



THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*

JEFF HONEYCUTT YAKIMA SELAH NEIGHBORS NETWORK



Jeff Honeycutt is a retired federal employee, with most of his 32 years spent serving as a community resource manager for several VA medical centers across the country. Originally from Seattle, he and his wife, Rise moved to Yakima in late 2020.

Jeff founded the Yakima Selah Neighbors Network (YSNN) in search of volunteer opportunities and is excited to have become a Board member. In addition to his volunteer work, Jeff enjoys hiking, golf, music, and community theater.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Melissa Brewer, Brad Hansen
Invocation – Tressa Shockley
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kellie Connaughton
Program – Sharon Miracle
Attendance – Jennifer Bliesner

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 9th – Christy Bracewell Trotter, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
May 16th – Brother Mark Murphy, The Mission of World-Wide Education by the De La Salle Christian Brothers
May 23rd – Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship Awards
May 30th – Jay Alexander, Comedian

SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL THIS WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST SECOND STREET GRILL 5PM TO 6PM

Bring a friend and come celebrate the beginning of summer with some great conversation in a fun, informal setting. Hors d'oeuvres are on us – drinks are on you.



GRANT THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Yakima Rotary,

On behalf of the Yakima Valley Museum, thank you for the generous gift of \$5,000 for the Iron Lung Exhibit Update. Additionally, I am grateful for the invitation to attend the March 28 Rotary meeting to accept the gift. This funding is greatly appreciated and contributes to our mission of learning from our past and sharing with our community.

Your support in updating the Iron Lung Exhibit gives us the opportunity to provide important context for this significant piece of history. We look forward to sharing the updated exhibit with you in the future.

The Museum is dedicated to conserving and sharing the stories of the Yakima Valley. We will work diligently to honor your trust and support.

*Sincerely,
Liz Hobson
Executive Director*

100 JOBS FOR 100 YOUTH

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 on Monday, May 13th from noon to 7pm 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.

The Committee is also looking for employers willing to provide a 4-week, part-time summer job for a youth at a cost of \$1,300 or individuals or businesses that would be willing to donate toward a job for a local nonprofit.

If you have time to volunteer at the Fair (you choose the time), can provide a job, or would like to contribute financially, please contact the Rotary office. One of the most effective ways to prevent kids from becoming involved in a gang is to provide them with a job. Please help make a positive change in the life of a youth.



REVIEW

Thank you to those who helped make last week's meeting a great day. Andie Webb shared a music moment with a song many of us will be hearing for graduations, the Pomp & Circumstances March. Russ Wilkinson followed with thanks the work of the YUGM, our Club, the food prepared for us, and those who serve it. Moriet Mike-ta raised funds for Rotary Charities with a Spring themed sergeant-at-arms. President Erin welcomed our guests and asked for volunteers to help with the 100 Jobs for 100 Kids Jobs Fair on May 13th. George Brown extended an invitation to the next Second Chance Social this Wednesday, May 1st. Mike Hummel pitched the GREAT-EST party ever, *Under the Big Top*, happening Saturday, November 16th featuring Kevin Joyce as our auctioneer and live entertainment from Teatro Zinzanni performers.

Sy Ruiz was introduced as our newest member by Anthony Peterson. Born and raised in Yakima, Sy graduated from Davis High School and went on to the University of Washington. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he returned to his hometown to get involved in our community and inspire the next generation. He is a past member of the Henry Beauchamp Community Center Advisory Committee and currently serves on the board of the Yakima Schools Foundation where he also served as past president. He previously worked for the City of Yakima as a grant writer and in economic development. Today he works for the greatest community action agency in the world, OIC of Washington as their Public Relations & Development Director. When not busy working, he loves to spend time with his wife and their dog, watch sports, run, and play golf. He is also a past Rotary Academic Scholarship recipient. We are so proud to have him as part of Yakima Rotary!

Rotary Youth Exchange is a shining program. Rotary clubs around the world annually host high school students from another country to live and attend school in their communities. Yakima Rotary has always been a strong part of that tradition. This year we are hosting Myrtille Quémeras who arrived last August from Plougastel-Daoulas, a small rural town in Brittany, France. She took the time to share about her family, her experiences here, and what she has learned. Her presentation was delightful. Both her parents are doctors; she has two older siblings, an 18-year-old brother and 20-year-old sister. Her hometown is on the coast, it is wet, cloudy, and rainy; and known for its strawberry production. She wasn't prepared for the 100-degree weather here - the landscapes are beautiful. She has had the chance to discover lots of places, thanks to her host families and Rotary in Washington Oregon, Idaho, Canada, and Mexico. Sher's met a lot of amazing people along the way. One of the greatest qualities is our welcomeness and kindness. The first few weeks she couldn't understand teenagers; they talked to fast and were using words that weren't taught in her English class. She has built friendships by getting involved in color guard, orchestra, theater, and ballet. School is way more fun here; we have sports, clubs, assemblies, and homecoming. It's been the best year of her life and made her grow up fast in the best way. Exchange students have the opportunity to become ambassadors for their countries and ours. It has been a perfect experience! She is grateful to her three host families, her friends, and to Rotary.

Our featured speaker was Chris Lueck to talk about what is happening with glass recycling in Central Washington. The story began with a nonprofit called Ground2Ground established in 2019 in

Walla Walla; a location chosen because it was home to 130 wineries who were throwing out 4.5 to 5 tons of empty bottles per week. Put together by a small group of wineries and concerned citizens, they bought a glass pulverizing machine and started collecting wine bottles thinking that glass sand could be used instead of quarry sand. It didn't take off and was shut down in 2022. In the meantime, they were contacted by the Department of Ecology and Department of Commerce to see what they could do. Even though they had been taking 2,000 pounds out of the waste stream every week, it just wasn't enough - they needed to find a way to get more glass. At the same time, they were fortunate to be approached by the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), the trade association representing the 47 glass factories in the U.S. They were already in Central Washington scoping out the wine industry in particular because of the clean viable glass being thrown away in landfills. They began collaborating and bringing others into the discussion. BIG Recyclers was formed. It was important to adhere to the codes and policies of the Department of Ecology; they were only allowed to collect single stream glass (glass from one source) from the wine industry.

From other successful programs already running in the U.S., they developed a Hub & Spoke model. They created two spokes, one in Benton City and one in Walla Walla with their hub at the Basin Disposal Solid Waste facility in Pasco. Glass is collected locally at the spoke sites in 30 cubic yard dumpsters. When they are full, they are delivered to the Basin Disposal facility and emptied into two 40-ton waste bunkers. When those are full, a phone call is made to GPI. They get ahold of either Glass to Glass in Portland or Strategic Materials in Seattle who send their trucks to pick up the load for delivery to their facility. Since June 2023, they have collected 158,000 pounds of glass from both locations. BDI does not charge them to use their solid waste facility and neither do the trucking companies. Because it is a single-stream system, the glass is never co-mingled with other recyclable materials giving them a product that is 98% pure and 96% usable. In curb side recycled where glass is mixed in with other recycled materials 40% of the collected glass is thrown out. The other 60% is so contaminated it takes human hands and technology to sort through. That costs money. It's cheaper to drive their trucks to Walla Walla to pick up the glass and take it back. No sorting is needed except by color, and not many human hands are needed.

It works for BIG Recyclers because of their partnership with the Glass Packaging Institute. GPI has the ear of glass manufacturers, city council members, county representatives, and material recovery facilities allowing them to share how it's possible to capture glass from Central Washington at no costs to municipalities. To offset the carbon footprint from truck transportation, they are working on the use of rail cars. That requires infrastructure in place and the economy of scale to be financially sustainable. What about the Yakima Valley? Because we are 100 miles closer to Seattle, it would be cheaper to transport. Many winemakers have reached out to start the conversation. Future expansion will require extended collaborations and new partners. There is work to do. In the last Legislative Session, there was a Washington State Bottle Bill and EPR. For the seventh consecutive session, both failed to get out of committee. It will happen. In the meantime, BIG Recycling and their partners are proving to state and local governments that they have a system in place, and it can be done.