



THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

Serve to
Change Lives

MARK BROWN

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS



Mark O. Brown began his professional career as a staff member for the Senate Ways and Means Committee and then spent nearly 20 years directing state and federal governmental relations for the Washington Federation of State Employees. Mark served four years as a member of Governor Lowry’s Executive Cabinet as Director of the Department of Labor and Industries. Mark also served ten years as a local elected official, including seven years as Mayor of Lacey, Washington. Mark is currently a member of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire in 2010 and reappointed by Governor Jay Inslee in 2016.

Mark recently retired as President of Connections Public Affairs where he worked for over 20 years representing numerous clients, both private and public, to advance their interests at both the state and federal level.

Serving on the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is Marks principal public service and is currently the Commission Chair. During Mark’s tenure on the Commission the agency has transitioned from operating largely through general tax support to raising over 80% of its operating costs from earned revenues. During Mark’s tenure the agency has undergone a top to bottom transformation.

Mark and his wife Julie have been married for 50 years and have two daughters and four grandchildren and resides at the Links at Indian Summers in Lacey, Washington.

FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Greeters – Bill Douglas, Mike Norton

Music – Linda Kaminski

Invocation – Priscilla Trevino

Sergeant-at-Arms – Austin Beebe

Program – Mike Latimer

Marble Draw – Erin Black, Charlie Eglin

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 16th – David Horsey, Political Cartoonist

June 23rd – Melannie Cunningham, Peace Queen

June 30th – President John’s Recognition

July 7th – President Rick Fairbrook

MARBLE DRAW

There was no winner this week. The \$510 raised from the last two meetings is being carried over to next week with one less marble in the bucket. Don’t forget to bring extra dollars to support Yakima Rotary Charities.

YOU ARE INVITED...

to participate in the Racial Justice Committee’s first historical perspectives event on Thursday, June 16 from 5:15pm to 6:15pm at the YVC Conference Center Room D. The topic will be Juneteenth. Zoom participation will be available.

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, June 10, 2022, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Monica Caoile

Business Development Manager

BBSI

Classification: Business Development

Proposed by: Felix Rifa

Endorsed by: Sarah Morgan

MOLLIE DAVIS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 22
Yakima Country Club
Lunch & Registration 11:30am
Shotgun Start at 1:00pm
Get your team together and RSVP to Robin Beckett
at robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org



Please Join Us
for the

Mollie Davis Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, June 14 | 5 pm

YVC West Annex Conference Center
1704 W. Nob Hill Boulevard

Appetizers and
beverages will be served – we hope to see you there!

RSVP to Robin Beckett at
robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org



- REVIEW -

Rotary Day is one of the best days of the week – just about every chair in the room was occupied. It takes a group of volunteers every week to make our meetings successful. A special thank you to Aaron Ruff for greeting us as we arrived, Jane Davis and Courtney Beckler for selling marble draw tickets, Charlie Robin and Bob Hamilton for leading in America the Beautiful, David Lynx for his invocation, and Moriet Miketa as our sergeant-at-arms raising money for Yakima Rotary Charities.

June is a busy month with lots of opportunities for Rotary activities. President John shared a full list. In chronological order there is a Rota-ract Cornhole Tournament taking place this Sunday at Hop Capital, the Mollie Davis Scholarship Awards on June 14th, and Racial Justice Committee Historical Perspective event on June 16th. Already scheduled for July is the Mollie Davis Golf Tournament at the Yakima Country Club on July 22nd.

Earlier in May, Soneya Lund shared her story as part of our recognition of Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This week, it was Mike Latimer's turn to share his story. A question he asked often is, why do Asian Americans excel at academics. The answer is quite simple, they generally work harder than their non-Asian peers. Research has shown that the achievement gap between Asian and non-Asian kids starts off small or non-existent but gradually increases, peaking in the 10th grade reflecting academic effort rather than cognitive ability. The conclusion was that the difference was in immigration status along with differences in cultural orientation. Immigrants are self-selected in their motivation to succeed and optimism for future success. A lot of Asian American kids see education as a way to gain social prestige and upper mobility. There is a term among Asian families that refers to an Asian mom who places a great emphasis on education beyond all else - tiger mom. Mike's mom was a tiger mom. He was adopted from a Japanese Catholic orphanage at the age of four. It was a blessing to come to America; at that time being adopted in Japan was socially unacceptable. Had he remained he would have been a social outcast, uneducated, and at the bottom of society. He was held back after kindergarten because he needed to learn English. He went to the library every week and read all the time. Because his mom was a tiger mom, he had to excel in everything he did. It wasn't good enough to get straight A's in high school, he had to be the valedictorian. He also had to work and be productive at the same time. By the time he was 16, he had 2 paper routes, 5 yard maintenance jobs, and worked 35 hours a week at Safeway. He knew at age 12 that he wanted to serve in the military and attend the academy. It wasn't enough to apply to one, he had the apply for every military scholarship available. When he graduated, he had a presidential appointment to the Military Academy, Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy and 3 ROTC scholarships. He chose the Navy. Growing up with a tiger mom wasn't easy, but years later he can appreciate the emphasis that she put on education. It has been ingrained in him. He has put the same emphasis on education with his kids and grandkids with one exception, that sports play an important aspect of growing up as well.

Kevin Good had the honor of introducing Dr. Mike Lawler as our featured speaker. Mike is the President of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. He began by sharing how honored he was to be there

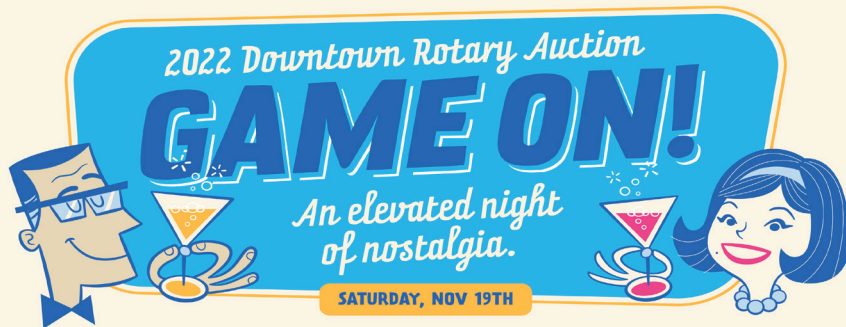
to celebrate PNWU and its remarkable 17-year history. It started in 2005, when a group of Yakima leaders met at the Butler's home to sign a charter for the development of a medical school in Yakima that today has become a national leader in bringing health equity to communities. PNWU Forward is the title of their strategic plan. The mission of PNWU drives their work and is unchanged since their humble beginnings. Their vision is to revolutionize community health accomplished through their mission to serve rural and medically underserved communities.

They are fulfilling their mission by producing top-notch graduates. In the last 11 years, they have graduated 1,040 Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine and 40 students from their Master of Arts in Medical Science, a program developed in partnership with Heritage University. Of the 460 alumni who have finished medical school and gone onto to their additional residency and fellowships and are practicing physicians, 42% are practicing in the state of Washington – 35 of them are practicing in the Yakima Valley. In the U.S. there are 192 medical schools both allopathic and osteopathic. Of all 192 schools, PNWU is ranked in the top ten categories directly related to their mission. They are #5 in most graduates practicing in medically underserved areas, #6 in most graduates practicing in primary care fields, and #10 in most graduates practicing in rural areas.

Today they are building on their successes and adding new healthcare programs greatly needed in rural and medically underserved communities that include Master of Arts in Medical Sciences that prepares students for graduate health sciences programs including medical school; the School of Physical Therapy offering a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (the first students will be on campus this fall); the developing School of Occupational Therapy offering a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy; and with the help of others that include Delta Dental of Washington, YVFWC, and WA State Dental Association, the development of a School of Dental Medicine.

The future of healthcare will continue to be team based. PNWU is happy to model this approach through partnerships with Washington State University, Heritage University, Central Washington University, Yakima Valley College, and Perry Technical Institute. Groundbreaking just took place on a new Student Learning Collaborative, an 80,000 sq foot building that will allow them to further their work on these partnerships through interprofessional education and practice.

Students are the heart and soul of PNWU; they are the ones who live their mission and bring compassion and care to our communities. Joining Dr. Lawler at the podium were three students, Kaitlin Kaluzny and Maxwell Finch representing the College of Osteopathic Medicine class of 2024 and Alejandra Perez, a recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Medical Science and incoming College of Osteopathic Medicine student this fall. It was a great way to end, as each of them shared their stories and excitement of serving committees of need including our own as future doctors. Yakima is blessed to have PNWU.



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please contact John Cooper at john@visityakima.com.