

# Dan Evans—The Consummate Leader Explains His Keys to Success

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By Mike Colbrese



**President Mark Wright** gaveled the meeting open and provided opening remarks about his concern with gun violence and encouraged the club to take that debate “back from the fringes.” He then welcomed **Larry Granat** and **David Woodward** to the podium. Larry provided the Inspiration of the Day reminding us about the fragile nature of life and encouraged each attendee to work together toward love, companionship, peace and freedom.

David led the club in the “When You Walk Through a Storm” accompanied by **Trish Bostrom** on the banjo.

President Mark welcomed all guests and then asked **Kim Moore** to introduce the club’s prospective members—four first time attendees and several perspective members. **Jane Tornatore** and **Jimmy Collins** introduced the club’s newest members. Jane welcomed **Amélie von Saint André-von Arnim**, who is on staff at Seattle Children’s Hospital, working with critically ill children whose families have limited resources. Amelie, a native of Germany, is from a family of Rotarians. Jimmy introduced **Lieutenant General Gary Volesky**, who is a graduate of Ferris High School (Spokane) and Eastern Washington University. The three-star general is stationed at Fort Lewis-McChord.



President Mark invited KUOW’s Ross Reynolds to the dais to provide the attendees with insight into the station’s “Ask A...” project. Reynolds provided a graphic that showed how the United States population is becoming more politically polarized. To address that, KUOW began the project to encourage people to engage in civil dialogue. The first segment, “Ask A Muslim” proved very successful and was followed by “Ask a Trump Supporter” and then “Ask A Transgender Person.” On November 19, the program will be “Ask a Newcomer.” Using the quote, “Put people together in the right context and they’ll do

amazing things,” Ross explained that they asked participants to be honest, trusting, and open minded. The station is building an online tool kit to assist those who wish to start similar projects. The site is [kuow.org/ask](http://kuow.org/ask).



President Mark introduced **Mark Davis** who provided the opening remarks for one of Washington’s leading figures, Governor Dan Evans. Mark stated that he has known Governor Evans for several years. He explained Evans’s first successful run for office as the ASB vice president at Roosevelt High School. His competition included six girls, with Evans being the only boy. He concluded his campaign speech remarks by stating, “May the best man win.” He explained that the former governor views leadership and “followship” as key components for success. Evans ranks as one of the most distinguished leaders in the history of Washington State. Eagle Scout, veteran of the U.S. Navy, State Representative, Governor, Senator, environmentalist, philanthropist and Honorary Seattle Rotarian. He is also the namesake of the Daniel J. Evans School of Business at the University of Washington and the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in Olympic National Park.

Governor Evans began by explaining that he’s a genetic Republican and sees today’s leadership being challenged by the current method of spreading information, whether true or false. He spoke to the shrinking of the news cycle from 24 hours down to just minutes and related that to the Lincoln/Douglass debates of 1858 where both candidates spoke for an hour and a half with each candidate’s presentation transcribed and made available in print. While remarking that there are no “Republican highways or Democrat schools,” that each takes a bi-partisan effort, Evans warned of “political tribalism,” where people of similar beliefs stay together and do not mingle with those who do not share their beliefs. He expressed his concern that politicians “would rather cross the people than cross the political highway.”

The former governor gave the attendees an inside view of some of the issues he faced while serving as Washington’s governor, providing the club members with the insight of his leadership style. He spoke of an incident that happened with demands that were made by a youth group during the turbulent ‘60s. What came out of it was the centralization of local, state, and federal services. While doing his best to keep his emotions in check, Evans spoke of the proudest moment he had during that time when a person attending the grand opening remarked to him, “How do you like *our* new center?”

Evans closed by reminiscing about something his dad had told him, “You have two ears and one mouth. Use them by about the same ratio.” He stated that his four keys of leadership have been: 1. Knowledge—study the issues to get clear ideas; 2. Listen—hearing is not enough; 3. Respect everyone; and 4. Ethics. He commended Costco for its principles of business which are: obey the law, take care of the member, take care of the employee, respect our vendors, and reward shareholders.



Following a rousing, standing ovation for Governor Evans, President Mark thanked each of the program’s participants and rang the closing bell.