



**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER**

*Imagine
 Rotary*

**GLORIA MENDOZA
 ENGAGING COMMUNITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



Gloria Mendoza is the current Mayor of Grandview, Washington serving as the first woman and first Latina in that position. Known as a strong community supporter and entrepreneur, she is also the founder and CEO of GMC Companies, LLC.

Founded in 1999, GMC Companies is made up of GMC Training Institute, a private vocational school widely recognized for its Truck Driving CDL School; GMC Family Services, which has been providing Parent-Child visitation services to families statewide since 2006; A.M. Motivational Leadership Institute offering leadership training to businesses, teachers, administrators, parents, young professionals, churches, and organizations; and Gloria Casa De Vino, a wine tasting facility in downtown Grandview.

As Mayor of the City of Grandview, her focus is on the growth and economic development of the city and maintaining the safety of residents, children, and schools with a priority on improving the quality of life for the community and maintaining job opportunities with a special emphasis on local employment opportunities for youth.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

- Greeters – Bob Harrison, Sheri-Lou Creson
- Music – Aaron Ruff
- Invocation – Patti Powers
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Hummel
- Program – Sonia Rodriguez True

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- March 23rd – Craig & Jake Kupp, Faith, Family & Football
- March 30rd – Tom Gaulke, National Disabilities Month
- April 6th – James Donelson, Understanding Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention
- April 13th – Katie Greenberg, Architecture

JOBS FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

- Help Kids Find Summer Jobs
- Combat Gangs – Reduce Crime

The Jobs for Youth Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the annual Youth Career Fair for high school students seeking part-time jobs this summer. The Fair is Monday, March 27th from noon to 5pm at the Henry Beauchamp Community Center, 1211 S 7th St. Volunteers are needed to help students learn how to complete a JOB APPLICATION, participate in MOCK INTERVIEWS, and learn how to be a VALUABLE EMPLOYEE.

In addition to volunteers, they are also looking for employers who would be willing to provide a 4-week, part-time summer job for a youth at a cost of \$1,260 or individuals or businesses that would be willing to sponsor or donate any amount towards a job for a local non-profit.

One of the most effective ways to prevent kids from becoming involved in gangs is to help them find a job. If you have time to volunteer at the Fair, can provide a job, or would like to make a donation, please contact the Rotary office. Help make a positive change in the life of a child.



FIRESIDE/SCHOLARSHIP DINNERS

The response to our Fireside/Scholarship Dinners sign-ups has been outstanding with 25 confirmed hosts and 131 attendees. This is a wonderful way to get to know each other in a fun, informal setting while enjoying a great meal.

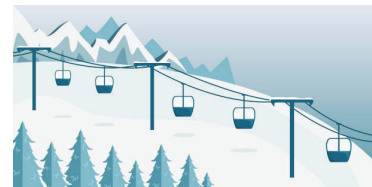
The Committee will be doing dinner assignments on the 20th. If you don't already have your name on the list, now is the time to choose a date anywhere from April 19th through May 3rd and contact the Rotary office. You won't be disappointed!



CLASS DINING

ROTARY SKI DAY

Sign-ups for Rotary Ski Day on Friday, March 24th at White Pass Ski Area are underway.



The snow has been spectacular and keeps coming. There is no place more beautiful than a blue bird day on the slopes with majestic views of the Cascade Mountains. Demo skis provided by Sig Fossum and the Sporthaus will be available to try at no charge.

Don't ski? You can sign up for dinner only at Bron Yr Aur Brewing Company in Naches for some of the best pizza you will ever have. The Pizza is on us. Drinks are on us.

REVIEW

March is National Women's History Month which made our speaker Ann Simons and her presentation about the Washington State Women's Commission along with our music "I Am Woman" sung by Theresa Adkison (it was amazing) and Leanne Antonio's invocation asking us to reflect on the women in our lives and those that came before us, the perfect way to celebrate.

The next couple of months are very busy and full of opportunities for fun and service. Announcements were made by Ryan Anderson, Tyler Schultz, and Pat True about our upcoming Fireside/Scholarship Dinners, Rotary Ski Day, and the annual Youth Career Fair. The dates for the Fireside/Scholarship Dinners are Wednesday, April 19th through Wednesday, May 3rd. Now is the time to check your calendar and choose your date to either host or attend. The cost is \$125 a member. All the proceeds go to benefit our Academic and Vocational Scholarship programs. There is no charge for hosts. Rotary Ski Day is Friday, March 24th at White Pass. Sig Fossum and the Sporthaus will have demo skis available to try at no charge. Dinner is at 4pm at Bron Yr Aur Brewing Company in Naches. Sign-ups are underway. Don't ski – come for dinner only. This will be the 18th year for the Jobs for Youth program helping high school students find part-time summer jobs. Volunteers are needed to help with the annual Youth Career Fair on March 27th. In addition to volunteers, they need businesses and individuals willing to hire a youth or provide a donation to sponsor a job at a local non-profit. Please contact the Rotary office if you can help.

Greg Stewart provided a heartfelt eulogy for fellow Rotarian, Gary Lukehart. Gary was born in Rochester, MN and raised in California. He attended Oregon State University where he played quarterback and helped lead them to the Rose Bowl. While in college, he married his high school sweetheart, Mary; they were married for 65 years. After college, Gary was in California when he first retrofitted a van into an RV. The spark was lit. They moved to Union Gap to take over Chinook RVs; he would later develop Trail Wagons and sell his RVs all around the world. Gary & Mary raised their family on their ranch in Naches. Gary's legacy covered a lot of territory. He served on the Fair Board where he and Mary served as hosts of many big-name entertainers. When discussions were underway for a new multi-purpose building on the fairgrounds, it was Gary's idea to make it a dome. Today the SunDome is the largest sequentially poured concrete structure in the world. Gary had a popcorn truck that he brought to events; it was designed as a way for his grandchildren to learn customer service and handle money. He was a woodworker. He was generous. He loved his community and will forever be remembered for the "Welcome to Yakima, the Palm Springs of Washington" sign greeting everyone as they enter Yakima.

Quinn Dalan had the honor of introducing our program speaker Ann Simons. Ann is the newest Commissioner on the Washington State Women's Commission, appointed in October 2022. She is not new to the Commission; she spent 31 years lobbying to form the

Commission which was officially established in 2018. She began by sharing about four remarkable, historic women from Yakima. Women in Washington had the right to vote before it was passed nationally. In 1916, Ina Phillips Williams represented Yakima County as the first woman representative in our state legislature. In 1959, Catherine May became the first woman to represent Washington state in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was very active on agricultural issues. Yakama Nation Elder Virginia Beavert served during WWII and worked to recreate the Native language that she knew as a child. She also received her PhD at the age of 90. HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull took Virginia's vision to make their language accessible to children.

What are some statistics about women in Washington? The good news was shared first. Women in Washington state are only outlived by women in Japan, our life expectancy is 81 years. First generation immigrant women have great health indicators. Last century there were only 7% of women unmarried; that has changed to 52%. There are statistics that are concerning. Domestic violence fatalities increased 18% in 2020. Eighty percent of pregnancy related deaths in Washington are preventable and Washington ranks 2nd in the nation for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Person cases. When she started her efforts to form the Commission thirty years ago, women were making 71 cents to a man's \$1. Today it has increased to only 73 cents. Childcare costs continue to increase – sometimes it seems college tuition can be cheaper than childcare.

How did the Women's Commission start? Thirty years ago, she was sitting in a workforce training board meeting – it was all men. None of them brought up the issue of childcare. She began to wonder why we didn't have a women's commission. She introduced legislation to form a commission; that was back in the 90s. She was told that everything was taken care of. In 2018, she began meeting with some legislatures talking about other legislation; she shared that they could also reintroduce legislation for a women's commission. They said yes. The bill was modeled after a commission in Indiana with the addition of a legislative advocacy piece. Their priorities center around health, safety, economic security and opportunity, and legislative.

Several of the mandates within the Commission was model policies for sexual harassment and women on corporate boards with a bill that just passed. Corporations with women on their boards outperform those that do not. The bill passed would not require women on boards, but when registered through the state would answer a question if they have women on their boards. Many corporations are expanding their boards to bring women on.

There are many opportunities to grow and make Washington a great place to live. There are also opportunities to serve on committees through the Commission, especially for those from Eastern Washington.