



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Unite For
 Good*

U.S. ARMY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ANTON RUFFIN VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



On April 24, 2025, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Anton Ruffin assumed the responsibilities as Yakima Training Center's Command Sergeant Major from Command Sgt. Maj. Dustin Bell. Ruffin previously served as the Battalion Operations Sergeant Major at the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment's 52nd Brigade in Baumholder, Germany.

A native of Vossburg, Mississippi, Ruffin is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, as well as several other military leadership and technical courses. Ruffin's career also includes multiple assignments throughout the world, including deployments in Iraq, Qatar, and Kuwait.

In accepting his new post, he shared, "I am honored to assume responsibility and committed to serving as a voice for all members of the Garrison, ensuring we are prepared for any challenge and that our Army remains strong. "I look forward to continuing the legacy of Command Sgt. Maj. Bell of fostering a strong team environment, encouraging excellence, and promoting accountability at all levels."

Ruffin and his wife, Katharina, have five children ranging in age from 5 to 25.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Jolene Seda, Tammy Hanlon
 Presentation of Colors – Yakama Warriors
 Inspiration – David Cobia
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Doug Rich
 Program – Anthony Peterson
 Attendance – David Cobia

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 20th – Kip Ramsey, Ramsey Family & Yakama Nation History
 November 27th – Happy Thanksgiving, No Meeting
 December 4th – Growing Greatness, Teaching the Next Generation

SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

Wednesday, November 19th
 Westwood Golf Club
 5:30pm to 7pm

ROTARY HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

**YAKIMA DOWNTOWN
 ROTARY**
 presents

A discussion on the importance of Salmon
 in the Yakama Nation culture.

Wednesday, November 12th
 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 YVC Conference Center Room A



Presentation by the Yakama Nation with
 opportunity for questions and answers.

2025 OPERATION HARVEST RESULTS

Instant Press served as our bag sponsor, helping to underwrite the cost of 16,000 grocery bags. 36 Rotarians stapled flyers to those bags plus another 1,000 left over from last year's supply.

64 Rotarians, with help from their families, friends and coworkers distributed bags on the doorsteps of households in Yakima, Selah, Moxee, Naches, and Glee. 58 Rotarians along with help went back to those neighborhoods to collect food on Operation Harvest Day. A total of 69 routes were covered.

40 volunteers made up of a collection of Rotarians, Davis and Eisenhower High School Interact students, and Rosie's Rosebud Dance and Cheer Team worked at the Rotary Marketplace Collection site emptying cars and trucks as they came in, organizing the food, and reloading it into trucks from our local food banks.

The total amount of food collected was 85,800 pounds. In addition, individual Rotarians from all three Yakima Rotary clubs, the Yakima Rotary Club, Yakima Southwest Rotary, Baker Boyer Bank, community members, and the Yakima Rotary Trust donated over \$90,000 in cash that will be distributed to the nine local food banks we support for the purchase of additional food and sundry items.

Thank you to everyone who participated! What Rotary is able to accomplish is truly remarkable!

REVIEW

Yesterday brought another round of the best volunteers, announcements of upcoming events, the first look at Operation Harvest results, a new membership introduction, and a program about Arts Washington, Tribal Cultural Affairs.

Our greeters for the day were Mitchell Acosta, Lisa Sargent, and Howard Head. Joe Biondi shared a beautiful message about thankfulness that was echoed by Kelly Gasseling in her sergeant-at-arms role. Celisa Hopkins and Michael Moen followed with impressive results for Operation Harvest that reflect the remarkable spirit of our Rotary club and community. Also coming up are two exciting opportunities for fellowship on Wednesday, November 12th, with a historical perspective on the importance of Salmon to the Yakama Nation and on Wednesday, November 19th our Second Chance Social at the newly opened Westwood Golf Club. Mark your calendars.

Karen Ireland introduced Mike Mittelman, President of PNWU, as our newest member. Mike graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry and began his career as a Navy optometrist, serving 33 years where he rose to the rank of Rear Admiral, Deputy Surgeon of the Navy, and led the US Military medical response to the earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima, Japan. Following his military service, he served as the President of Salus University for 11 years, led the merger of Salus with Drexel University, and obtained a master's degrees in Public Health and Business Administration. Mike and his wife have three daughters. He chairs the board of The Seeing Dog, a guide dog organization; and in his free time, he enjoys biking, running, hiking, swimming, and photography. We are so glad to have him as part of Rotary!

Darrell Blue ended our Rotary business portion of the meeting with a short presentation on The Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation was founded in 1928 by Arch Klumph with a donation of \$26.50. Today it has grown to over \$4 billion in global giving. Contributions to The Foundation come from Paul Harris Fellows and Paul Harris Sustaining Memberships. Those funds are invested for 3 years with earnings supporting operations. Afterwards, the funds are split into 2 funds; half returned to Rotary Districts for the funding of individual club projects and half to Rotary International projects and initiatives that include the eradication of polio (PolioPlus).

Our featured speaker, introduced by Charlie Robin, was Angelina Campobasso. Angelina is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and serves as the ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs Manager and Tribal Liaison. Washington's culture is richly rooted in Tribal

practices. ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs Program fosters those practices by providing funding for cultural activities to benefit the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State.

As the oldest of four girls, growing up on the Colville Reservation was tough at times. As a young child, she loved art. Her parents told her she didn't want to be a starving artist and needed a business degree; she went back and forth to college and ended up getting a master's in Urban Regional Planning. For the past 25 years she's been building up Indian country helping to create roads and buildings. When she saw her current position come up, the only one of its kind in the country, she applied.

The Tribal Arts Cultural Affairs Program began in 2020-21, with three governor-appointed Tribal commission members. It became an opportune moment to focus on tribal arts and culture and the first program in the nation to support Tribes through grants to teach and share their language, culture, and traditions. With 29 Tribes, 20 applied for grants in the first year; all 20 were funded. With a video highlighting the program, tribal members shared the importance of protecting salmon, the resources, culture, and way of life. The Yakama Nation was one of those recipients to fund Camp Chaparral where youth could come together in a safe place to learn their native language; how to gather, prepare, and preserve food; meet each other; interact; and share activities. Being able to share art and history and their way of thinking connects them to their ancestors. The success of the program has grown. In the most recent grants cycle, all 29 Tribes applied; all 29 received a grant of \$17,000 for their own individual projects ranging from canoe journeys, language, curating art, and schematics to build museums.

The ArtsWA's TCA Program is much more than grants. This year they provided two Native Professional Workshops bringing professional Native artists to speak on topics and assist new and upcoming artists. They are working to create a TCA Native Arts Directory, and a TCA Tribal Museum Map as a resource to explore each Tribe's rich cultures. They are working to rewrite the Indian Arts & Craft Act initially written in 1920 with some changes made in 1990 to bring it into the 21st century. They also attended the 2025 Centennial Accord where Governor Ferguson signed a new Executive Order to work with Tribes and the State more fluently.

It was a wonderful look into the importance of culture for the Tribes located in our state. The world that we live in moves so fast. ArtsWA is providing a way for them to preserve and share their art and history, and who they are and where they come from for generations to come.