



ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE SPOKE

CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 4, 2020

ISSUE NO. 269

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

- May 5 - Dr. Anthony Chen**, Director of Health, Pierce County Health Dept, *Read about Dr. Chen at the Department [website](#)*
- May 12 - Jim Beatty**, President of Good Samaritan Hospital
- May 19 - Ginny Gilder**, Owner of Seattle Storm/Olympic silver medalist
- May 26 - Josh Metcalf**, DM Disposal

COMING EVENTS

- May 16 - District Leadership Training**
(*information below*)
- May 23 - Virtual Daffodil Dash**
(*information below*)

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CLUB LINKS

[Rotary International](#)
[About Rotary](#)
[Joining Rotary](#)
[Rotary History](#)
[Rotary Foundation](#)
[For New Members](#)

SUMNER ROTARY CLUB
PO Box 272
Sumner, WA 98390
[rotaryclubofsumner.org](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87983647325)

Sumner Rotary Club conducts virtual meetings Tuesdays beginning at noon.
Tune in at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87983647325>



Send articles/photos to The Spoke editor:
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COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SAM

Hello, My Fellow Rotarians!

It has been gratifying beyond measure to be able to see all your faces through our recent Zoom meetings. While nothing can beat shaking hands and socializing with you all in person each week, these online meetings have filled a critical gap for fellowship during these strange and unpredictable times.

Your Rotary Club of Sumner continues to be vibrant, active and alive. Late in March, we instituted our emergency giving program to local people who have found themselves financially affected by Covid, and who are unfamiliar with the traditional ways of seeking help. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to you all, who so tirelessly, throughout the years, have raised funds so that we could find ourselves in such a financially healthy position to help our neighbors in this way. This is service above self to the highest degree.

My only sadness is that my term will end likely before we can meet again as we once did. Sherm will take the reins at the end of June and capably guide us throughout our next phase. But before that time, I want to express my gratitude to you all for logging on each week, patiently listening and participating, and continuing to make our club one of the finest Rotary clubs around. Sam

Join Us Online!

Sumner Rotary continues its weekly meetings, online via the Zoom application Tuesdays, noon. Tune in to the meetings at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87983647325>
(Meeting ID: 879 8364 7325)

The meetings are growing in popularity: Our April 28 meeting had 45 participants. We will conduct our meetings online until regular meetings can resume.

See you Tuesdays on Zoom!



This is how the Zoom meetings appear on your computer.

AT THE MEETINGS

April 28
Great Speaker

DR. LAURIE DENT,
Sumner-Bonney Lake School District
Superintendent

Dr. Dent started her Zoom meeting appearance by saying that the last few months with the schools closing because of the Covid virus have been like “flying upside down.” She said the District is under a lot of pressure because schools are the heart of the community, and “we are the trusted lifeline for thousands of families.”

She said the district has been working hard from “day one” to design new plans and strategies. Having to develop a new form of education, provided online “feels like we’re building a plane as we fly it.”

She said the District has five priorities during this challenging time:

1. Students Meals - Many students rely on daily meals provided at their schools. During the school closures the district has set up five locations in Sumner-Bonney Lake community where kids can go for lunches. As of April 28 they had provided 80,000 meals.
2. Childcare - The District has been providing childcare to medical workers and members of the military.
3. Learning opportunities — The District has developed online resources and given teachers examples of teaching online. Dr. Dent said their success in doing this is testament to the teachers’ talent.
4. Provide meaningful work and professional development. All district staff members are still employed and working.
5. Graduation and seniors - Dr. Dent said they want to mark sure that seniors are honored. Administrative staff has had to figure out how to do grades, credits and transcript. Principals are working on scholarships and celebration. Each senior was given a yard sign that recognizes Class of 2020 seniors.

“We are holding out hope that we can do something that can really honor seniors,” Dr. Dent said. “Graduation is a special ritual, a rite of passage.”

In building a new form of education, while making sure that what your trying to accomplish matches your values, Dr. Dent said the District faces great challenges including:

- * Having to rely on incomplete information.
- * Keeping education equity at the forefront.
- * Transitioning from deeply entrenched systems overnight.
- * Providing students technology they need to keep learning.

She said that the great majority of students at both elementary and secondary levels are participating in online learning provided by the district. Each student should have a district-provided laptop computer, and any students who does not have a computer can get one at the district office.

She also spoke of support from the District’s partners in the community such as the local fire chiefs, police chiefs, mayors and services clubs such as Rotary. “Everyone helps out. That’s what makes this community special.”

Dr. Dent has been superintendent at Sumner-Bonney Lake School District since 2016

STUDENT REPORT FROM SHS

Nick Yochum, Sumner High School President also spoke to the Rotarians on April 28.

Nick said students are trying hard to adapt to online learning. “Being outside the classroom is difficult but it is also providing a valuable lesson. It is equipping me with tools I might need in the future.”

He said he never thought he’d hear from students how much they miss school. Many students are communicating with each other via online Zoom meetings. “School spirit next year will be off the charts.”

Nick said there’s been a lot of “adopt-a-senior” activity on the part of parents. “It’s a good way for parents to get more involved.

“We love seeing the “2020 Senior” signs in people’s yards,” he said, and thanked the Rotary Club for its support.

Sumner Rotary Establishes Special Covid Fund

The Sumner Rotary Board has designated \$10,000 for a Covid Fund to help people in the community. Funds have been given out in \$500 increments, helping numerous people in our community. As of April 28, \$8,715 had been given to needy families and businesses.

Sumner Rotary has applied for a \$15,000 grant from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation that would be designated for the club’s Covid Fund.

The Foundation’s Pierce County Connected Funding supports organizations providing services to address urgent needs and the disruption of basic human services to Pierce County’s most vulnerable populations due to COVID-19 and the necessary public health measures to address it. For more information about the fund see <https://www.gtcf.org>

Register by May 6 for District Leadership Training

Rotary District Organization is offering free District Leadership Training via Zoom. Key training courses will be offered online on Saturday, May 16. Five one-hour training sessions are being offered beginning at 10 a.m.

You must register online by May 6 to attend. Links to the training courses will be sent to you for each of the classes you’ve registered for closer to May 16. An Aloha Happy Hour Celebration is planned at the conclusion of the training sessions.

For more information and to register, go to [Leadership Training](#)

Virtual Daffodil Dash Planned for Saturday, May 23

Plans are being made for a virtual Daffodil Dash, where participants would run or walk their own routes, independently. The actual Rotary Multicare Daffodil Dash is held annually as part of the Daffodil Parade festivities, which were canceled this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Daffodil Dash is a major fundraiser that supports our mission of Holocaust and Genocide education and awareness. Plans for the virtual event include fundraising and recognition of participants. For more information see [2020 Daffodil Dash](#)