



# Rotary Club of Coeur d'Alene



## Rotary Bulletin 05/10/24

NEXT MEETING May 17, 2024

Idaho Vandal Football Coach, Jason Eck

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

Presided.....PRESIDENT DOUG RUPIPER

Invocation.....DON DUFFY

Greeter.....STEVE ROBERGE

Sergeant at Arms.....REBECCA EYMAN

GUESTS

Brenda Dabovich, guest of DON DUFFY

Bill Roth, guest of MARK OLSON

Caiti Bobbitt, guest of LINDA COPPESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANN THOMAS announced nominations are open for Rotarian of the Year, Service Above Self (Volunteer of the Year), and if qualified, the Don Allen Award. Look for the nomination email from Ann in the coming days. Nominations are due to ANN or PRESIDENT DOUG by May 17. The board will then review at the May meeting and presentation of awards will be at the June Changing of the Guard meeting.

The annual Legacy Club summer function is coming up soon at the Cheeley's home for club members who have named the Coeur d'Alene Rotary Endowment Foundation in your state plan. KATE COYLE and ASHLEY LENZ helped members understand how you can easily name the club's foundation by either contacting your estate attorney or by changing beneficiary forms for your IRA retirement account or life insurance policy. There is no minimum dollar amount to join the Legacy Club.

STEVE ROBERGE gave a recap of the wonderful weekend at the District Conference. Over 250 people were in attendance and over \$17,000 was raised for Polio Plus through the online auction.

Be sure to wear your VANDAL GEAR next week and bring a warm welcome to UI Football Coach, Jason Eck.

HAPPY DOLLARS

TOM CRONIN gave \$5 to celebrate being named the Chair of the Sunshine Committee.

JOE DEACON gave \$10 to celebrate accompanying his two brothers on the Honor Flight to Washington DC last week.

STEVE ROBERGE gave \$10 to celebrate all the amazing volunteers who helped coordinate the district conference.

MICHELE DIRKS gave \$10 to celebrate their sweet adopted daughter graduating from NIC. She is now bound for the University of Idaho in the fall!

ANN JOHNSON gave \$3 to celebrate her daughter graduating from the University of Idaho this

### 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

weekend and leaving the next day to take a trip to Italy together!

CLAUDIA BRENNAN gave \$5 in honor of the fabulous District Conference.

#### BIRTHDAYS

May 14 Ann Thomas

May 16 Gene Haag

#### PROGRAM

LINDA OLSON introduced Tim Ledford, Co-Founder and CEO of Safeguard Equipment, which specializes in producing innovative technology that keeps energy and utility workers safe. Ledford graduated from Coeur d'Alene High School and the University of Idaho and was always a budding entrepreneur.

In college, Ledford took an entrepreneurial class and had to come up with a business plan for the class and put it to the test across the northwest in a variety of competitions. He and his two project partners had one thing in common. All three had family members, either lineman or electricians, who had accidents and injuries due to electricity. This was the beginning of research on the industry and realizing the safety technology used was old analog from the 1960s. Ledford says the industry was "ripe for disruption" and he began tinkering to modernize safety equipment for the utility industry. The first iteration was wrist technology to detect electrical energy/current in the person's vicinity.

The group won every competition and gained traction with angel investors and venture capitalist groups after only six weeks of presentation. The gentlemen were building Safeguard from the concept to a product in their off hours as each had taken full-time jobs and were growing quickly in their careers. Spokane Angel Investors and Avista Utilities came on board as investors in 2017, and they raised capital and designed for a year and a half, all while getting consistent, real-time feedback from a group of 40 Avista linemen.

In mid-2018, they launched their flagship product COMPASS. In January 2019, there was a massive snowstorm that hit the Inland Northwest that kept power out in some areas for 10 days. During that time, there was a similar snowstorm in northern Nevada where a lineman was working alone at night when his COMPASS went off and literally saved his life, as the power grid did not detect any live electricity. His story went viral in the utility industry. The company the gentleman worked for was associated with Berkshire Hathaway, who quickly ordered massive quantities of the devices. Growth happened so quickly and the result was that Emerson Electric, a multinational corporation, offered to purchase Safeguard. Ledford and his partners declined as their mission was much more than money.

According to the company's website, "Since the Company's founding in 2016, Safeguard Equipment has been an industry leader in the production and innovation of premium voltage and current detectors. Dozens of line workers, first responders, construction workers, and others have successfully avoided deadly electrical threats using Safeguard's flagship product, COMPASS.

But safety doesn't stop the moment a threat is detected. Safeguard's new COMPASS Pro offers a total safety solution for field workers and their teams by guiding them through rapid emergency response for any work-related accident, protecting a workforce by connecting them.

The company's mission is simple: Save Lives. Give Back. Continuous Improvement. You can learn more about Safeguard [here](#). Access Tim Ledford's slide presentation [here](#).

#### MAY PROGRAMS

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

5/31 Grant Awards

In Service,

BRITT TOWER



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 II  
Veterans Committee  
Chair



Ian Hicks  
International Service  
Chair



Alex Stanton  
International Service  
Chair



Candace Louise  
Godwin  
Past President