

TACOMA ROTARY #8
FIRESIDE MINUTES
February 7, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

Jim and Deb Tannase held the fireside meeting at their lovely home. Other attendees: Maria Harlow, Debbie Regala, Cathy Hall, Larry Treleven, Diane Kelleher and Jennifer (from Hell – near Detroit).

We each shared what we do and why we are Rotarians. Some highlight:

- Jim was past President of Covington Rotary. He started the non-profit Harvest Against Hunger. He's interested in developing youth and international programs. He's been to Guatemala, Brazil, Honduras and Ukraine with service projects.
- Diane is co-chair of Vocational Services Committee and participates in projects, including coordinating the Tacoma rescue mission lunches. Her husband, Larry Breitbarth, proposed to her at the District 5020 baseball gathering at Cheney Stadium in August 2019. They are 3 years happily married.
- Cathy Hall is now retired from Ben Bridge jewelers and a long time rotary member.
- Debbie is 5th generation in Tacoma. She spend 18 years in the legislature – 6 terms in the house and then in the senate. She has always been involved in community service and connections. She mostly supports the Little Libraries. She assisted with installing solar panels on schools in La Paz, Mexico.
- President Maria likes to focus on kids and fighting hunger. She thanks us for all that we do!
- Jennifer is a new member. She has an uncle who is a rotarian on Bainbridge. She has spent time in Japan. She's attracted to service above self. She has joined the Literacy Committee. She lives in Lakewood and provides home loans education.
- Deb has been married to Jim for 38 years – they have a son in Covington. She studied Business and Economics. She participates in Catholic Community Services, including “women encouraging hope”. She recently joined rotary and is participating in projects already.
- Larry joined rotary in 1979. He and his brother have handed the reins of their company, Sprague Pest Management, to the next generation. The company is committed to supporting the communities where they serve. He was 1999-2000 National President of Rotary.

Discussion Question #1 – Who is Missing from our club – people and companies?

- Our membership has declined from 400 to 250 – less renewals this year mostly pandemic related.
- Moss Adams, Multicare, Franciscans, Car Dealers, UWT, JBLM
- We discussed relations with Tacoma Chamber of Commerce participants and City Club. They're advocacy for business and rotary is advocacy for the community.
- Larry observes that rotary used to be a club for CEO's and CFO's but no longer.
- We discussed bringing in business leaders as speakers may be a good start/reintroduction.
- Explain to our members that they get to propose speakers to the committee.

- Columbia Bank CEO, Clint Stein, spoke a couple of years back when COO. Check with other bank members.
- Past members: Simpson Lumber, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, Brown & Haley, Sayer Family – warehouses.
- Nisqually refuge – Billy Frank discussions
- Stellar Industrial – Tim Daly and John Wiborg as speakers.
- Top Golf – Mike Givens.

Discussion Question #2 – How do we invite people?

- Invite to projects.
- Understand what is welcoming and what is not.
- Emphasize why we enjoy rotary – service, fun, engagement – in communications.
- Maybe we should have cocktails before meetings. This occurs at Thursdays at 5.

Discussion Question #3 – How have others responded to being a guest?

- We previously sang the national anthem to indicate patriotism at each meeting.
- Now selected from a list of songs.
- We're considering the relevancy to youth.
- We discussed that rotating and new singers is important too.
- Other clubs say the pledge of allegiance.
- We discussed the message and relevance of a song or reflection overall.
- We all agreed that the 4-way test is important to the club and a keeper.
- The land acknowledgment may not need to be repeated at every gathering as the point is made.

TACOMA ROTARY #8
WINTER FIRESIDE
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Our Winter Fireside was held at the north end home of Gilbert Quante. Present were: Gilbert Quante, PP Kathryn Nelson, PE Greg Rolsma, Brenda Gasper, PP Carolyn Weyrick, Jack Warnick, and PP Jim Whitacre.

We began the evening with a period of social interaction followed by a wonderful Mexican dinner provided by Gilbert Quante and his co-host Carolyn Weyrick.

Our discussions for the evening were provided by Carolyn Weyrick Via P Maria Harlow:

Why are you still in Rotary? The group had a lively give and take regarding this question. The reasons for remaining in Rotary were pretty much unanimous 1) Relationships 2) Friendly people 3) Access to community projects 4) Business contacts 5) Networking 6) Wanting to give back to the community.

What are things that you would change in our Rotary club? In no particular order-Do away with the Thursday at 5 (small turn out, we are a lunch club, a good idea for a short time, let's go back to all of our meetings being held at noon), location of our meetings, the quality and choice of meals at our meetings, longer weekly meetings (more time for interaction, true confessions, committee reports, more recognition of members for work on projects and/or assisting club administration), more individual member spotlights/bios, more where are they now (former exchange students both in and out).

We also had general discussions-Charge more for lunch and improve the quality and variety of food being offered. Variable/staggered pricing on the lunches-ie \$25.00 for the Pre-Paid Plan-\$30.00 for those that register-\$35/\$40 for those who show up without registering.

We ended our Fireside with everyone confirming their loyalty to both Rotary in general and Tacoma Rotary #8 specifically.

Our Fireside concluded at 8:25PM Submitted by Jim Whitacre