



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Unite For
Good*

ANGELENA CAMPOBASSO ARTS WASHINGTON, TRIBAL CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Angelena Campobasso, a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes is San Poil, Okanogan, French Canadian, and Italian. Raised on the Colville Reservation, she has dedicated her career to serving Indian Country. She holds a Master of Science in Urban, Rural & Regional Planning, Public Administration, and a Tribal Planning Executive Certification from Eastern Washington University. As owner of Creative Native, she organizes Native fashion shows and events.

Angelena serves as ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs Manager and Tribal Liaison working to support Washington Tribal communities as they expand, enhance, or create space for art and culture, in a way that is respectful and responsive to each community's needs. Washington's culture is richly rooted in Tribal practices. ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs Program fosters these practices by working with Indigenous communities and providing funding for cultural activities to all 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Lisa Sargent, Mitchell Acosta
 Inspiration – Joe Biondi
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Kelly Gasseling
 Program – Charlie Robin
 Attendance – David Cobia

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 13th – Command Sgt. Maj. Anton Ruffin, Veterans Day Program
 November 20th – Kip Ramsey, Ramsey Family & Yakama Nation History
 November 27th – Happy Thanksgiving, No Meeting

PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board by Monday, November 10, 2025, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

Kathryn Urwin

Director of Development

United Way Central Washington

Classification: United Way, Donor Development

Proposed by: John Adkison

Endorsed by: Kaylene Stiles

Susan Brown Aaron

Retired

Classification: Event Planning

Proposed by: Marisol Fast

Endorsed by: John Cooper

NOVEMBER SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

Mark your calendar for the next Second Chance Social on Wednesday, November 19th as we travel to visit the new clubhouse at Westwood Golf Club. Meeting time will be 5:30pm to 7pm. Swing in for tasty appetizers (on us), a beverage of your choice (on you), and views that are up to par.

It's the perfect opportunity to connect, unwind, and see for yourself what all the buzz is about. You won't want to miss this hole-in-one social event!



ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

November is Rotary Foundation Month, a time to celebrate and support the life-changing work of the Foundation. Since The Rotary Foundation began, it has awarded more than \$6.5 billion to help members transform communities locally and globally. They are deeply grateful to Rotarians like you who make Doing Good in the World possible.



REVIEW

Week after week, we have the best volunteers who make our meetings great. A special thank you to David Cobia for serving as our greeter; Margaret Filkins and John Baule for selling squares for the Seahawks game; Alex Ditto who provided a beautiful message about memory dividends; Esther Magasis for sharing her song choice of “First Day of My Life” by Bright Eyes; and Jedean Corpron with a sergeant-at-arms that raised over \$500 for Operation Harvest. No Thursday could be complete without President Sheri who presented blue badges to Rebecca Thornton and Paul Needham and gave us two dates to save on our calendars for a Rotary Historical Perspective on November 12th and the next Second Chance Social at Westwood Golf Course on November 19th.

Trevor Greene had the honor of introducing our program speaker, Dr. David Knight who spoke to us about school finance and two big topics: whether the school finance system in Washington state is equitable, adequate and efficient; and what research can tell us about how to make things better.

Why are so many school districts in our state facing budgetary challenges? Top of the list was the 2012 ruling from the McCleary vs Washington lawsuit in which the State Supreme Court declared the educational funding system at the time unconstitutional. The result was a large increase in funding that began around 2012 through 2018-19. A lot of that money went to teacher salaries. In K-12 finances, most of the money comes from state and local sources. When the pandemic hit, there was also an infusion of federal stimulus funds. When the federal funds expired it created a fiscal cliff. The current funding model for districts is based upon student enrollment. With declining enrollment there are still fixed costs that need to be paid; there were 3 years of high inflation, and while inflation has calmed down, costs remain high. Lastly as a state, the last time there was a major redesign and overhaul of the school funding system was in 1977.

How does research show ways to solve the problem? The first thing that needs to be considered is what our state constitution says - the State of Washington has a paramount duty to provide ample resources for education without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex – it is the starting point for any discussion. In the school finance world, a guiding principle in designing policy is to think about past and present. The cost to provide equal educational opportunities differs substantially across school districts. School districts in high poverty neighborhoods, neighborhoods lacking

healthcare services, grocery stores or other social services available, and in high crime rate neighborhoods it costs more to provide the same level of opportunity as well-off neighborhoods even if the cost of living is higher. The average graduation rate in Washington is 83.6%. If you look at neighborhood poverty rate, high school graduation rates are higher in wealthier neighborhoods. If you separate students by income, students of high income in lower poverty neighborhoods, still rate lower in graduation than those in wealthier neighborhoods. One Predictor of graduation is 9th grade on track - those that are passing all their courses. A strong prediction of 9th grade performance is regular attendance in middle school which in turn becomes predicated on strong elementary school learning opportunities. A conversation about funding and how it is distributed across school districts can't be just about money without talking about students.

In a student by Education Trust ranking of states, Washington ranks towards the middle or bottom in how we effectively target education resources to districts that serve high percentages of students of color, multi-language students, and students of lower income. Washington has a flat funding model. Most districts get the same amount of funding. On the local level there is a large disparity in local dollars due to poverty levels. Our system doesn't go far enough. The salary increases from the McCleary suit disproportionately benefited more experienced teachers. Teachers working in lower poverty areas saw bigger increases – it made an impact with less turnover in junior and experienced teachers. More senior teachers were also less likely to retire. Meta analysis studies have contributed to the real role of funding. The consensus was that money really matters; it matters how the money is allocated and once it gets there, how it is spent. On the local level, bonds when passed increased scores when spent on essential infrastructure. It did not have an impact on home values. Interesting enough, bonds for athletic facilities increased home values, but did not result in increased scores. Voters get to choose.

The consensus as researchers is that money matters, but it's really important on how it is allocated across context and spent when it gets there. The cost of education differs across context – that is known. Their recommendation is that the state target education dollars to high poverty context; the challenge is that we don't know how much more it costs. We have the luxury and privilege to decide what kind of education we want for this country and what kind of future we want.