

Meet Richard Andersen

Introduction by Anna Liotta

Richard Andersen, the President & CEO of Seafair, our iconic ten-week festival of community events, comes to us with over 35 years of experience in professional sports venues and hospitality management.

Richard's events and hospitality journey brought him many joys such as introducing him to the love of his life Kim, as well as exposing him to legends and once in a lifetime experiences.

In his first sports job at 23, Richard was working for the Atlanta Braves – with legend Hank Aaron as his boss. And his goal was to one day be like Ted Turner.



Richard's big dreams, and bigger ideas would lead him on many exciting adventures.

Trying to make his mark in that first, job, Richard was inspired. You see, the circus was in town and they were using his facility's dressing rooms.

Enter Foreshadowing here...

This is where the idiom – “be careful what you say” comes in handy.

Because as luck would have it, the circus had a black bear for promotional purposes. It weighed in at 700 pounds and topped out at 7 feet.

Richard casually commented to the circus master that “It would be great to have the bear wrestle someone.”

The circus master agreed. In fact, he said, “Why not you?” That is how Richard landed his first front page, above the fold news story, pictured here. Yes, those feet are Richards. You'll have to ask him for more details on who won, the bear or him.



But it was an auspicious launch to a career that would bring more thrilling adventures and the opportunity to contribute to his communities.

Seattle 4 is not Richard's first Rotary home in fact he is a returning Rotarian by way of membership in the Atlanta and San Diego Clubs.

Why is Richard bringing Rotary back into his life? Richard says, “It’s hard to beat the Rotary Four-Way Test for how to live. I’m at a stage where it’s about more than personal success, it’s about building significance and bringing communities together.”

Prior to calling Seattle home, Richard served as President and CEO of Northlands, one of Canada’s largest entertainment complexes.

He served as the Executive Vice President of the San Diego Padres and General Manager of PETCO Park as well as a senior member of the Super Bowl (29) XXIX Hosting Committee.

When he is not bringing magic and connection to communities, Richard enjoys hiking, traveling, and playing guitar, which all came together in a recent trip with Kim to New Zealand where he fell in love with the sounds and strings of a Mayton Guitar in a six-hour impromptu jam session. Richard was delighted to find it’s cousin under his Christmas tree from Santa last year.

Fellow Rotarians, please help me welcome back our newest returning Rotarian adventurer, bear wrestler and community builder, the President & CEO of Seafair Richard Anderson.