



## THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine  
Rotary*

### TOM GAULKE NATIONAL DISABILITIES MONTH



Tom Gaulke is the CEO for Entrust Community Services, a non-profit agency serving people with disabilities and those experiencing extreme poverty. Entrust Community Services is recognized as a leader in the field of employment for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment serving seven counties in Eastern Washington.

Tom has over 35 years' experience in the field of rehabilitation and has served on various state boards and commissions including the Governors Committee on Disabilities. He is also a board member and past President of the Community Employment Alliance and the Homeless Network of Yakima County. Tom also was President of the Sunnyside Rotary Noon Club in 2002 and Area 3 Director for Toastmasters in 2000.

Tom is a West Valley High Graduate. Tom attended Central Washington University and University of Phoenix where he earned his master's in business administration. Tom is married to Dawn, his partner in life for over 30 years. They enjoy hiking, camping, and exploring the wonderful wineries we have in Central Washington. They have three boys and six grandchildren. Tom's first career was as a musician, having played in a number of bands in the Los Angeles area.

Tom will be sharing about National Disability Awareness month with a call to action for members. "A Credo of Support"- how we all can work to ensure Yakima includes people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

#### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Cal Blethen  
Music – Chip Topping  
Invocation – Kurt Labberton  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Rob Phillips  
Program – Deb Sterling

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 6th – James Donaldson, Understanding Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention  
April 13th – Sharon Miracle, Yakima Valley Community Foundation  
April 20th – Kirk Schultz, WSU  
April 27th – Vocational Scholarship Awards

#### PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Monday, April 3, 2023 the following candidates will be elected to membership:

**Sheryl Haga**  
Executive Director  
Yakima Humane Society  
**Classification: Yakima Humane Society**  
Proposed by: Bob Gerst  
Endorsed by: Amy Maib

**Diana Meacham**  
Residential Loan Officer  
Banner Bank  
**Classification: Community Banking**  
Proposed by: Kathy Parrish  
Endorsed by: Connie Falon

**Pattie Graffe**  
Sales Manager  
Bekins Northwest  
**Classification: Transportation: Moving, Storage & Distribution**  
Proposed by: Amy Maib  
Endorsed by: John Cooper

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A new way to conference is coming your way at the Rotary District 5060 Conference in Leavenworth, Washington May 19th-21st.

Imagine the Inspiration with Edmund Viesturs, a high-altitude mountaineer who has summited all fourteen of the world's 18,000 plus meter peaks. Imagine the Leadership with Be Legendary founder and CEO, James Carter, as the facilitator. Imagine the Motivation with Kikkan Randall, an American Olympic champion cross-country skier who has kicked cancer's butt. Imagine the Music, with an exclusive, live appearance from international favorite The Paperboys. Imagine the Difference you will make surrounded by awesomeness, inspired by Rotary's potential, teaming together to create the next generation of Rotary relevance.



Registration is underway at [rotary5060.org](http://rotary5060.org). The beauty of Leavenworth is waiting for you!

## REVIEW

Last week's meeting was an exceptional program from start to finish. President Rick opened with a video highlighting the construction of a Therapeutic Playground and Outdoor Center that we funded and helped construct in Honduras. There were a lot of familiar faces including Rod & Pat Knipper, Ken & Sharon Smith, Jim DeGrasse, Duane Monick, Brad Kessinger, and Rick Gross. Eric Silvers and President Rick followed by leading us God Bless America with Mike Johnson providing an invocation that weaved in little hands, big hearts, and thankfulness for Rotary.

Leanne Antonio had the honor of presenting three grant awards from Yakima Rotary Charities. The first check was awarded to Little Hands Big Hearts Foundation (LHBH) in the amount of \$3,500. LHBH was our partner organization in the build of the Therapeutic Playground Outdoor Center in Honduras (video we saw at the beginning of the program). The Center, created to serve children with disabilities, received the funds for hurricane repairs and the construction of a roof over the structure. The second award was presented to Imagine Scholar in the amount of \$5,000 to support a new Education Center on their campus in South Africa. The third check in the amount of \$4,000 was given to United Way to start-up the Imagination Library program to increase kindergarten literacy readiness which received an additional \$2,000 from the Literacy Committee.

For the past 17 years, this club has been part of the Jobs for Youth Program. Since then, 1,700 young people in our community have learned how to apply for a job, interview, dress, behave on the job, and hold a job. Past President Ken Marble shared his own experience 15 years ago with the hire of a young 15-year-old named Adriana. A student at Davis, Adriana lived in SE Yakima, walked to school and work after being hired by Horizon Distribution through the Jobs for Youth Program. She was shy and timid but did so well that her supervisor asked if she could hire her beyond the 4-week summer period. For the next 4 years she worked part-time during school and full-time during summer. At the end of her senior year, Ken helped her register at YVC. She completed two years in the dental hygiene program and went on to CWU where she received a degree in nutrition. Today she lives in the Tri-Cities, is married, and traveling the world. What can you do? Volunteer for the Jobs for Youth Program by volunteering for the Job Fair – happening today (Monday), providing a 4-week part-time job this summer, or sponsoring a job at a local non-profit with a donation.

Scholarship Dinners are happening April 19th through May 3rd. Assignments have been completed; there are over 200 people participating. Soni Alexander shared that there are two openings left for a dinner on April 27th. Contact the Rotary office if you are interested. The final Rotary business with sergeant-at-arms did not disappoint with Sheriff Bob Udell at the helm!

Bruce Bacon introduced our speakers Jake and Craig Kupp. Well known for football, their presentation was not just about football,

but faith and family as well. They began with **Faith** and the belief that God has created each person uniquely and has a plan for their lives. Jake shared his own experience taking us back to 1952 in Sunnyside as a 5th grader who dreamed of becoming a professional athlete. There was no little league sports team, his family didn't have television or watch sports. They listened to cowboy shows on the radio. With no exposure to sports growing up, there had to be a plan. Craig plan came differently. He found his way to football watching his dad play. It took one moment walking off the field at Tulane Stadium with his dad, hand-in-hand, to know that football was what he wanted to do too.

**Family:** Jake's grandfather came to the U.S. as an immigrant at the age of 15. He worked his way to Nebraska as a farm laborer and saved enough money to put a down payment on his own farm. He had a strong work ethic. Their family would not be complete without the women in their lives: Jake's wife and Craig's mom – their matriarch; Karin, Craig's wife; and Anna, Cooper's wife. Love is the center of family. Craig and Karin raised their kids with the freedom to pursue their dreams. Their daughter plays soccer at EWU. Their son Kobe started with athletics and found his way as a computer programmer. Ketner played football for EWU football, tried out for the LA Rams. Being around Sean Payton fueled his passion to become a coach.

**Football:** Jake played football for Sunnyside High School. Chosen to play in the East West All Star Game, he was the only one who showed up in a leather helmet with no facemask and high-top cleats. He went on to play for the University of Washington and was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys with coach Tom Landry. He also played for the Washington Redskins and New Orleans Saints. Two of his greatest memories were the 62-yard field goal by Tom Dempsey with 2 seconds left that resulted in a win over the Detroit Lions and rooming with Archie Manning during training camp. Craig's experience was a little different than dad. He played for PLU and was drafted by the New York Giants. He summed his career up as one on the sidelines during warmups. He also played for the Dallas Cowboys; it was a cool experience to be part of having a star on helmet. Cooper's journey began as a senior walking off the field from his last football game. He had no scholarship offers and ended up going to EWU under the leadership of Beau Baldwin where he became a 4-time First Team All American. During the NFL draft they thought he might go in the first round, then late in the second round. He ended up being chosen in the third round by the LA Rams – it was part of God's plan; he was meant to be with the Rams.

Faith was how they started – Faith was how they ended. Faith is their family's identity. It takes passion, hard work, focus and time to be good at anything. How do they do it all? They listen to what Jesus has to say and believe that God will provide.