

The Windjammer

Today's speaker

The man of (almost) 1,000 masks

John Venables presented his earliest character in 2006 when he appeared as John Muir before a small group at the Haines Public Library. He followed his hero Muir through the adventures that he wrote about in his travels and explorations throughout Alaska.

These days, Venables is more often seen in the character depictions of three other men whose influence is still felt today, men remarkable in their achievements in guiding Alaska to statehood and beyond. Without the vision of Secretary of State William Henry Seward, the foresight of Judge James Wickersham and the tenacity of U.S. Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, Alaska's history would be far different than it is today and its destiny uncharted and unknown. But time is passing inexorably and unless these men's stories are

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John Venables (left) is seen here with City and Borough of Juneau Assembly Member Jesse Kiehl drumming up support for a day to honor William Egan prior to the Oct. 8 Rotary Club of Juneau meeting. Venables celebrates Alaska's history by adopting, for a time, the personas of famous Alaskans for educational presentations.

RI president: Recruit or risk extinction

[Editor's note: This article comes from Julia Terruso of philly.com. Visit bit.ly/H0MF4H to read the full story.]

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — The president of Rotary International issued a direct challenge to local members recently: Recruit new people or risk extinction.

"I believe in tradition, but sometimes you need change," said Ron Burton.

"We've got to take a look at who we are and ask if we want to be relevant or even in existence in the years to come."

He spoke at the Rotary Leadership Institute of North America recently. Rotary has a global network of 1.2 million people in more than 200 countries but has undergone a decline in North American membership, Burton said.

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Calendar

October:

Vocational Service Month

- Oct. 22: No meeting. Lunch in various Rotarians' offices to celebrate Vocational Service Month.
- Oct. 29: Vocational Service Awards.
- Nov. 5: Club meeting. Larry Persily, update on the potential Alaska natural gas pipeline.
 - Nov. 12: Club meeting.
 - **Nov. 13:** Board meeting.
- **Nov. 19:** Foundation auction.

• Today: Aaron Morrison and Karen Morgan.

Greeters

• Next week: Keni Campbell and Laurie Gardner.

Submit news to juneauwindjammer@ gmail.com.

Bottle o' wine, bottle o' wine ...



President Brenda Hewitt donates a bottle of wine autographed by Gov. Sarah Palinfor the Juneau Rotary Club's Wine Auction. This year's event will be Feb. 7, 2014 at the JACC. There's still time to donate bottles, and plenty of need for them, so keep those bottles coming.

Words to live by

President Brenda Hewitt asks us to honor October as Vocational Service Month by striving to live by Rotary International's Code of Conduct in our professional and personal lives.

As a Rotarian, I will:

- Exemplify the core value of integrity in all behaviors and activities.
- Use my vocational experience and talents to serve in Rotary.
- Conduct all of my personal, business, and professional affairs ethically, encouraging and fostering high ethical standards as an example to others.
- Be fair in all dealings with others and treat them with the respect due to them as fellow human beings.
 - Promote recognition and respect for all occupations which are useful to society.
- Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community
- Honor the trust that Rotary and fellow Rotarians provide and not do anything that will bring disfavor or reflect adversely on Rotary or fellow Rotarians.
 - Not seek from a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.

History

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told and retold, new generations will know little, if anything, about them.

Venables' energies are directed toward education presented in the first person vividly, enjoyably and memorably. He accepts no money for his presentations, and it does not matter a great deal to him how large or small his audience is on any given day. He knows that each person who hears the stories of these men will pass his or her knowledge on to others, and thus their history will be kept vital and dynamic.

Venables has presented programs throughout Southeast

and in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and in towns up and down the Kenai Peninsula. With his large costume-laden suitcase trundling behind him, he sets up in performance halls, town halls, libraries and schools. He believes the children will keep our history alive.