

GSVR VOICE

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Greater Spokane Valley
Rotary
Club



WELCOME TO YOUR CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your new Club newsletter.

PE Chris Baca, and I have been hard at work on this newsletter in an effort to better communicate with each of you, and so you can better communicate with each other.

We intend for it to keep you informed of Club, District and RI news and activities. We want it to be a forum for you to share ideas and experiences you have encountered during your journey with Rotary.

We hope you will read it and contribute to it and share your ideas to make it better. And, if so inspired, we hope you will share it with your non-Rotarian friends and encourage them to join us as People of Action as we work to make the world a better place.

In this issue...

- Club News
- RI News
- Rotary Foundation
- New Member Spotlight
- Year in Review
- Opportunities for Service
- Club Calendar

In short, we hope you will engage and use the newsletter as your own to share your ideas and your passion for Rotary.

President Kyle & PE Chris



Web: gsvrotary.org

Facebook: facebook.com/gsvrotary

Club News

This has been an extraordinary year.

I could probably stop there.

It would be enough said.

Everyone would understand.

Why has it been so extraordinary? Where to start? We have been anxious about the virus, about our loved ones and friends and about our own health. We have been anxious about our jobs, our ability to pay our bills and about our children. We've been stuck in our homes and away from loved ones and friends. We have missed holidays, graduations, weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. We've worn masks, washed our hands, kept our distance, and gone through more Clorox wipes and Lysol than we ever imagined was possible. People who have donated to food banks, now find themselves standing in line for food to feed their families. Our own community service events, opportunities to fundraise, and equally important, our opportunities for fellowship, have been put on hold.

It has been a roller coaster; a constant, unrelenting roller coaster. It has been exhausting. And, it's not over. Some of us have lost family and/or friends to COVID. Some of us have dealt with health issues unrelated to COVID, which would be life-changing during a normal year, and almost unbearable this year.

As humans, we have adjusted to our environment. We are very good at that. Initially, we found the time to clean that closet that needed cleaning, organize those photos that needed organizing, or read that book we've been wanting to read. We figured out the best location, day and time to find toilet paper still on the shelf. We learned how to work and/or interact with the rest of the world from

home. We learned how to Zoom. Zoom; who'd have thought?! As I write this, I am sitting in a hotel room in Texas, which I quickly turned into an office and am now able to do all the things I can do sitting at my desk in Spokane. I am here waiting to hear about my dad who is in hospital nearby trying to survive COVID.

The year has been a sh@# show for sure!

It has also been an extraordinary year to witness the compassion of our fellow humans. We can be very good at that too. Especially Rotarians.

Despite the obstacles, the Board and Club have continued to meet (although I will share not as many members regularly attend Club meetings via Zoom as I would like - what can we do to fix that?). Most importantly, despite the obstacles we have continued to support our community. We provided Chrome Books for children who otherwise had no ability to attend school remotely. We donated food to Spokane Valley Partners and to the Malden and Whitman communities devastated by fires so that people had food to eat. We provided toys and gifts to Embrace Washington so COVID did not prevent foster children from having a Christmas.

To date, since COVID began, the Club, the Club's Charitable Fund and you have donated more than \$60,000 to our community so that those of our partners who feed, clothe and otherwise look after our community's most vulnerable can continue to function.

So, it has been an extraordinary year.

Despite COVID, you have all remained extraordinary.

And I wouldn't expect anything less from each of you, People of Action.

President Kyle

Rotary Foundation

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION
TRANSFORMS YOUR GIFTS INTO
SERVICE PROJECTS THAT CHANGE
LIVES BOTH CLOSE TO HOME AND
AROUND THE WORLD.**

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.

MISSION

The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

THE IMPACT OUR DONATION CAN HAVE

- For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected from polio.
- \$50 can provide clean water to help fight waterborne illness.
- \$500 can launch an antibullying campaign and create a safe environment for children.



Rotary International

Rotary has been very busy helping the fight against COVID and below are links to three interesting articles as to what RI, and Clubs themselves have been doing.

[Rotary clubs help fight the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Hacking a solution to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[3 principles we use to beat the pandemic](#)

As well, you may know that Rotary has selected the first female President Elect to lead Rotary. You can find an article on this announcement below.

[Holger Knaack declares Jennifer Jones president-nominee](#)

Finally, Rotary has created a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce, you can read about here:

[Meet Rotary's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce](#)



New Member Spotlight

The Board has approved applications for Club membership for Mr. Scott Ferguson, Father William O'Brien, and Connor Stephenson. Information regarding each is provided below. Please help your Club Board welcome these two as new members!

Scott Ferguson

Dusty Wetzler is Scott's Sponsor and will also serve as Scott's Mentor. Scott and his family have recently moved here from Oregon so that he could join Embrace Washington as the new Executive Director. Scott said in his application that he wants to be a Rotarian because: "Within both my professional and personal life, I have always made service to my community a priority. I provided direct, hands-on support to those in need, certainly to youth and elderly, but also to those who are simply underserved through volunteering with community food banks, homeless youth shelters, and raising funds to address community needs. Additionally, I believe that my commitment to service aligns with the mission of Rotary to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. This is an outstanding opportunity to work and serve collaboratively with other professionals to make a positive change in the community of Spokane Valley.

The activities that would enhance my membership would be to serve in the areas of the community, new generation, or club service. I would also be honored to serve as the organizer of community projects such as the financial scholarships, Corn booth at the Interstate fair, or additional programs. Truly, I am happy to serve as needed to support the outstanding work of this organization and its members. Additionally, I believe that being able to network and build relationships with members of this organization would enhance my membership. As the Executive Director of Embrace Washington, I hope to contribute to assisting others to better understand the need and challenges that face our youth in care. I would be honored to be considered for this

opportunity of membership."

Father William O'Brien

Chris Baca will be Father O'Brien's Sponsor and will also serve as Father's Mentor.

Father William Eugene O'Brien, Jr. was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey on June 30, 1949, son of the late William Eugene O'Brien, Sr. and the late Dorothy Eileen Finley O'Brien. He attended Catholic elementary and high schools in New Jersey and received a B.A. degree in Communications from Seton Hall University South Orange, New Jersey in 1978. He worked as a computer programmer. He moved to Foster City, California in 1981. He entered SS Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in September 1984 as a seminarian of the Eparchy of Van Nuys. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by the late Bishop Thomas V. Dolinay on May 8, 1988. His assignments include: Administrator of Saints Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Spokane, Washington; Administrator of St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church in Los Gatos, California; Administrator of Saint Philip Byzantine Catholic Church in Sacramento, California; and Parochial Vicar of Saint John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Seattle, Washington. Father O'Brien once again became the Administrator of Saints Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Spokane, Washington on January 2, 2003.

Father O'Brien said in his application: "I have thought about joining for some time. I was very impressed with the Club and members when I attended last week's meeting online. Perhaps I could foster a relationship between Greater Spokane Valley Rotary and Spokane Falls Toastmasters Club, of which I am President this year, as per the new partnership between Rotary International and Toastmasters International."

Connor Stephenson

After graduating college at Washington State University, Connor started in the Insurance Industry and has not looked back. He loves educating clients about products to protect the things that they have worked so hard for. He owns and operates a Farmers Insurance Agency in Spokane Valley. He offers all lines of insurance including, home, auto, boat, motorhome, trailer, life, and commercial.

Connor wrote in his application to join our GSVR Club: "I am looking to increase my community involvement and networking with like-minded individuals." John Guarisco has recruited Connor and will serve as Connor's sponsor and mentor.

Year in Review 2019-2020

Thirty-Seven people of action:

- volunteered more than 2500 hours,
- hosted 5 community events attended by 3000 people, fed 600 children and families,
- donated \$72,816.56 to 13 non-profits,
- awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to 7 graduating seniors,
- delivered \$7,492.56 in new books to 2,403 elementary students.

By the Numbers

The **Club** ended the year with **\$50,734.23** in the bank. This total consists of **\$14,485.13** in our Club operating accounts, and **\$34,622.91** in our "event" accounts, representing funds we have fundraised in years prior.

The total **Fundraising** income for 2019-20 was **\$53,786.80**, generated from our Corn Booth. We paid **\$31,323.30** in expense for the Corn Booth, leaving us a net of **\$22,463.50**. From these funds, we paid

\$7,482.56 for the Book Program, **\$2,500** to Rotaract, and **\$1,500** to STIX Diabetes Programs.

Club Giving

Report on Trusts and Endowments

The Club has five trusts, endowments or charitable associations under its management. A Board of Trustees composed of **Ron Schoenberger, Maria Trunkenbolz, Casey Getty, Bill Roe and Paul Fletcher** provide fiduciary oversight of the funds. Annual giving budgets are established by taking 5% of the 30 June balance in the accounts which allows for a slow growth of the funds. The monies are invested either in Washington Trust Bank or with Edward Jones. All of these accounts are part of the Rotary District 5080 Charitable Association which provides an IRS Code 501(c)(3) status so that any charitable donations to the trusts, endowments and associations are tax deductible. Gary Bowe, a former member and the District 5080 Treasurer, provides all bookkeeping and tax service for the funds. Following is a breakout of where these entities came from and what the proceeds are used for.

The Henry "Hank" Grinalds Trust.

The Grinalds trust was established nearly 25 years ago when Hank, a former member, very benevolently included the Rotary Club in his will. Hank bequeathed us a 5% share of his wealth which at that time was over \$550,000. Monies from this trust are used to assist the elderly in need in the Spokane Valley as specified in his will. The trust has grown over time and at the end of June 2019 was valued at \$679,301. The monies are invested with Washington Trust Bank. This year **\$33,874** was provided in grants to the following organizations:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Spokane Valley Partners | \$10,000 |
| Hospice of Spokane | \$ 1,500 |
| Widows Might | \$ 8,374 |
| SNAP | \$ 8,000 |
| Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels | \$ 5,000 |
| Gonzaga Legal Assistance -Elder Care | \$ 1,000 |

Over the past five years, the Hank Grinalds Trust has provided, through the Club, over **\$182,000** to the Spokane Valley Community.

The Spokane Valley Rotary Charitable Trust (SVRCT) for Youth. This trust was established over three decades ago from monies donated by Rotary Club members who wanted to see their monies go to youth-based causes in the Spokane Valley. The trust had \$127,106 as of June 2019. The monies are invested through Edward Jones. Last year nearly **\$6,000** was distributed to the following organizations:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Soul to Soles | \$ 1,500 |
| Daybreak Your Services | \$ 750 |
| Teen and Kid Closet | \$ 1,000 |
| Embrace Washington | \$ 1,000 |
| PaleyFest (for scholarships) | \$ 750 |

Over the past five years nearly **\$30,000** has been provided to youth organizations in Spokane Valley.

The SVRCT Scholarship Endowment. The monies were generated long ago by a Rotary program known as Upward Bound. The original program sought to mentor youth and to provide them scholarships to secondary level educational opportunities. The program eventually played out and the remaining monies were transferred to the SVRCT to be used for scholarships for graduating seniors from the Spokane Valley Schools. The money totaled \$36,438 last June and is invested with Edward Jones. The budget supported \$2,000 which was

provided to the overall club scholarship program which with the club's money provided:

Six \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors

The Al Stevens Music Scholarship. Al Stevens was a generous Rotarian who loved music and had a wonderful voice as those who knew him would attest. Al wanted to establish a scholarship fund for students who were to major or minor in music in their college pursuits. There is \$35,560 in the fund and the money is invested with Edward Jones. The scholarships are for graduating seniors from the valley schools or Rogers High School where Al attended. The proceeds from Al's endowment provided **\$1,800** for scholarships. (**This year**, two students from Rogers High School were selected for the music scholarships and both had tremendous obstacles to overcome to get to go to college. Generous Club members raised another \$1,600 so that we could provide):

Two \$1,700 music scholarships

Valley Rotary Charitable Association (VRCA). The VRCA was originally established to provide a place where charitable fundraising proceeds would reside and provide an IRS 501(c)(3) tax deductible status. Following the club merger, research showed that the tax status documentation was never properly filed, so the IRS status now comes from the Rotary District 5080 Charitable Fund where the money is accounted for. The proceeds are not invested and are paid out to any charitable organization the club wishes to support. The account has \$24,239, which originated from the prior fashion show and golf tournament. This year, the VRCA was used to fund:

\$7,000 for scholarships for graduating seniors (part of the \$9,000 for six \$1,500 scholarships given out)

Corn Booth

1600 volunteer hours, 1800 turkey legs, 2400 cobs of corn, 2000 baked potatoes, 55 cases of soda, 6 volunteer partners **\$53,436.80 raised.**

This year would have been the 27th year of the Rotary Corn Booth at the Spokane Interstate Fair. The Corn Booth was originally operated from a temporary stand set up by members at the fair each year and sold only corn on the cob and soft drinks. Over the years, the Club moved into a permanent facility, added baked potatoes and turkey legs, which have become a fair favorite. The Corn Booth has been the financial life blood of the Rotary Club, so far raising more than \$675,000, which the Club has donated to the Spokane Valley community in the form of grants to organizations and individuals, to fund scholarships and our Books for Kids' program. Many members of other Rotary clubs have worked in the Corn Booth. And, we have added partners over the years, the longest being the Spokane Rotaract Club, and more recently Joya, the HOPE School and STIX Diabetes Programs. These folks help make up the 150 volunteers working some 1600 hours to make the Corn Booth a reality. In addition to raising funds, the Corn Booth has been an opportunity for fellowship for Rotarians and non-Rotarians.

Celebrating Club Members

December Birthdays

Dec 2 Patrick Warrick

Dec 6 Helen Pavlischak

Dec 15 Katie Allen

Spouse Birthdays

Dec 31 Dora Glidden (Jeff)

Club Member Spotlight

This month we shine the spotlight on Chris Baca. As many of you know, Chris came to us in June 2019, when Chris, his wife Kelly, and daughter Greer moved to Spokane from Ketchikan Alaska. Chris became a regular fixture at our meetings and community events even before he had submitted his membership transfer paperwork. Chris' application indicated he had chaired multiple committees, supported Interact and served as President of the 1st City Rotary Club during 2014-2015. I received a personal phone call from Chris' former District Governor in Alaska to inform that Chris was an amazing and dedicated Rotarian.

I can say that Chris has been amazing since he arrived at GSVR. Chris attended and worked at each of our events. He soon volunteered to serve as our Membership Chair and has likely now set a record for the shortest time in that position to add new members to the Club. More importantly, Chris has helped me behind the scenes with multiple projects, like this newsletter. Fortunately for all of us, Chris accepted the Club's invitation to serve as our next President. Please congratulate and thank Chris for serving in this important role, if you haven't done so already. Chris is an amazing and dedicated Rotarian and, with your support I expect our Club will do amazing things with him at the helm.

Opportunities for Service

Spokane Valley Partners

It is not too late to give to SVP for their CARES Campaign.

Club Service

A list of current openings in Club leadership, including committees, who to contact:

We encourage each member to join a Club Committee as that ensures greater success and member longevity. Find more on our webpage about our Committees, in future Voice editions we look forward to periodic reports from them. Examples of some Committees include Club Programs, Membership, Foundation, Public Service, and Youth Service.

If you have any questions about any of these opportunities, please contact Kyle at knolte@stamperlaw.com or Chris at cbaca99901@gmail.com

Club Calendar – December 2020

Meetings: Our GSVR Club is now meeting by Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The Club Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and members are welcome.

District Events: 5080 Virtual District Assembly

[District Assembly Zoom Sessions](#)

[District Training Assembly](#)

[Joining Zoom Meeting \(Tutorial\)](#)

RI Events:

Rotary has a new area of focus: protecting the environment. [Learn more about our commitment to keeping our planet and its resources safe.](#)

Rotary Voices: Why I Raise for Rotary: Doing Good with the World Fund. [Read more.](#)

Rotary Club of Bombay mends little hearts with help from two global grants. [Read more.](#)

Rotary Great Britain and Ireland: Creature Discomforts – life in lockdown from the animals' point of view. [Read more.](#)

The 2021 Rotary International Assembly will be held virtually from 1-11 February 2021. [Read more.](#)

Service Above Self