



THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

*Create Hope
 in the World*

STEVE HOBBS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE: SERVING COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE



Steve Hobbs is Washington’s 16th Secretary of State. He began his tenure in 2021 and was elected by the people of Washington in November 2022. Secretary Hobbs leads the office responsible for managing state and local elections, corporation and charity filings, Washington State Library, Washington State Archives, and a number of other community programs.

Previously, he was the state senator for Washington’s 44th legislative district, having first been elected in 2006. Secretary Hobbs is a lieutenant colonel in the Washington Army National Guard. He holds a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Washington.

FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

- Music – Charlie Robin
- Greeters – Kurt Labberton, Rick Fairbrook
- Invocation – Sheri Bissell
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Doug Rich
- Program – Mike Hummel
- Attendance – Marisol Fast

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- March 28th – Amy Behrens, Maryhill Museum of Art
- April 4th – Mike McMullen & Antone Miller,
Emergency Preparation
- April 11th – Sheriff Bob Udell, Yakima County Drone Program
- April 18th – WA State Senator Curtis King, Legislative Update

ROTARY HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



Wednesday, March 20th
 5:15pm at YVC Conference Center

Featuring Bree Black Horse, an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and gifted attorney based in Yakima. Just hired as an Assistant U.S. Attorney dedicated to prosecuting cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, she will be talking about L and Acknowledgements.

Why they are being done, should they be done at all, and if so, how they could be done correctly.

There is no charge to attend.

ROTARY SKI DAY FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

White Pass Ski Area
Demo Skis Available to Try at No Charge Courtesy
of Sig Fossum & Sporthaus

Dinner at 4pm at Bron Yr Aur Brewing Co.
Don't Ski? Come for Dinner Only.
Pizza is on Us – Drinks are on You.
Guests Are Invited.

If you have not already RSVP, please contact the
Rotary office today



HEALTHY FUTURES VOLUNTEERS MARCH 14, 2024



REVIEW

The sun was shining in full force as we traveled to Yakima Valley College this week. Our volunteer crew for the day was made up of Jolene Seda and Yvette Inzunza as our greeters, Connie Falon taking attendance by sight, Tom Froula with invocation, and Nancy Leahy entertaining us with a St. Patrick's Day themed sergeant-at-arms. Past President Rick Fairbrook was at the helm – he did a great job. We didn't have our Rotary bell; he came prepared with the smallest Salvation Army bell I've ever seen to keep order.

The coming of Spring brings a resurgence of Rotary activities – three were highlighted. Larry Mattson shared that Rotary Ski Day is next Friday, March 22nd at White Pass Ski Area. Demo skis will be on hand to try for free. Dinner will take place afterwards at 4pm at Bron Yr Aur Brewing Co. Sign-ups are underway - guests are invited. Sonia Rodriguez True extended an invitation to the next Historical Perspective hosted by the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice. It is also taking place next week on Wednesday, March 20th from 5:15pm to 6:15pm at the YVC Conference Center Room D. Our featured speaker will be Bree Black Horse talking about Land Acknowledgements. Guests are invited and there is no charge to attend. Sheri Bissell and Drew Harris kicked off sign-ups for our annual Fellowship & Fireside Scholarship Dinners. This is one of the best things we do – they are fun, relaxed and a great way to make new friends all while raising money to support our Academic and Vocational Scholarship programs. Dinner hosts and attendees are needed. Last year a record number of members participated. The dates are Thursday, May 9th through Thursday, May 23rd. Attendees include a plus one – check your calendar and be ready to choose the date(s) that work best for you next week.

Quinn Dalan had the honor of introducing our featured speaker, Noé Álvarez. Noé is the author of *Spirit Run, A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land*. Born to Mexican immigrants and raised working-class in Yakima, he shared his experience finding his way through a Peace and Dignity Journey, a spiritual marathon run every four years that unites Indigenous runners across North America.

He began by revealing his nervousness at being in his hometown for his first in-person presentation since the book launched in 2020 during the pandemic. He began with the people that he met along the way. A Secwépemc Nation mother who at the age of 17-years-old was led in handcuffs by British Columbia authorities to the place she buried her first-born baby in tradition of her heritage; a 30-year-old-traveler from San Diego living in Chickaloon, Alaska with no job, no relationship, and no home, who cut her hair nearly bald; a 19-year-old girl of the Gitksan and Dakelh Nation living in the small town of Smithers, Canada with an incarcerated father

and drug-addicted mother, who quits her job and withdraws all her savings; and farther north in one of the coldest parts of Alaska, an elder who packs her life of 60 years to travels to join Indigenous runners from across the world for a race from Alaska, through North America, to Panama.

Then there is Noé. He likes to think of himself as a father first, a working-class man second, and as an author third. His roots run deep in Yakima where they extend deep into the orchards and fields, and the streets of ghettos. He was raised in the dirt, remains close to it, and is proud of it. He wrote *Spirit Run* as a working-class narrative about Indigenous and Mexican people running in pursuit of peace and dignity. His story is about a 19-year-old him who bought a one-way ticket to the remotest parts of B.C. to run all because he thought he lacked the courage to stay home and face the hard things eating himself up inside. It is a story of ordinary people doing extraordinary things and surviving traumas in the most stunning and magical ways.

He writes about his experiences, waking up in apple bins while his parents worked, following his mother into fruit packing warehouses, and how when he was accepted into college the pressure to save his family from poverty overwhelmed him and led him to quit. Running saved him. It became a spiritual act, a way of life, and learning that you are only who you are because of other people. They ran with a staff accumulating feathers from the communities they visited and people they met. They encountered extreme terrain, wild animals, treacherous weather, and hostile places.

Language, storytelling, and running are mediums for him to connect with people. All his life, running for him meant running away from danger, bullies, gangs, border agents – running from the past. Through Peace and Dignity Journey he corrected that path, becoming the first in his family to run on their own terms, not because he had to. Writing connects him to the person that he never got to be as a kid; for him it is a form of ceremony. His words were beautifully written and shared. His next book *Accordion Eulogies, A Memoir of Music, Migration, and Mexico* brings him back to his Yakima roots and a search of lineage through music.

