



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023 NO MEETING

*Create Hope
in the World*



FUTURE PROGRAMS

- November 30th – JD Olney Shellenberger, Native American History Month
- December 7th – Chon Márquez, Rod's House
- December 14th – Rotary Adult Holiday Party
- December 21st – No Meeting

ROTARY BELL RINGING

Sign-ups are underway for Bell Ringing Week from Monday, December 4th through Saturday, December 9th. Rotary volunteers will be working at four locations: Wray's 56th, Rosauers, Fred Meyer Grocery Entrance, and Fred Meyer North Entrance. Shifts are 10am to noon, noon to 2pm, 2pm to 4pm, and 6pm to 8pm.

Of the 96 shifts that we started with, there are 30 open slots as of print time. To reserve your date and time you can click on the link sent to your email this morning or call or email the Rotary office. Your small gift of time will touch the lives of someone in need.



ROTARY HOLIDAY FUN – SAVE THE DATE

The holiday season is here. This year's SOCIAL COMMITTEE has fun activities for both young and old.

On Thursday, NOVEMBER 30th from 5pm to 7pm we have reserved the new ICE RINK at the Valley Mall for Rotarians from all three Yakima clubs and their families. This event includes free admission and skate rentals. There will also be skate aids available. Come join us at the Winter Wonderland Ice Rink to celebrate the season, make memories, and ignite your holiday spirit.



Thursday, DECEMBER 14th is our ROTARY HOLIDAY PROGRAM for adults ONLY. Instead of our normal meeting at noon, we will be meeting from 4pm to 6pm for a fun, informal gathering of fellowship and Rotary Bingo with prizes. You'll be treated to hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Spouses, significant others, and friends are invited to attend.

SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

REVIEW

You couldn't help but have a smile on your face as you entered the room and met with our greeters Marisol Fast, Maria Rodriguez, Rick Fairbrook, and his wife Gay. Past President Rick was not done as he also presided over the meeting with President Erin gone for the day. After being led in singing America the Beautiful by Charlie Robin and Bob Hamilton at the piano, the rest of our meeting besides announcements followed a golf theme. Sharon Miracle provided the perfect golf prayer; Brad Hansen entertained us with golf trivia for his sergeant-at-arms; and our program was all about the First Tee.

Brad Hansen also introduced our newest member, Molly Neal. Molly was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina to a physician and elementary school teacher. Her family moved to the west coast when her father accepted a commission at a U.S. Navy teaching hospital in San Francisco. After four years of service, they settled in Kennewick. Growing up in the PNW unleashed the explorer in her with a love of mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and mountain climbing. With an entrepreneur spirit, she and her brother built a commercial cleaning company from scratch in Boise, Idaho. Knowing she didn't want to clean toilets forever, she went back to school, graduating from WSU. She met her husband in Pullman; they decided to move to his hometown of Yakima to live and raise their family. Today they have 2 girls. She started her own guiding service but when Covid happened, she decided to stay home and go back to earn her MBA. In April 2021 she joined Baker Boyer Bank as a Trust and Investment Advisor. Serving others has always been a priority. She will be a great addition to our team. Welcome to Rotary!

Sean Kinney followed with invitations to be a part of three upcoming events – a Rotary Family Day at the new Winter Wonderland Ice Rink at the Valley Mall on November 30th, the Mezcal Tasting & Social on December 7th at the Larson Gallery, and our Adult Holiday Party on December 14th from 4pm to 6pm to replace our noon meeting. Past President Rick shared that sign-ups are underway for Rotary Bell Ringing Week. We will be ringing bells at four locations from Monday, December 4th through Saturday, December 9th. Last year, our efforts raised \$17,000 with all of it going back into our community to help families in need. Check for a link in your email to choose the time and location that works best for you.

Sheri Bissell had the honor of introducing our program speakers

Brynn Jacobs and Mollie Thola. Brynn is the Executive Director of the First Tee of Central Washington. Mollie has been an LPGA Teaching and Club Professional for over 25 years and the First Tee Program Director since 2013.

In 2017, the First Tee grew from the First Tee of Yakima to the First Tee of Central Washington bringing with it, program services to Wenatchee, Washington. The program in Wenatchee is strong. Yakima is rocking it here. For Mollie, the excitement of First Tee is infectious. She has seen kids she has taught at the age of 5 and 6 years old now going off to college. When they first began the program many of them struggled to share their names; they have grown into the most amazing young people as leaders in their classes at school to playing golf in school, and trying out for national Drive, Chip and Putt competitions.

The home office of First Tee is located at the SOZO Sports Complex. It includes a three-hole course with an expansion planned to add another six holes starting in 2024 for a complete nine-hole par 3 course. They would not be the success they are today without the support of all three Rotary clubs and the Rotary Trust. SOZO provided the rights to the additional 5 acres needed to expand. They have a partnership with the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation to design and build out the expansion. Moving forward part of their work is to prepare now for extra costs and an increase in child participation. They have always had their annual golf tournament to fund scholarships and equipment. New this year is a partnership with Legends Hotel and Casino to bring Gary McCord to Yakima on February 23rd for a dinner and auction at SOZO. The expansion of a nine-hole course will give another avenue for families to have access to the game of golf at a low cost and also be an opportunity to create revenue.

As an organization they never tell a child no. Many kids today experience anxiety and self-confidence issues that make participating in team sports intimidating. First Tee is a catalyst to build self-confidence, learn core values, and become more social with their peers. As they finished, it was evident that Mollie and Brynn both share a love of the game of golf. How can you help? Volunteers are always needed – come out and be a coach or a mentor. You can also support them at their upcoming events.