

Meet Linda Thompson-Black

Introduction by Kathy Williams

Last week I had a really fun lunch meeting with our newest Rotarian Linda Thompson-Black. I know you'll enjoy getting to know Linda, too.

We chatted, quickly finding that both of us are Seattleites, and, in spite of what you might have heard, we both use umbrellas. Linda attended the Seattle Public Schools, graduating from Franklin High School, and then on to the University of Washington where she got her undergraduate degree as well as her Master of Public Administration degree.



Linda was sponsored by **Skip Rowland** and seconded by **Dorothy Bullitt**. Thank you so very much.

Linda worked for the City of Seattle Parks Department, handling capital projects, and then worked first for the Aquarium bond issue and then for the Woodland Park Zoo bond levy and its implementation. Later she worked for Norm Rice when he was on the City Council, and then when he was mayor, she was the special assistant for Education and Human Services. She staffed the very successful Education Summit, which resulted in the passage of the first Families and Education Levy.

You will see in the rest of her professional career her passion for education. For twenty years, Linda worked with “Communities in Schools,” first as an Associate Director, and then as Director of Field Operations. In this role, she supported and developed new affiliates - community organizations that support the local public schools.

Now Linda is the United Negro College Fund’s Pacific Northwest Area Development Director, covering the area of Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. UNCF enables students to get the college education they need, through providing scholarships and support for colleges.

On the personal side, Linda has been married for 40 years to Dr. Al Black, who is now retired after a distinguished career as a professor at the University of Washington. Linda and Al have two daughters in their thirties living in Washington, D.C., and they have two grandsons, one four-year old and the other a four-month old. In addition to spending time with their daughters and grandchildren, Linda and her husband have enjoyed sailing and skiing, and now, especially, getting together with friends. She is joined today by a whole table of special friends, and we welcome them to our Rotary club.

Linda really likes to get to know people of diverse viewpoints and to look for ways that groups can work and serve together to make this a better world, so Rotary is perfect for her.

President Mark and fellow Rotarians, please welcome Linda Thompson-Black.