THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

A CELEBRATION OF PRESIDENT RICK FAIRBROOK
ENERGIZE, SOCIALIZE, PERSONALIZE

Energize, Socialize, and Personalize are the perfect descriptors for this year under the leadership of President Rick Fairbrook. Unveiled at his first meeting in true superman style, they were woven into every aspect of his year from the programs to giving, projects, and social events.

As President, he was consistently ENERGIZED by how often he heard the word yes when he asked someone to help or to serve as a chair for one of our 39 committees. That energy was channeled on a weekly basis through our greeters (where he always joined in to help), music, invocation, and sergeant-at-arms. The Program Committee led by Bob Gerst and Bruce Bacon brought us speakers that inspired, educated, and entertained us. We learned about the origin of pickleball from Frank Pritchard, the making of the MLK Jr. Holiday in Washington from Jesse Wineberry, and how during Covid technology helped CWU geologist Nick Zentner reach the world. We were entertained by authors Alli Frank & Asha Youmans, and the topic of Family, Faith, and Football by Craig and Jake Kupp. We heard from WSU President Kirk Schultz; Sr. Kathleen Ross and Dr. Andrew Sund from Heritage University; and Perry Tech President Christine Cote. We were inspired by James Donaldson, Mark and Kym Hilinski, Cissy Reyes, and Chief U.S. District Court Judge David Estudillo. Some of our best programs were provided by our own members: Mike Johnson and Aaron Ruff talking about how thrift helps everyone; Laura Crooks sharing the story of Children’s Village; Sharon Miracle updating us about the work of the YVCF; Tom Gaulke recognizing National Disabilities Month; Kyle Curtis’ personal story; and Pete Bansmer, Sunny Cameron and Mary McFadden giving their classification talks.

The Rotary Reunion was the highlight of PERSONALIZATION. The club was divided up into five different classes complete with a Class President who in turn extended a personal invitation to come join a late afternoon of drinks, food, the reconnection of old friends and making of new ones, five different sergeant-at-arms, music to represent the class, props, and even some parades. It was creative and fun! Personalization continued with our first community service project completed during a meeting as we created flower bouquets and note cards for the residents of Fieldstone. The rewards were greetings of thankfulness and smiles from the recipients. The new calendar year brought Imagine Rotary, an interactive exercise sharing personal ideas and suggestions on the topics that included member experiences, growing our impact through local and global service, and enhancing community awareness with the input being used to update our strategic plan.

It was an auction year. With the theme of GAME ON, auction chairs Kevin Good and Nicole Donegan and their team raised a record amount for Yakima Rotary Charities. The evening was all about SOCIALIZING with a touch of whimsy. There were silent auction items, live auction items, games to be played, and great food and drinks. It was a fabulous night! In addition to the auction, there were speed interviews, our annual Rotary picnic at Franklin Park, Rotary Ski Day, a record number of members who participated in the Scholarship Dinners, and an opportunity to lay pavers at the new Rotary Marketplace.

By bringing all three words together – ENERGIZE, SOCIALIZE and PERSONALIZE – we were able to have a huge impact on our community. We awarded Academic and Vocational Scholarships totaling $85,325 to local graduating high school and non-traditional students. Allocation & Review awarded a total of $30,000 in grants to local organizations that included United Way’s Imagination Library, the First Tee of Central Washington, to fund an after-school drum camp for kids at Gilbert and Garfield Elementary, the Rotary Food Bank, and Eisenhower Interact. Separate donations were made to the Jobs for Youth Program and to purchase books for the Juvenile Detention Center. Rotary Operation Harvest was a huge success with 85,000 pounds of food collected and cash donations over $58,000. We hosted four historical perspectives for our club and community. Coming soon will be this year’s project in partnership with Yakima Southwest and Yakima Sunrise to install lighting at Randall Park, Chesterley Park, and the Gateway Sports Complex at Kiwanis Park.

It has been a wonderful year that would not have happened without the kind spirit and leadership of President Rick. This week is a celebration of the person he is – please join us in recognizing him for a job well done. LET’S ROTARIZE!
Travel was the theme for the day. It all began with a “Music Minute” by Andie Webb who shared slides of influential instruments used by ancient civilizations around the world. It was an eye-opening look at the importance of music and how instruments have evolved. Tressa Shockley’s invocation was a poem titled “For the Traveler” by John Donahue, and Monet Mitchell’s serenade had all about travel. After presenting a blue badge to Jennifer Ernst, President Rick began his announcements. You are all invited to participate in the Yakima Rotaract Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, July 16th at 1000p.m. at Bale Breakers Brewing. They are looking for players and sponsors. The Yakima Rotary Trust Golf Tournament on Monday July 17th still has room for 7 or 8 teams. The next day, July 18th at 5:00pm join fellow Rotarians for the Mol- lie Davis All Rotary Clubs Celebration at the Marketplace. Mark your calendar for these fun upcoming events.

Rebecca Pennell introduced Tsukki Kiymo, this year’s inbound ex- change student from Japan. She attended Eisenhower High School and stayed with 3 host families including Downtown Rotarians Ryan Anderson and Chris Rankin. She began by thanking her host families and Rotary for sponsoring her. During her time here she has found everyone to be kind, friendly and warm. Tsukki is from Fukuoka a large city in southern Japan with a history that dates back 2000 years. Her father is a priest and she aspires to one day be the first female to follow in his footsteps. Her favorite experiences include a trip to Disney World, skiing over the winter, and joining the tennis team where she made many friends. Next, Rebecca Pennell and Tsukki Tatschi gave an Honoring Hero Award to Kathy Tierney for her dedication and service to our community. Kathy came to Yakima in 1996 with her husband who was hired as a physician with Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. She accepted a staff attorney position with the NW Justice Project to help low-income people and farm workers. Soon after she started the Yakima chapter of Washington Women Lawyers. In 2014 she started her own law practice that offers what she calls “low-bono” work to serve low income people and farm workers. After she started the Yakima chapter of Washington Women Lawyers. In 2014 she started her own law practice that offers what she calls “low-bono” work to serve low income people and farm workers. She also made sure there were bilingual interpreters at PTA and school events so that every student could have a chance to participate. Kathy loves the outdoors and is an athlete who has completed several marathons and a triathlon. She has served on the Board of the Yakima Canyon Conservancy where she started a docent program, an elementary outreach program, and a bilingual program. She also taught English for the French Government at a French high school, once wasn’t enough. After graduation she moved to Paris and taught English for the French Government at a French high school, got paid to take students to the French Alps to learn to ski, and took them to study abroad in Scotland. As her husband can attest, much of her travel starts with “just this once” and “I need to go to Europe”. The result is visits to a multitude of countries, everything from A (Africa) to Z (New Zealand) and everywhere in between. Paris remains one of her favorite destinations. One of the conflicts she lands on is travel vs. vacation. She considers her time with her husband in the Maldives a vacation because their time was spent hanging at the beach and dining out. What Josh and Addy do with their children is travel, doing things with a purpose and a plan. Josh and Addy have been in a dive cage in South Africa with great white sharks, saw baboons in the wild of Uganda, monkeys in Bali, Honduras, and Costa Rica, and much more. One trip took them to Tanzania for the great migration with a detour to Uganda for Gorillas tracking. Other trips of note included Iceland, Cuba, and Dubai. Would you pay for a vacation without knowing the destination? She did – twice through a seminar company. Once to Bali and Hong Kong. The next year was in Fiji.

Traveling with kids is hard. Everything you read about it in maga- zines and social media is only half of the truth. Their kids do not travel on all their excursions. It can be cost prohibitive and daunting. Sometimes you do go, the kids get bored, and you choose one activity for the family to do. They also make a point to visit lots of playgrounds. A good travel tip she shared is to accrue miles and points using a credit card. In 2018 they went to Uganda. Prior to going Josh made contact with a man working for the United Na- tions to help them to connect with a local Rotary Club. The result was a Rotary service project that sent trauma services to an area in need. Another chance meeting connected them with a young man who had been a finalist for a Rotary scholarship to attend University. He couldn’t afford to pay the fees so Rotary they figured out a way to get him through college. He has graduated, is married with a child, and gainfully employed. Much of her travel starts with “just this once” and “I need to go to Europe”. Addy took her aunt’s advice and spent 2 months backpack- ing through Europe with her best friend and chose one activity for the family to do. They also make a point to visit lots of playgrounds. A good travel tip she shared is to accrue miles and points using a credit card. In 2018 they went to Uganda. Prior to going Josh made contact with a man working for the United Na- tions to help them to connect with a local Rotary Club. The result was a Rotary service project that sent trauma services to an area in need. Another chance meeting connected them with a young man who had been a finalist for a Rotary scholarship to attend University. He couldn’t afford to pay the fees so Rotary they figured out a way to get him through college. He has graduated, is married with a child, and gainfully employed. Much of her travel starts with “just this once” and “I need to go to Europe”. Addy took her aunt’s advice and spent 2 months backpack- ing through Europe with her best friend and chose one activity for the family to do. They also make a point to visit lots of playgrounds. A good travel tip she shared is to accrue miles and points using a credit card. In 2018 they went to Uganda. Prior to going Josh made contact with a man working for the United Na- tions to help them to connect with a local Rotary Club. The result was a Rotary service project that sent trauma services to an area in need. Another chance meeting connected them with a young man who had been a finalist for a Rotary scholarship to attend University. He couldn’t afford to pay the fees so Rotary they figured out a way to get him through college. He has graduated, is married with a child, and gainfully employed. Much of her travel starts with “just this once” and “I need to go to Europe”. Addy took her aunt’s advice and spent 2 months backpack- ing through Europe with her best friend and chose one activity for the family to do. They also make a point to visit lots of playgrounds. A good travel tip she shared is to accrue miles and points using a credit card. In 2018 they went to Uganda. Prior to going Josh made contact with a man working for the United Na- tions to help them to connect with a local Rotary Club. The result was a Rotary service project that sent trauma services to an area in need. Another chance meeting connected them with a young man who had been a finalist for a Rotary scholarship to attend University. He couldn’t afford to pay the fees so Rotary they figured out a way to get him through college. He has graduated, is married with a child, and gainfully employed.