



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There I was, just minding my own business, when I glanced at the calendar and noticed it said...."March".



Whoa!! Can that be right? Apparently, time does indeed march on.

That got me to thinking about the whirlwind schedule of club happenings now starting to gear up, and how my year as your president all of a sudden is in full view of drawing to a close.

With March comes the springing forward of time (see, the pace is already picking up!) and our club's visit from DG Gerry Kosanovic. If we're all Irish on March 17th, that leaves us just over two weeks to find the right color of green to wear to that week's hybrid meeting.

Then we leap over the 5th Thursday to show up at the High Desert Music Hall April 1st for some pizza and other offerings, including libations to wash them down. Next is the D5110 Conference in Corvallis, followed by the Virtual Wine Tasting and Berry Sales fundraisers and delivery of the books to 1st graders throughout the Redmond School District (see related story in this edition).

Shortly after that, we're in full prep mode for the annual club BBQ/picnic and sign-ups for one of our biggest fundraisers, the Deschutes County Fair Gate thingee. By then berries will be in customers' freezers, and Magic Joe, as incoming president, will be leading from the president's podium.

You'd think this history buff has kept a better sense of real time, given the weekly rundown of important dates in our human timeline I share most Thursdays. Yes, at times being president can make a day seem longer. Really, we can thank COVID for seeming to drag things out lately, am I right?

Hopefully, we have that issue on its last pandemic-sized gasp, and the March winds will fill our Rotary sails with new energy and lots of speed. Just in time to blow in some new dollars, new faces to our leadership, and new ideas for how to serve our community.

Heck, someone might even win the raffle in March.....anything is possible with the wind at our backs.

~ President Tyler

WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE

March 3rd Weekly Gathering / Hybrid
Monthly Business Meeting

March 10th Weekly Gathering / Hybrid
Speakers – Angie Saraceno and Michelle Solley
St. Charles Philanthropy

March 17th Weekly Gathering / Hybrid
Speaker – Dave Shaffer, Arc Health Justice

March 24th Weekly Gathering / Hybrid
DG Gerry Kosanovic visit

March 31st – NO MEETING / 5th Thursday

Hybrids Now in Session 🧐💻

The club has resumed meeting both in person at The View, and for those unable to attend in person, via ZOOM. The running average of new cases in Deschutes County plummeted as predicted to well below 100 last week, and many state restrictions are scheduled to expire March 11th.

YAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 🎉

Until then, Rotarians attending this week's meeting at Juniper are asked to comply with the mask requirements. The club has been fortunate to have no outbreak or contact cases associated with the weekly lunch gatherings throughout the pandemic.

Thanks to you all for being the responsible, ethical role models Rotarians are known for. Welcome back to a little normalcy!

Save the Dates

March 24, 2022 – DG Gerry Kosanovic visit

April 1, 2022 Fireside/Social at High Desert Music Hall

April 28 - 30, 2022 D5110 Celebration

May 12, 2022 Sip for Soles Virtual Wine-Tasting Event

June 4 – 6, 2022 June RI Convention (Houston, TX)

Mike Larson Featured Profile

Anyone who gets to spend time with member Mike Larson likely gets the feeling at some point that his picture appears in the dictionary under the definition of “kind”. That’s no façade or intermittent condition for Mike. He’s genuinely a kind-hearted soul, and seeks to be with folks who possess the same quality.



Born and raised in Astoria, Mike grew up the oldest of four brothers. His three brothers and one sister still live in the coastal town that shaped much of his early life.

As a junior in high school, Mike took an interest in wrestling. With little coaching, he excelled at the sport through his senior year and into a year of college-level competition. In

1971, with the military draft deferment programs changing, Mike decided to enlist, and negotiated terms of service that would keep him out of Viet Nam. He spent three years in the Army in ground-to-air missile assignments in Korea and later, Fort Carson, Colorado.

After the military, Mike started back to school, enrolling in engineering studies at Clatsop Community College for two semesters, until the prospect of high wages and Alaska lured him into working for Bumblebee Seafoods where he worked on remodeling crab canneries from the Aleutian Islands to the Peninsula.

He returned to Portland and began working on freeway projects for the I-205 project. A crane accident caused him to rethink his career choice after being knocked 70 feet down, landing under another crane that miraculously held an estimated 80 tons of steel bridge beams from crushing him. Yikes. The accident made the front page of the Oregonian newspaper, adding an exclamation point to his direct and all-too-close experience.

Mike found work at NW Natural Gas Company in November 1979, and there he stayed until retiring just over 30 years later. He worked his way through digging ditches to welding, then became a crew leader. He eventually led a specialized team in high pressure pipeline feeds, the Gas Well Metering and Regulation group. During his NW Gas career, he served as a union steward and was selected as a union trustee (one of just three positions), roles Mike feels honored to have been selected to hold.

Mike has two sons, Ben and Paul. Ben, an attorney in Portland, and his wife are expecting a daughter this spring. Paul works as an airline dispatcher for United, and lives in Chicago with his wife and teenage son.

Mike was not familiar with Rotary when he first golfed with Keever a couple of years ago after Mike and wife Patty moved from Portland to Eagle Crest. Keever invited him to a lunch meeting, and that was all it took. As Mike says with a straight face but some twinkle in his eye, “I’m addicted to helping people”.

He can back up that statement, having spent several years with his wife volunteering in the Portland area before applying their generous efforts locally. Their contributions, significant in hours, reached beyond doing tasks to help with the local food bank and Portland’s famed Sunshine Division, two organizations serving the homeless and mentally ill.

Mike seems to have a knack for getting folks working together for the benefit of others. Maybe it’s those wrestling moves he learned in high school, but one gets the feeling that Mike can see where simple motions can generate big impacts. Whether it’s talking two nonprofits into working together or performing set-up tasks for our club’s weekly gatherings ZOOM feed, Mike quietly finds ways to help get things done. He’s happy helping people.

Mike serves on the club’s membership committee and lends a hand wherever he sees the need. From his vantage point, Redmond Rotary is full of kind, like-minded members who can’t help but help others. No Half Nelson needed to get him excited for the next opportunity to do just that.

Who Wants Watercress??

One of the club’s most popular projects came together in a big way last Saturday, as 27 Rotarians with a few spouses and friends got together to sort, label and box 500 books to distribute 1st grade students’ books of choice. Delivery of the books to each classroom will happen soon.



Not counting club leader Tara Messner’s hours in her coordinating role that includes frequent meetings and communication throughout the year with the school teachers and administration, Saturday’s “labor” amounted to at least 80 volunteer hours. A small committee made up of Tara, Marv Kaplan and Nick Mausen worked to organize the meeting space, classroom lists, flyers, books and materials needed to accomplish the task.

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Watercress (continued)

Helpers transported the books and supplies to The Falls community hall and set up the space, which was available at no cost due to owner privileges for Falls community residents.

The committee did a thorough job of figuring out all the support pieces for a work party of this size, including some goodies to nibble on and coffee to keep the troops moving. Pre-printed labels, instructions with pictures(!), packets for each classroom with color-coded lists made the process fairly fool-proof, even if some of us did deviate from the suggested work flow for the 3-member teams responsible for assembling each classroom's book bags.

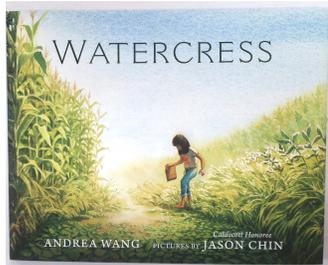
SELCO is an annual sponsor, contributing \$2500 each year toward costs of the project that this year came to just over \$9000. St. Charles granted the club \$2000 this year toward the project, as well. Both entities are acknowledged for their vital support in Magic Joe's **LITERACY VIDEO** documenting the fun, fulfilling and fruitful time spent.

Feedback from volunteers was positively gushing, from how fun it was to spend time with friends, to check out the popular names of children whose personalized labels were carefully scripted and pasted in the inside cover, to getting a giggle or two from the book titles (who would be surprised that a book titled 'Watercress' was not the most popular book kids ordered, just saying...).

All in all, the message to young students receiving their very own chosen book in a personalized bag should give a lift to our literacy efforts, demonstrating the value our club and community place on reading. If the caring and joy on display last Saturday get transferred in any way to our young readers, the world is already a better place for them.

Comments from the District Governor Gerry Kosanovic:

"NICELY DONE!! That's a big project and it takes skilled leadership and coordination to pull this together. Kudos to the Rotary Club of Redmond."



Speakers Deliver

At our February 17th meeting, speaker Glenn Deveney shared statistics and services offered by Serenity Lane, where he works as their program manager and a counselor for individuals seeking help with substance abuse and addiction. Located in their new facility in Bend, Glenn says capacity for treatment in central Oregon continues to run behind the demand.

Statewide, Oregon's percentage of people suffering from addiction is higher than average, something he doesn't see

changing based on anticipated impacts of new laws decriminalizing possession and use of certain drugs. Serenity Lane offers a variety services and programs locally for adults, including long-term residential, outpatient and virtual treatment programs.



On February 24th, club members heard from Matt Canham from Cyber Security, a small business aimed at helping small business deal with the dangers of phishing, ransomware and other forms of "bad actors" seeking ways to steal information off the internet.



Dr. Canham, whose experience includes working for the FBI in the past, managed to unsettle the audience with his descriptions of how sophisticated the business of hacking and mimicking real entities has become. Not limited by borders of any kind, the business of interrupting business or redirecting a transaction by individuals is up for grabs from anywhere in the world. Small businesses are the most common target.

His tips for securing data included physical backups (external drives, etc) that can be disconnected from a computer, using a password manager and keeping antivirus and software patches up to date.

PETS Training: Not for my Dog

By Joe Kosanovic



The first question a neighbor asked me when I informed him that I would be in Seattle for Rotary PETS was; "How old is your dog"? Most Rotarians are familiar with PETS acronym (President Elect Training) and the role PETS has in the education of their incoming President. Rotary International bylaws state that the purpose of the presidents-elect training seminar is: "To prepare incoming club presidents for their year as president". Seattle! I was excited.

I heard wonderful reviews from others who have attended PETS in the past and I was looking forward to the in-person training in Seattle to meet and greet other club leaders from around the Pacific Northwest, including Canada. I read that some of my richest and most memorable experiences will (continued next page)

PETS (continued) come from getting to know these fellow PEs. They claimed that the friendships created at PETS often last a lifetime and these relationships are one of the greatest strengths of the Rotary organization. Then, like so many other group activities in the past couple of years, that pesky virus disrupted my adventure, replacing Seattle with a computer screen.... PETS Zoom at home. Road trip canceled. I was disappointed.

I don't have to tell you about the difference between in-person vs Zoom. It's apples and oranges. Since I joined the Rotary Club of Redmond two years ago, most of the weekly meetings have been computer-based. It's been challenging. On the other hand, if circumstances prevent joining in person, a hybrid meeting does provide the ability to attend remotely. I'm hopeful that conditions will improve to resume normal activities with in-person handshakes and friendships blossoming.



Although the training was handled remotely, the PETS team had to quickly adapt to remote instruction. They did a magnificent job adhering to the spirit of Rotary and I enjoyed the leadership displayed by the facilitators. I learned strategies and ideas that will empower me to manage our club. PETS increased my knowledge about the Rotary Foundation, Rotary International's Public Image and the importance of membership. The breakouts were interactive sessions allowing me to meet and share ideas with fellow Presidents-elect. At the conclusion of each learning session, my survey recorded high marks for their planning, organization, technology, and relevant information.



The most memorable moment during the weekend was the Zoom appearance of **Jennifer E. Jones**, our next RI President. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, and was nominated to become Rotary International's president for 2022-23. A groundbreaking historical selection that will make her the first

woman to hold that office in the Rotary's 115-year history. She spoke candidly about the challenges and opportunities then answered questions. Jennifer also spoke about the new RI theme logo, seen in the upper right corner of above

picture of Seattle skyline. "**Imagine Rotary**" - The circle and the dots together become a navigation star – our guiding light. The solid line underneath is what is referred to as a digging stick and it is used when doing hard work. And since Rotary members are people of action – it represents a tool for getting things done. Well....Imagine that!

When PETS ended, I couldn't shake hands with instructors or fellow PE's. That was the disappointing part. Gaining knowledge was the exciting part. I left the training with a sense of refreshed pride for being a member of a global organization and our service club. I look forward to sharing more details and information soon. I also look forward making the 'elect' from my title disappear on July 1, 2022.....like magic.

Rotary International: Statement on the Ukraine conflict



It is a tragic and sad time for the people of Ukraine and the world.

At Rotary, we are deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the escalating loss of life and humanitarian hardship there. Continued military action against Ukraine will not only devastate the region, but also risk spreading tragic consequences across Europe and the world.

As one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, we have made peace the cornerstone of our global mission. We join the international community in calling for an immediate cease fire, withdrawal of Russian forces, and a restoration of diplomatic efforts to resolve this conflict through dialogue.

In the past decade, Rotary clubs in Ukraine, Russia and nearby countries have transcended national differences and have actively engaged in peace-building projects to promote goodwill and to marshal assistance for the victims of war and violence.

Today, our thoughts are with our fellow Rotary members and others in Ukraine coping with these tragic events. Rotary International will do everything in its power to bring aid, support and peace to the region.

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