

Tacoma #8 Rotary Fireside 10-23-18

Host - Kelly Lane

Attendees: Stacy Ogle, John Douville, Amanda Weidman, Jennifer Weddermann, Sally Glover, Jacki Farrar and Carolyn Weyrick

1. What is the one thing our Tacoma 8 club does that you would never want to change?
 - Serves both local and global community – have our own local foundation plus RI Foundation plus projects both local and global
 - Change & evolve – although change is sometimes difficult, our club has been willing to change and evolve and we need to continue to do that to remain a relevant service organization
 - Provide hands on opportunities for service (as well as financial giving) – both important!
 - International service opportunities and the international connection
 - Members of the club provide a welcoming atmosphere
 - Although it is new this year, people at our Fireside like the Thursdays at 5:00 once a month and the opportunity to socialize more with other members and learn about member's vocations
 - Firesides

2. If you could make one improvement to our club, what would it be and what are your ideas to make that happen?
 - Exchange students could go to other schools besides Stadium, particularly if the host families are outside of the Tacoma School District. ie: some host families might be more able to host if they were able to have their student attend their local school district – example Clover Park, Gig Harbor and University Place. To make this happen it was suggested that the Exchange Committee reach out to other surrounding school districts to see which High School would be able to participate. Other Rotary clubs may have already forged relationships in these districts and we could connect with them to find out where they have had success.
 - Committees have Chairs and Co-Chairs & Succession Plan. Committees would benefit in welcoming and infusing new people into their committees to grow into leadership positions within that committee. The idea would be not to have the same chairs and co-chairs year after year.
 - Would like to know where people work and what they do not just their vocational category. This would help when the natural or organic relationships are formed through our Rotary involvement and then when we would like to do business with someone we can reach out to a fellow Rotarian that is also committed to the 4 way test and is community minded etc. On the badges and member roster have where they work and their position.

Albers Dunbar Fireside

Jeff Albers
Mike Dunbar
Jeff Rounce
Lori Harnick
Marty Lough
Steve Smith
Shanna LaMar
Peter Darling

1) What is the one thing our Club does that you would never change?

Youth Exchange
Galleside
Firesides
Charitable Community Giving, with Time, Talent and Treasure
Little Libraries (Projects)
Thursday @ 5

2) If you could make an improvement to our club, what would it be and what are your ideas to make that happen?

More Mentoring - Have a more robust mentoring program

Improve Diversity in club members - Reach out, communicate and partner with groups of diversity. Urban League, 40 under 40, Young professional groups, High School and College organizations, etc.

1. Lower the cost of membership for these groups; reduce joining fees, member sponsorship's or scholarship's (members with means helping), attach a value to hands on projects, spread dues, initiation fees over a longer period of time.

Make Rotary more welcoming - Communicate what we have done, what we do and who we are. Communicate this by all means possible. Face to Face, Social Media, Article in local Media, internal Club communications, etc.

Introduce or position Rotary to Local businesses as a vehicle for corporate citizenship and giving. Communicate this message by the same method's as above.

Partner with Podcaster's to communicate our message.

We had a great time at our fireside and a great group of participants:

Whitney Grisaffi

Doug Page

Barb Tankersley

Ray Schuler

Don Hansen

Jonathan Murray

Robin Echte

Mary Lynn Pannen

Evelyn Ryberg

Doug Page was a last minute add-on and he also helped as a co-host. Libby couldn't make it. Good wine, good food (created by Master Chef Bill Ryberg) and a lovely fire set the stage.

Answers to questions:

1. What would you never want to change?
 - Firesides
 - True confessions
 - Service to community through financial contributions
 - Annual auction event
 - Annual turnover event
 - Weekly newsletter (we all feel it has gotten better and more informative)

2. One improvement to our club...
 - Move from the Landmark. It's happening now.
 - Higher caliber of presentations and presenters. Work with Seattle 4 to partner on some programs/speakers. Seek out more high-level leaders in major industries (Boeing, Microsoft, etc.)
 - Improve club diversity. Broaden ethnic, race, and age ranges. Make this effort a part of our strategic plan and hold ourselves accountable to achieving it.

Thanks!

Evelyn

Fall Fireside Notes

October 23, 2008

Attended: Brian Elvins, Diane Tilstra, Christina Turner, Mark Anderson, Greg Rolsma, Miriam Barnett, Harrison Laird, Carol Webster

One thing Rotary 8 does that should not be changed:

- Singing together (*not necessarily the Star Spangled Banner*) and reciting together the 4-way test.
- Firesides (*because Rotarians get to know other Rotarians in depth*).
- Fellowship activities (*Firesides, re-pack at EFN, Thursday lunches, etc.*)
- RYE students' speeches.
- Giving Tree
- Signing cards for Rotarians, who've lost a loved one or suffered an illness.
- Rotary @ 5:00 p.m.
- Core of committed Rotarians to keep values alive and keep us in sync with Rotary International.

One improvement that should be made:

- **Focus on recruiting and keeping younger and diverse members.** (*Need to create a "disappearing task force" comprised of young members to recommend to the Board ways to recruit and maintain young and diverse members. We need to make young and diverse members feel welcome and to understand their family and work obligations. Maybe we need a Young Member dues schedule.*)
- **Focus upon the exchange student program.** (*We need to have more Rotarians willing to serve as host families.*)
- **Want fewer hands-on projects from Projects Committee.** (*Need to have a fewer, yet popular projects for which many Rotarians will volunteer, e.g., EFN.*)
- **Want bigger impact projects and more public events.** (*Need to have larger project impact, e.g., Rotary 8 should have been involved in the new Eastside Community Center. Rotary 8 members gave privately, but we should have had Rotary 8 recognized for donating something.*)
- **Stop singing the national anthem.** (*Need to have a variety of songs. Younger members and several older members don't like to sing the national anthem, especially given how it has politically divided people recently.*)
- **Reconsider Rotary Socials.** (*Fewer members attend than at a Thursday lunch, and the focus is not on what Rotary does, or could do, to help improve the community.*)
- **Reconsider the Rotary @ 5:00.** (*Fewer members attend than at a Thursday lunch meeting, and the focus is not on what Rotary does, or could do, to help improve the community.*)
- **Need a better method for keeping invocations, introductions, and other presentations within their allotted time.** (*For new member self-introductions we could give them a list of a few bullets to cover. For invocations, we could tell volunteers that members don't enjoy long invocations. For presenters, we may need a long-handled hook!*)

Whitacre/Quante/ Darland Fireside

Brenda Gasper
Tamara Williams
John Schneider
Michele Roberts
Carlyn Roy
Jim Merritt

What is the one thing about Rotary 8 you would not change?

- Galleysides
- Firesides
- Socials
- Turn Over Day
- Having a variety of choices available to members for ways to be engaged.

If you could make one improvement to our club, what would it be and how would you do it?

Include the entire club in decisions that affect the members, such as how opportunities to give and engage are made available. A couple of ways to include the club could be sharing results of surveys so the club is included in the process and possibly holding Board Meetings on Thursdays at 1:30 so it's more convenient for members to participate.