

Tacoma Rotary 8 Feb. 2, 2021 Fireside: Kim Bedier's

Attendees: Kim Bedier (host), Dean Hanks, Sharon Jaffee, Larry Treleven, Jim Whitacre, Diane Kelleher, Cindy Grady (Kim did screenshot to send in)

Question 1: Auction

Ideas: Home based dinners

Local trips (Cannon Beach, Leavenworth etc....drivable...)

Gift certificates to help restaurants during pandemic. This would be a civic duty and give back...challenge each other...potentially have a committee do a "GC" basket with nothing but these

Services...electrical, pest control, carpentry, contract services where recipient gets first "visit/work" for free, but then may sign up to go ahead with this company

"Help" service jobs for those a bit older who need things done around the house they no longer are comfortable doing (i.e. gutters etc....)

Group liked the idea of restaurant availability to buy dinner from for "night of auction" (discussion of how Green trike used The Table, Gallucci's and Wooden City where each restaurant gave a donation back to Green trike).

Boat cruise w/ food; trip to the Tides and get "take out" from there.....Larry Treleven potentially willing to do this in addition to Crystal lunch and Canterwood item.

Experiences which are "one of a kind"...(example of Chicago on St Paddies' Day did a vegetable dye into the river turning it green, and an auction sold 2 "seats" to go along with the boat doing the dye; or being able to go to top of new Narrow's bridge when being built). One discussion was the Tacoma Dome sign which is only used for showcasing the events, but maybe being able to do something custom for Rotary on it for a time.

Question 2: Special Activities during Pandemic

Ideas: Socials such as the one at Highlands Golf Course (McDuff's Café)

On-line Bingo or Trivia game...Game night with board games socially distanced

Version of Jeopardy socially distanced (Canterwood currently doing in tents)

Bellarmino recently did "alumni conversations"...alumni from all over the country, world would to a talk on specific fields (i.e. sports, food industry, movie industry etc.)..like a "mastercourse". One hour sessions done on an evening with 1-3 "alumni speakers"....became a casual conversation with the audience rather than just a "presentation. Maybe something Rotary could do a version of.... This would be a way to find a way to stay connected but in smaller groups.

Kim's husband, for example, worked with Hank Aaron in major league baseball. Whitacre's have 4 generations who have done service.

Also going back and looking at how previous Rotary projects that were done have impacted the community.

Question 3: Local Major Project Potentials

Discussion of bringing Rotary "back to life" in the community, engaging the community, letting it know Rotarians are here.

In the past things like "Forward 2000"....mission, large ideas Rotary 8 tackled (i.e. Tree House). Also being sure current Rotarians know more of the history of what Tacoma 8 has accomplished in the past.

Thoughts that the Rotary pendulum swings in 20 year cycles/trends. Possibly create a committee to come up with a vision plan to accomplish (along with distribution from Rotary Foundation).

Feels Tacoma 8 needs to be more visible (for example, Gig Harbor has multiple plaques around town with their identification on playfields, restrooms, drinking fountains etc....a "Rotary presence"....) Feels Tacoma 8 isn't as strong in this area. Dickman lumber is pulling the planks along Schuster....could Tacoma 8 get involved in a service project with them and be recognized more broadly in community. LKB is working on Thea Foss Waterway park (Melanie Dressel memory)...a five year commitment...protecting environmental cause.

Dean brought up an idea for a true community project which could include multiple Rotaries, but Tacoma 8 could take the lead (being the oldest and largest club)... and having a unity of clubs. Lighting of the Narrows Bridges(s)....could be solar, hydro, windpower/windspeed lights. Colors change with events, seasons (i.e. Red, white blue 4th of July; red, green holiday time etc.) It has been looked into and would be a \$3 - \$6 million cost, but government and donors would be involved. There would need to be a "new" fundraiser created to help with funding (auction is already used...)

Discussion of how we as a club can be too "internal" ...example of auction...Rotarians donate and sponsor, they attend, they purchase items/experiences....whole "event" needs to be more community oriented, outward facing involving non-Rotarians so they learn more of what Rotary does.

One idea was to buy a building.... It could be where Rotary meets, house the Rotary office, lease space to other non-profits and even have a daycare in it. It would be a "fundraiser" for the club on an ongoing basis.

Other ideas to get more "out in the community, more "service above self" BBQ Festival, Food Truck event at the Tacoma Dome, Fish Fry, Float in Daffodil parade. Do a car wash at the yacht club (have your car cleaned while you attend Rotary). Do it elsewhere with a burger bar set up (lunch, car cleaning, etc.) Overall want to be sure all are getting excited about Rotary and helping to get the word out.....

1. What ideas do you have for special activities (e.g. service projects, virtual gatherings, etc.) to keep our members safely and enthusiastically engaged with one another during the pandemic?

We need to change up our weekly meeting a bit. Maybe some breakout rooms within the Thursday meeting. That way, we can talk with one another like we do when we get to Rotary early and chat at the table. Social interaction is important.

Breakout rooms would definitely help as a new member. It could be a program – one meeting a month is breakout rooms so people could chat with one another.

What happened to our Fellowship Socials? If we resumed those once a month it could help and be less formal. Or we could do a Trivia Night or some other game night using a virtual game platform. Another example would be a scavenger hunt where you're giving 5 minutes to go find whatever is on the list from inside your house or office.

We need champions to make a social or other fellowship activity work.

It would be fun to do something after hours in a small group that everyone does together with a kit that is sent in advance (e.g. cooking class, mixology, cookie recipes, service project, etc.).

The topics we do discuss on Thursdays differ from what we might discuss socially. We need a moment to have fun. We're no longer driving away from work to do something else. So, we need lighter meetings or lighter topics (hobbies, comedians, etc.).

Another fun activity is to take 10 Rotary names and call them. You will find yourself having wonderful conversations.

2. The Auction is coming! What types of items would you like to bid on? Are you willing to share our Auction link with your friends over social media?

I would like to have a non-event where people just give money. How many people need yet another thing? However, I do appreciate the genuine experience of those who get out there and procure items and make it happen.

The committees are all donating baskets. If we are going to have things, they need to add value to our current lifestyle. We need to be mindful that people can't take advantage of massage coupons and travel right now. Items to consider:

- Landscaping, gardening, plants, nurseries, remodel design, office furniture, yardwork, lamp for Vitamin D.
- Exotic dinners (e.g. Persian) and other artisan items made personally by someone.
- Pizza a week.

- Costco paper towels, toilet paper, etc.
- Gift cards to support local restaurants, businesses and travel/leisure activities (e.g. hotels, whiskey tasting, coffee/tea, hiking or mushroom-hunting excursions, golf, etc.).

It's hard for people to wrap their hearts and minds around auctions to support Rotary operations. We need to be specific about causes that pull at people's heartstrings (e.g. raising money to build a Habitat home). You have to have a compelling idea for how the auction proceeds will be used in order to invite people who are not members of our Club.

3. Is it time for Tacoma Rotary to undertake a major, multiyear project to support the community, engage members and give the club an elevated profile? (e.g. helping underserved neighborhoods with playgrounds, clinics, or other uplift as we recover from Covid 19.)

I have never been so proud of Rotary 8 than the year we built a Habitat House. If we raised money at the auction to build a Habitat House, I would have no trouble getting my friends to attend. It made a big difference.

The Reach Opportunity Center at the new Goodwill Building made a large impact (it also involved lots of individual Rotarians). You don't have to get 100% of the club involved in something. The Covid-19 Relief Fund effort was appropriate and successful.

The thing we struggle with is getting the work we do recognized in the community. We need to communicate our work in more exciting ways (improved messaging through social media). The YWCA does a great job with messaging. We could learn from Miriam.

It helps my organization's donor cultivation to have both small and large projects. People can choose. They can start small and then move up to larger projects if they have the capacity.

Which organizations (particularly service organizations) in our community ARE recognized for the work that they do? [difficulty pinpointing one]

If people could see what Rotary does, it seems they would want to get on board with us. At this point, we are not known for any one thing.

I would disagree. Out there, many people believe that if you want to get things done in our community, Rotary 8 is the place to go.

We need to wear our Rotary in Action t shirts so people out there can identify us while we're doing the work we are doing.

Cindy Niemi – Attending Lori Forte Harnick, Stacey Ogle Christina Turner & Kirsten Willis

What ideas do you have for special activities (e.g. service projects, virtual gatherings, etc.) to keep our members safely and enthusiastically engaged with one another during the pandemic?

- Small group gatherings outdoor in a park
- Virtual “game night”
- Virtual cooking classes (i.e. Molly’s Tamales)
- Virtual Wine or Beer tasting where you send packages ahead of time or they pick up at a store for the tasting

The Auction is coming! What items will you bid on? Are you willing to share our Auction link with your friends over social media?

- All are willing to share a link
- Looking forward to a list of things to purchase/bid on
- Welcome Committee is doing a Couch Potato themed Item with a gift certificate for furniture at the NW Furniture bank and things like GrubHub certificates, beverages, movies, popcorn, and much more

Is it time for Tacoma Rotary to undertake a major, multiyear project to support the community, engage members and give the club an elevated profile? (for example, helping underserved neighborhoods with playgrounds or clinics or other uplift as we recover from Covid 19.)

- Yes, suggest a theme that speaks to a higher level of community support and is multiyear
- Projects that speak to communities of color that can take shape in a multitude of ways (many different projects)

We were fired up on the last question! We started off the meeting with an icebreaker, answering questions that were a Valentines theme. We learned a lot from each other during this timeframe and it was a blast. But we all agreed it doesn’t take place of breaking bread together.