

Meet Jaime Mendez

Introduction by Jan Levy

If you think about capturing lightning in a bottle, you'll have a good sense of what it's like to talk with one of our newest young Rotarians, Jaime Mendez. Five minutes with Jaime and like me, you will feel exhilarated, energized and exhausted, all at the same time!

It is particularly fitting that Jaime is being introduced today, because Jaime is a veteran. For 12 years, he served in the US Army and was in the NY Army National Guard. Recognized as a leader early on, he was selected as a squad leader during basic training.

Serving in the military instilled in Jaime great values, and it was there that he learned to appreciate teamwork and the importance of diversity.

Jaime's military service included serving as a First Responder in the 9/11 terrorist attack. It was during that time, three days into the difficult work, that he heard an uplifting speech given by his commander that changed his life. He realized that words had the power to lift people up and he decided then and there he would cultivate that ability.

After leaving the military, Jaime attended the University of Tampa, where he helped start the Kappa Omega chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity. It was there that he had an opportunity to try out some of his newly found motivational speaking skills. Not surprising to anyone, he was quickly recognized for his abilities.

Jaime now works in the IT industry, focusing on business development for software automation and resource fulfillment. Prior to coming to Seattle, Jaime was focusing on building startup firms in other industries in Tampa.

Something you won't find in Jaime's resume is his love of sports, which started when he was five years old and the Mets won the World Series in 1986. Even at five, Jaime understood that sports have the power to bring people together. His dream is to own a professional soccer team, which he plans to locate in Puerto Rico. I have no doubt he'll do exactly that!

Please join me thanking Dianhka Linnear for proposing Jaime to Seattle 4 and Dorothy Bullitt for seconding his application. I know you will all join me in giving a warm Seattle 4 welcome to Jaime Mendez – smiles, technology and business; classification, technology.

