in 1840 with William Henry Harrison. The invention of celluloid invented in 1869 changed that. Developed to replace ivory billiard balls, celluloids also became the basis for political buttons. In 1896 the McKinley/Bryan used what we recognize as a pinback button. By 1920 celluloid buttons were replaced by lithography buttons that allowed printing of images onto metal – the first one was for James Cox and Warren G Harding. The pin for Cox had the word prosperity misspelled; without a lot of money, they used them anyway. With so many options to collect, Darrell focused his collection on jugate. A Jugate contains two images on the same button (president & vice-president). Where do you find buttons – estate sales, antique stores, and yard sales. Sizes vary. Darrell has every presidential candidate jugate from 1896 until today except the 1920. Buttons are not just about candidates; they were made for spouses and anti-candidate messages. There were themes; Alfred Landon used sunflowers, Jimmy Carter used green because he was a farmer. There are also fake buttons called brummagem. You have to be careful; the 1973 Hobby Protection Act requires reproductions to be labeled. There is rare value for some; a recent button for Cox/Roosevelt sold for \$185,850.

Doug Rich followed with his presentation covering the similarities and differences between public and private education; private schools in Washington and locally; the Catholic School System; the National Assessment of Educational Progress; and partnerships created due to Covid. The state constitution requires that we educate our children between the ages of K through 12 grade levels. The public system is charged with doing so; the private system emulates that. There are varying levels of what you'll see in private education. Some schools are run as a system; others are independent. They can be for profit or not-for-profit. The only requirement is that they have to have a certified teacher as the head of the school. The Catholic schools are approved annually by the state Board of Education to make sure they are meeting their duties. Private schools can also use an accreditation agency approved by the State Board of Education.

There are 520 private schools in Washington educating anywhere between 10-11% of Washington students in the K-12 system. Within the Catholic system there are 88 schools in the state; seven of which are local. The Yakima Diocese runs from Wenatchee to Tri-Cities. 30% of those that attend Catholic schools are not part of the Catholic faith; 15% of the faculty are not Catholic. Funding comes from tuition, subsidies from parishes, and fundraisers. Funding for public schools comes from state coffers and local levies. Their recently passed budget makes funding difficult especially for schools in rural communities – Trevor Greene and Peter Finch shared the inequities we face.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a nationwide program run by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Educational Sciences, and the National Center for Educational Statistics. Schools can voluntarily test their 4th and 8th grade students in math, sciences and reading. Washington scored above the national average in all categories. With Catholic schools nationwide, they were also looked at as a group. They did better than all states. Critics attributed it to wealthy families. It was recalculated to include students who qualify for free and reduced lunch only – the results were unchanged. What was the difference? It was parents engaged in their children's education.

When Covid hit, ESD 105 put together zoom calls with all superintendents involved; they invited Doug to be a part of the group. When Catholic schools pivoted to remote learning in 2 weeks, they were able to share what worked and didn't. When it came to in-person learning they conducted Health Districts audits and once again shared what worked and what didn't. He learned a lot from those relationships. The program ended with an announcement from La Salle High School principal Ted Kanelopoulos sharing that Christan Brothers will be coming back to the school in the fall; and that this year's graduating class of 58 seniors were all accepted to post-secondary schools earning over \$5 million in scholarships.

A special thank you to Darrell and Doug for stepping in! Other Rotary business included a bright, positive message from Jan Luring of "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." It paired beautifully with Jan and Greg also serving as our greeters with lemons on the table and lemonade to drink. President Jim member recognition when out to those that attended the SW Rotary's auction and a call for RSVPs to the Rotary Trust All Rotary Celebration on July 22nd. Doug Rich had a full day as he also took care of sergeant-at-arms that included a birthday song for President Jim.



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