



Rotary Club of Coeur d'Alene



Rotary Bulletin 04/19/24

NEXT MEETING April 26, 2024

Kootenai Technical Education (KTEC) & NIC Workforce Training

Colby Mattila and Bill White

JOIN MEETING VIA ZOOM: click [here](#).

Presided.....PAST PRESIDENT SANDY PATANO

Invocation.....SKIP PRIEST

Greeter.....LORA WHALEN

Sergeant at Arms.....NAOMI BOUTZ

GUESTS

An amazing group in attendance, but too many to list here!

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER

The Membership Committee met and has advanced a new applicant for membership review. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ann Thomas, Membership Chair at AThomas@mountainwestbank.com.

- Steve Buckner sponsored by LINDA COPPESS

NEW MEMBER

LINDA COPPESS introduced new member Jeff Ottmar. A WSU Coug alum and finance major, Ottmar has three kids and moved to Coeur d'Alene in 2022. He spent much time as a high school volleyball coach and is a Masters Volleyball player who plays around the world in tournaments. Ottmar has 32 years commercial real estate experience and is currently with NAI Black in CDA. He enjoys serving others through service projects, so let's get him involved! Welcome Jeff!

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH

MICHELE DIRKS is the April Rotarian of the Month. She has been with this club for about a dozen years and has been described as a champion of giving of her time, and culinary talents to a variety of nonprofits in Coeur d'Alene through auctions and fundraising! Michele has been a driving force behind the success of Coeur d'Alene Irish, has been known to help not only our club, but CASA, the EXCEL Foundation, Hospice, Wine Women & Shoes and North Idaho College. She has a caring heart for philanthropy, locally and internationally. Michele leads their family's own Honduras Impact nonprofit, and she also currently serves on the boards of our Coeur d'Alene Rotary Foundation and the CDA Summer Theater.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our Rotarian team participating in the 2024 Leadman Triathlon in Kellogg this past weekend. The race is a 1-mile ski, 8-mile bike, 4-mile run and was led by the amazing GREG HELBLING on skis, RYAN JOHNSON on wheels and MIKE ARMON on feet! WAY TO GO GENTS!

Leadman is a Rotary event and in the past 19 years, the Kellogg Rotary Club, along with its valued sponsors have raised over \$182,000 to provide funding for community projects and non-profit organizations such as health and wellness fairs, youth sports organizations, animal rescues,

Speakers

Club Leaders



[Doug Rupiper](#)
President



[Ashley Lenz](#)
President-Elect



[Michael Nail](#)
Treasurer



[Julie Amador](#)
Club Director



[Kim Jane Edmondson](#)
Club Director



[Rebecca Eyman](#)
Secretary
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Emily Moses](#)
Club Director
Community Service Chair



[Mark Olson](#)
Club Director



[Larry Riley](#)
Public Relations Chair
Club Director



[Steven Roberge](#)
Club Director
Assistant Governor

community improvement projects, Special Olympics, lunch programs, and many more. 100% of the proceeds from Leadman go to local charities.

BIRTHDAYS

Dates were not provided, but Happy Birthday to CURTIS GREGORY, LINDA OLSON, and Paul Harris (Rotary Founder).

PROGRAM

DON DUFFY introduced Governor Brad Little. Hailing from Emmett, ID, Little was raised on a sheep and cattle ranch, attended the University of Idaho, obtained a BS in Agribusiness and spent his career in the ranching industry. In 2001, he was appointed to a Senate vacancy, served four terms as a Senator, and Majority Caucus Chair. In 2009, he was elected Lieutenant Governor and, in 2019, Governor. Little is married and has two sons, one of whom is President-Elect of a Rotary Club in southern Idaho.

Gov. Little highlighted many points:

- Idaho recovered faster than any other state from COVID
- Idaho is the least regulated and most fiscally responsible state
- The state's books are good with a budget surplus
- The state has a AAA rating and is one of the best states for small business
- The state recently allocated \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years for school facilities
- Workforce housing affordability is a major issue
- \$150 million in property tax relief in the last year; \$4.6 billion in tax relief since 2019
- Made proven successful charter schools less restrictive and refocused on less successful schools
- Local bridges in the state are in ill repair. Years 2023-2025 there is major infrastructure investments statewide
- Increasing teacher pay for starting public school first year teachers
- Major investment in water quality issues, with \$33 million going to CDA Lake cleanup
- Investing in law enforcement training to combat the fentanyl crisis
- Sending a third group of state troopers to the southern border to learn about human trafficking and drug trafficking coming into the country

The three branches of state government got together and formed the [Behavior Health Council](#) to assess all state programs and make recommendations to the legislature for implementation of programs moving forward. Three facilities in the state are now serving strictly behavioral health patients. 425 million has been invested in the facilities to help stabilize behavioral health patients versus simply sending them to jail without services. Additionally the state implemented a behavioral health crisis line for suicide and crisis calls. You can simply call or text 988 and connect with a trained counselor. Learn more here: [Home - Idaho 988 Suicide & Crises Lifeline \(call988idaho.com\)](#)

The 2024 theme: Idaho Works

Businesses are telling the state that they need a more skilled workforce. The result is [Idaho Launch](#), the workforce initiative came from the state's Workforce Development Council. Career Technical and undergraduate college has become so cost prohibitive that students are not continuing on after K-12 schooling. With this program, graduating seniors can receive up to \$8,000 to pay for an Associates Degree or Career Tech schooling for advanced training post K-12. Approximately 22,000 students graduate from high school in Idaho each year. This year, 14,000 students have signed up for LAUNCH.

MAY PROGRAMS

5/03 Students of the Month & District Conference

5/10 Tim Ledford-Co-Founder & CEO of Safeguard Equipment

5/17 Idaho Vandal Football Coach, Jason Eck

5/24 Memorial Program- Gold Star Family program/presentation

5/31 Grant Awards

In Service,

BRITT TOWERY



[Ann Thomas](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Britt Towery](#)
Bulletin Editor
Club Director



[Chris L. Cheeley](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Hank Martin](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Claudia Jean Brennan](#)
Special Projects Chair



[Larry Gill](#)
Community Service
Chair



[Maren Maier](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Wanda Chillingworth
Quinn](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Robert William Smee
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Veterans Committee
Chair



[Ian Hicks](#)
International Service
Chair



[Alex Stanton](#)
International Service
Chair



[Candace Louise
Godwin](#)
Past President