



ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# THE SPOKE

CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 25, 2020

ISSUE NO. 270

## CLUB MEETINGS

May 19 meeting  
Guest Speaker

**GINNY GILDER**  
Former Olympic Silver Medalist,  
Co-owner Seattle Storm

Ginny talked about her fascinating life, growing up in New York City, and said her father Richard Gilder was one of the biggest inspirations in her life. He was a prominent New York investor and benefactor who died recently. (Read his New York Times [obituary](#).) Ginny said she fell in love with rowing after witnessing a race when she was in high school. She went to Yale where spent four years on the rowing team. One great memory there was when she was part of a "naked strip in" over the lack of shower facilities for female athletes. The demonstration was reported in the New York Times and resulted in an addition at the rowers' boathouse to house women's showers.



Ginny was first selected for the U.S. Olympic team in 1980, the year that the United States boycotted the Olympic Games in Moscow, Russia. She was a member of the American women's quadruple sculls team that won the silver medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

She went on to work in the investment business after college and became familiar with the Seattle area, becoming a Mariners, Sonics and Storm fan. When the Sonics left for Oklahoma City, she and three other women got together and bought the Seattle women's professional basketball team in 1978. She has been a co-owner ever since.

Ginny said the Seattle Storm team today is in a great position to defend its title from last year. "The team is experienced. All starters are back from the championship season."

She said the upcoming season is on hold now because of the COVID 19 virus. They are looking into holding "safe site" games but "it's all up in the air." She said she expects if there are games they will be without fans. "It's hard to manage this and to be safe."

Asked about the future of sports and the prospect of empty stadiums in the U.S., she said people will always want to be entertained through spectator sports.

"I don't see that going anywhere. The change will be with how people congregate to watch." The reason to have these sports won't go away."

May 12 meeting  
Guest Speaker

**JIM BEATTY**  
President of MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup

Jim just joined the staff at Good Sam earlier in the year and immediately faced a pandemic. He said there was a surge in total corona virus patients but hospital resources have been enough to handle demand. They recently erected tent in parking lot to handle an overload of patients but never had to use it.

Jim summarized the situation with the following points:

- \* MultiCare Health Systems was prepared with a robust surge plan.
- \* In the Puget Sound region at MultiCare, we've had over 1,300 positive positive cases throughout our MultiCare hospitals.
- \* Good Samaritan's Covid patient peak was in the first half of April.
- \* Social distancing has made a positive impact in our community. Our number of cases has consistently trended lower than the nationwide data.
- \* The COVID 19 outbreak continues to impact our state.

"We're over our peak period," he said. "The infection rate is starting to go down." He said testing for the COVID19 virus has been a big challenge but the hospital is now able to conduct testing with a two-hour turnaround. As for personal protective equipment for staff, obtaining enough masks has been a challenge. He doesn't expect PPE to be a problem for hospitals in the futures.

"If there is an uptick in the fall, we'll be much more ready in the future regarding masks and other PPE. Coronavirus will continue to impact the state. We're going to have to live with it. Jim said health care will change due to the pandemic. "We will be doing more virtual hospital visits. Virtual health care will be a big thing in the future. People will think twice about going to ER, instead using virtual care and taking pressure off emergency rooms."

He said the hospital has resumed conducting elective surgeries and that people with chest pains, stroke symptoms and other serious ailments should still come to the emergency room. "The ER is a safe place to be."

May 5 meeting  
Guest Speaker

**NIGEL TURNER**  
Division Director of Communicable Disease Control,  
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Nigel said at that date (May 5) it had been 100 days in the first coronavirus case appeared in Washington state. At that date there had been 1,531 cases and 52 deaths in Pierce County. There was talk about reopening the economy in the region.

"We need to take a gradual approach in coming back," he said. "We need to be very cautious not to bring back the virus by not social distancing." Nigel said there needs to be a steady 2-week reduction in cases before reopening. Important as well is access to testing and followup with positive cases.

Cases were still increasing in number in Pierce County but not as fast as before. He said there needs to be a downward trend before they can ease social distancing restrictions. He said the county Health Department is testing anyone with symptoms. At that date there had been 20,000 tests conducted in Pierce County.

Asked how Pierce County compares with communities of similar size, Nigel said the county is well below the numbers in King and Snohomish counties, and the fatality rate is relatively low. "We're in very different shape than the rest of the country," he said. "It's going well here but it is too early to declare victory."

He said the concerns over local hospitals being overwhelmed has eased and that said contact tracing will be a safety net. Pierce County had 25 investigators at that time and looked to hire up to 200 more. Asked if warmer weather in the summer will help eliminate the crisis, Nigel said didn't believe so and pointed out that there are many cases of coronavirus in tropical areas.

## COVID 19 COMMUNITY FUND

Sumner Rotary's COVID 19 fund still has funds remaining in it to dole out to needy families and individuals. President Sam Suznevich asked Rotarians to let the board know if they know of people in community who might need help. The fund was set up by the Rotary board to help out needy families and individuals in the Sumner-Bonney Lake area. "This is our time to be out in the community and let people know what Rotary is all about. This is what we do," said President Sam. It was previously announced that an additional \$2,500 was contributed to the Covid virus fund by EM Precision.

## LIFE STRAWS DRIVE

Kathy Hayden announced that Life Straws Drive at Maple Lawn Elementary was a great success with the students coming up with 89 Life Straws which are used for sanitizing water. This was the school's fourth Life Straws Drive. Their goal was 100 Life Straws, which would beat last year. They collected 89, even though Corona virus cut their drive in half! School nurse Kris Bauer is on a relief team that goes to Haiti every spring to treat kids in a large orphanage. She takes the Life Straws, which come with a neck strap and a large filter. The kids can use them to filter and drink water. With these straws they could even drink out of a mud puddle if they had to. They are good for about 1000 uses.



## AMERICAN IDOL CONTESTANT

Isaac Stocker was introduced at the May 5 meeting and sang the National Anthem (left) to start the May 12 club meeting. Isaac is a Sumner area resident who made it to the final rounds in the American Idol singing competition. He said overall it was a great experience and he'll always remember being told by Lionel Richie that he has a good voice.

## STUDENT REPORT FROM BLHS

Nate Marquart, Bonney Lake High School representative reported that at-home schooling has been going well but it was "heartbreaking" not be able to be at school with other students. He said the school had virtual assembly and half of the students participated. Nate also has been producing an online news show for BLHS. "I've been super successful I with it" he said, adding that he is learning some useful skills. BLHS teachers drove by our seniors' houses in a parade. Mini-graduation ceremonies and senior awards will be filmed for seniors to view. Students will come to the school and pick up awards.

## NEW MEMBER

Curtiss Johnson is our latest new member. Curtiss owns Inta Vintage, 1011 Main St. in Sumner. He was sponsored for membership by Mike Dodd. Welcome, Curtiss!



## HAPPY BUCKS

\* \$20 from David Orth, for addition that was built by volunteers at the Sumner Food Bank.

\* \$100 from Marilee Hill-Anderson for her son Joel graduating from college

\* \$1 from Tim Thomsen on behalf of the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District athletic department, Sterlings Athletics recently donated sports balls to give to students during the current pandemic. Tim said 1200 sports balls to handed out to kids at remote lunch spots recently.

\* \$100 from President Sam for his new granddaughter, Eden, born to Bryce and Sara Barber. Sam's son-in-law Bryce matched the \$100.

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

May 26 ~ Kevin Stocker,  
former MLB baseball player,  
now color commentator for  
PAC 12 baseball.

June 2 ~ Business meeting

June 9 ~ Tara Doyle-Enneking,  
executive director of the  
Puyallup Sumner chamber

June 16 ~ Jenny Hones - reducing clutter

June 30 ~ New-officer induction

## COMING EVENTS

**Courage Ride - Canceled**  
(plans are being made for virtual ride)

**Golf Tournament - Aug 28**  
High Cedars

**Girls Night Out - Sept 25**  
The Kelley Farm. 6-10 pm

## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

**President**  
Sam Suznevich

**President-Elect**  
Sherm Voiles

**Co-Secretary**  
Barbara Bitetto

**Co-Secretary**  
Carmen Blankenship

**Treasurer**  
Andy Elfers

**Co-Treasurer**  
Barbara Bitetto

**Past President**  
Brad Moericke

**Directors**  
Mike Dobb  
Pam Osborne  
David Eidsaune  
Scott Robbert

**Chair of Rotary Foundation**  
Ed McConkey

**Youth Services**  
Justin Watkins

**Youth Protection Officer**  
Kathy Hayden

## 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](http://rotaryclubofsumner.org)



Sumner Rotary Club conducts virtual meetings Tuesdays beginning at noon.

Tune in at  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87983647325>

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS



## MultiCare Rotary Daffodil Dash 2020



The starting line for the Daffodil Dash was the Old Cannery.

Perfect spring weather welcomed runners in the MultiCare Rotary Daffodil Dash held May 23. Unfortunately, COVID-10 precautions made the event a little less filled with fellowship than originally planned. One of the many local events and fundraisers that have gone virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic, Daffodil dash runners completed the course on their own, recording their times and submitting them to the race committee.

Daffodil princesses rocked their masks as the Sumner team supported 11 dedicated runners doing either the Sumner-only 5K, or leg three of the full Daffodil parade route. Special guests at the "starting line" at The Old Cannery included Renne Gilliam, President of Rotary Club of Puyallup, and Jamie Regro, Rotary Asst. District Governor and runner.

Despite the coronavirus, the event will distribute around \$20,000 to the participating Rotary Clubs to be used to support healthy living in Pierce County. The event was sponsored by MultiCare, Potelco, The Tacoma Rainiers, The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse, Safeway and Drain-Pro.

We'll look forward to trying again next year – in person!