

Meet Robert Stadler

Introduction by John Steckler

My fellow Rotarians, honored guests, whenever I am lucky enough to get the pleasure of introducing a new Rotarian, I am always amazed by the factors and decisions that shape their lives before we meet them as the business leaders they are today. Our newest Rotarian is no exception. Standing to my left is Robert Stadler, who joins us today under the classification of Banking/Financial Services. Before you envision him as a button down banker, let me tell you his story.

Robert was born in sunny California. He went to high school in San Jose and college in Santa Cruz. He graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies and went right into teaching 4th and 5th grade elementary school in San Jose. After a few years, he realized that teaching was not for him. NOT, because of the reasons you might think but instead it was the political friction he saw between the administration and the faculty, which led to his decision to leave teaching as a profession. But he never lost his love or support for education.

Robert went back to school in Boston and graduated with a masters in International Business. His first job was as an analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. After just two horribly cold Boston winters, Robert decided to return to the sunny shores of California and go to work for Merrill Lynch in San Francisco. It was here during the economic craziness of 2008 that Robert got to experience the actual effects of a shotgun wedding when he left work on a Friday as a Merrill Lynch employee only to go back to work on Monday now as a Bank of America employee.

In 2010, Robert came up here to Seattle to work at US Trust, a division of B of A. This began his current seven year run in private banking.

That run was interrupted just last week when Robert accepted a new position with Commerce Bank as their Senior Commercial Relationship Manager. In his new capacity, Robert will now be providing lending and banking services to both local businesses and their owners.

Robert has been married since 2010 to wife, Dana, and they have a beautiful two year old daughter named Ava. The family resides in Ballard which most people call the new Bellevue. As you see by his appearance, Robert is very fit. He is an active runner who will be competing in this year's Boston Marathon.

But don't worry. Just when you think he is perfect at everything, I have it on great authority that he really sucks at golf. Thus proving, he is still human.

Remember that commitment to education? Robert is a board member for Communities in Schools of Washington as well as an active mentor for the Foster School of Business. He is proposed by Ben Linford and seconded by Jann Curley.

Now, here is something that what would surprise you about Robert. This button down banker used to perform in a Jazz band that toured all over Europe. I hear he still plays a mean set of drums. Look out Rotary Rouges!

When I asked Robert why Rotary, he said two reasons:

- 1- He loves to cultivate Relationships
- 2- He has decided that Seattle is his home and he wants to plant some deep roots

There is no better place to do that than Rotary.

Please join me in giving a big Rotary welcome to our newest Rotarian, Robert Stadler, classification, Banking / Financial Services.