



WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK - APRIL 24 - 30th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was browsing the internet recently, in search of my favorite nuggets of history when I came across a date that very neatly coincided with another online article that had crossed my screen. March 24, 1925 – any guesses about what happened that day?

Ok, here's a clue: National Pet Week is coming right up, May 1st – 7th. We can celebrate all kinds of things about our pets. Mostly cats and dogs, but let's not leave out any ferrets, rabbits, fish....pets of choice. Those (usually) furry critters who eat, poop and play all day long on our dime without a care in the world. And why should they? We care for them better than our own human dependents, it seems at times.



Dogs were the first animals to be domesticated for companionship, even while guarding, herding or hunting. It took another couple decamillennium (yep, that was on the internet, too) before cats allowed us to call them domestics.

Archeological evidence suggests the early pets selected to be our besties – or ornamental declarations of power and wealth - led pretty lavish lives, mostly associated with rich or royal families able to afford such luxuries like taking on more mouths to feed that provide no useful purpose. Unfortunately, we know today that pets face the same issues – hunger, lack of shelter, disease, abuse – that we humans battle.

What does this have to do with Rotary? For one thing, that March date back in 1925 was listed as the first “World Animal Day”. Paul Harris’s 1905 founding of a Rotary Club in Chicago quickly took off on a global trajectory, the first of its kind. Makes me wonder what kind of influence there may have been in coming up with the animal version of worldwide recognition for causes.

Whatever spurred the international event for animal appreciation, I hope we can all agree that pets have an enduring place in bringing comfort and aid to us as Rotarians, and those we serve. Rotary projects have funded therapy dogs for our youngest and oldest in need, police dogs to help our local law enforcement agencies,

and search and rescue equipment and training for finding the lost among us.

There are many organizations serving the pet world, combatting the same issues of abuse, neglect, starvation, and housing that our club and global entity works on for humans. There's always more need, it seems, than resources to address them. But as People of Action, we can continue to help our 4-footed friends in partnership with others.

That, by the way, includes taking a break to play with your favorite pet. Next week, squeeze in an extra session in recognition of National Pet Week. ~ *President Tyler*

MEETING SCHEDULE

April 28th, 2022 Weekly Gathering / Hybrid
Speaker: Kate Soliz, Ridgeview HS - ASPIRE/AVID

May 5th, 2022 Weekly Gathering Hybrid

SPECIAL LOCATION: Redmond High School

Look for email with details soon.

May 12th, 2022 Weekly Gathering Hybrid
Speaker: Devin Lewis, Redmond Police Chief

May 19th, 2022 Weekly Gathering Hybrid
Speaker: Jim Lussier, Rotary/PETS

May 26th, 2022 Weekly Gathering Hybrid
Speaker: Tim Trainor, Redmond Spokesman

Lunch RULES

It was a packed crowd earlier this month for our club's anniversary lunch, which presented some challenges for the Juniper staff to keep the serving dishes from being empty.

We can all help by responding to the email that goes out each week asking about attendance. Nicole Gee, who coordinates with the restaurant on numbers, needs to provide an accurate head count first thing Wednesdays. According to Nicole, all she needs is a “yes” or “no”.

If you're bringing a guest, indicate how many.
Then hit “SEND”. Simple!

NOW IS THE (WINE) TIME

For Redmond Rotarians to sell (or buy) tickets for our Sips for Soles virtual wine tasting event scheduled for May 12th. The deadline is this **Saturday, April 30th**, for all ticket orders. The advance cut-off is required in order to process the distribution list and allow for shipment to ticket holders near and far.



Our event organizer, Marv Kaplan, sent out an email on Monday about opportunities for Rotarians to attend the wine tasting in person at the Stoller Wine Bar in Bend. Capacity is limited, so contact him right away if interested. If each club member can sell just one or two tickets, we can succeed and even exceed last year's sales!

While some people will eagerly look forward to the Stoller Wines experts talk oenology, the \$100 tickets are a great deal for non-drinkers and those who prefer spirits or ale, considering the positive impact locally. These tickets can and do sell themselves if we all help get the word out.

Just do it now! Click here to ----> [REGISTER](#)

Houseless Committee Sets Foundation

Member Mike Larson appeared before the club's board of directors at its April board meeting and received approval from President Tyler to form a committee for the purpose of research into and ways of helping our community grapple with the issue of local individuals and families without permanent shelter.



Call it "houseless" or "homeless", the need is apparent for action on a number of fronts in Redmond to address the growing issue that has become visible almost everywhere – including Redmond. Several club members voiced support and quickly volunteered to be part of the committee officially formed as the club's Houseless Committee.

At its April 21st meeting, the group debated and eventually adopted the mission statement of "assisting the community of Redmond by leveraging our (Rotary) skills, resources & reputation to benefit the homeless in our area." Committee members include Branegan Dixon, Bruce Englund, Clifford Evelyn, Andrew Fitch, Nicole Gee, Louise Kaplan, Linda Levinson, Mike Larson, John Nielsen, and Angela Saraceno.

The effort was first initialized by a smaller group that included an exploratory information sharing session with service providers already active in Redmond. Representatives from Jericho Road and Oasis Village (recipients of Redmond Rotary contributions), Bethlehem Inn, Shepherd's House and others shared in that meeting what was already happening and where gaps/needs were identified.

Potential project ideas are being discussed in the committee that could provide both hands-on, short-term opportunities as well as larger, more robust investment goals to consider for the club.

Updates will be provided as plans gel and focus on specific needs are ready for club support. Anyone with questions may contact Mike about getting involved.

Meeting Highlights

The anniversary luncheon on April 14th was packed full of celebration for our club's 70th year in existence. Time was allowed for a few other things, like recognition of a Paul Harris Fellow award, where member Andrew Fitch placed his name on the blue panel, and everyone cheered Larry's Wilkins' ability to rejoin our lunch gathering, with a little help.



Damon Runberg, our state's regional economist, raced through some slides and made some key points about our regional economy. No surprise that Deschutes County numbers show employment back and even above pre-COVID numbers. Or that the cost of housing adds to the challenges of businesses finding enough workers to meet demands.

At last week's meeting, the group listened to Dr. Audrey Haugen, Redmond High (RHS) Principal, as she walked through current enrollment numbers and provided an overview of electives offered and other aspects of student life at the "original" school. She shared some of the challenges students and teachers face, and how the RHS faculty work to address attendance, behavior and performance issues.

Dr. Haugen responded to questions that ranged from monitoring methods and strategies utilized to what equipment needs the school may face.

THIS JUST IN !

Heads up that **our weekly gathering meeting location has changed for the May 5th lunch!!** Principal Audrey Haugen will be giving a tour of Redmond High School. Members should respond to the weekly email as usual, but a separate email will be sent with instructions for the event.

Visitor parking at the high school is limited, so be thinking now about car pooling or finding alternate transportation. And be sure to wear that letterman's jacket you have stuffed in the back of your closet. (Just kidding!)

John Nielsen Featured Profile

We could start John's journey to Redmond and membership in this club back in Wisconsin, where John was born and raised. Or by sharing his Army paratrooper experience, which was cut short due to injuries that keep him from jumping out of perfectly good airplanes to this day. We could talk about John's early years in Bend and how he found his calling in the credit union world that has been his profession for over 12 years now.



What comes through in talking with John, though, is his passion for his family, co-workers, staff, and community, and his commitment to care for them on every level. So, John's a pretty busy guy.

His family includes wife Lisa - who John met almost immediately upon landing in Bend with all his earthly possessions packed in his car - twins Max and Molly (age 7), John's mom, three adult stepsons and two very large dogs.

He met Lisa through a friend, but it was as her employee (yes, Lisa was bossing him around from the very beginning 😊) that John came to know her. They were friends until she bought him a 4-slice toaster in February 2002. Nothing says "commitment" like a 4-slice toaster, and they've been together ever since. Their anniversary may technically be 7-7-07, but they celebrate their first date anniversary without fail, no doubt with *special* "toasts".

John spent some time working his way up to loan officer with Wells Fargo in Bend, but walked away from banking in 2002, leery of the entire industry. The 2008 recession and a family to feed made him try his hand in finance again, this time through the credit union model.

Moving over to the credit union world gave John new inspiration of what financial services could mean to a community. First with SELCO, John went to work for Mid Oregon Credit Union four years ago, and loves the role his branch and organization play in helping local folks grow and manage their money.

A few years ago, some friends invited him to lunch at Juniper. Members Lonn Johnston, Branegan Dixon, Jeff Casserly and Ryan McNulty, who became John's official sponsor into the club, introduced him to Rotary. John immediately saw the potential for broadening his ability to serve. He is currently on the Membership committee, pleased with the progress the group has made in helping new members through formal orientation processes and mentoring.

John recognizes his time is limited, so another attractive feature of being a Rotarian is how many choices are offered for ways to contribute regionally and globally. He can participate in small and large ways through sweat equity on local projects, or financially through donations to causes that matter to him. That allows him flexibility in prioritizing his time, which we know his young daughter monitors regularly.

While he values the choice of ways to serve through Rotary, John feels like he gets more out of being a member than he puts in, as he enjoys the camaraderie and opportunities to do so many good things. These days, John has been thinking of serving the Redmond community in one additional role. Likely to file as a candidate for a seat on the Redmond City Council, he senses a need for a calm voice, albeit a passionate one, as our community grapples with the outcomes of growth and need for clear direction.

With all his family, work and community commitments, where does John find escape to keep that calm voice from screaming out loud? As a guy who found inner peace during descents with nothing but a parachute around him while hurling to the ground, his Harley soft tail, BMW touring bike and his dad's restored 1974 British Triumph offer respite.

Helmets (hats) off to this Norwegian banker biker.

Yah, sure, you betcha.

Member Milestones



Don't forget to complete your profile info in DACdb, because we can't wish you Happy Birthday if you left that field blank (you know we know you have one each year...). Let's celebrate these important dates for the following club members:

May 1: Club member since 2017, **Rick Phelps!**

May 2: Happy Birthday, **Tara Messner!**

May 5: Happy Birthday, **Lawnae Hunter!**

May 6: Club member since 2021, **Heather Haworth!**

May 6: Club member since 2002, **Trish Pinkerton!**

May 7: Happy Birthday, **Diana Barker!**

May 7: Club member since 2020, **Keith Taylor!**

May 8: Happy Birthday, **Clifford Evelyn!**

May 15: Happy Anniversary, **Ken** and **Jude Piarulli!**

May 15: Club member since 2004, **Dennis Tooley!**

May 20: Happy Birthday, **Matthew Free!**

May 23: Happy Birthday, **Janice Burges!**

May 23: Happy Birthday, **John Meyer!**

Save the Dates

April 28 - 30, 2022 D5110 Celebration (Corvallis)

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

May 21, 2022 Daddy Daughter Dance, Ridgeview HS

May 22, 2022 Rotary Fields/David M Jaqua Sports Complex Ribbon Cutting

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

June 17, 2022 Desert Rose Invitational, Juniper

June 18, 2022 Rotary Year-End Picnic/BBQ

Presidents Past

Our club's anniversary celebration at the April 14th meeting was kicked off by a special guest, Jim Pierce, who joined the group to help celebrate Rotary Club of Redmond Day. (See the actual [Proclamation on our website](#))



Jim served as club president in its 25th year, which was a year of many good projects and memories for him, as he would modestly acknowledge in a later interview. But he entertained the crowd with his story about his dad, Bill Pierce, who would eventually become our club's first president.

Jim set up the brief historical accounting with a backdrop of his father's arrival in Bend back in 1951. While selling Pontiacs, Bill learned of a job opportunity with an insurance business in Redmond and thought he'd apply. He had competition.

Another local, and a buddy of Bill's who was the circulation manager for the Bend Bulletin at the time, Les Schwab was interested in the same position. Anyone who knows that name can guess the outcome of who got the insurance job. But, as Jim quipped, "I told Dad I thought he might have been better off in the tire business".

Jim was gracious enough to spend some time after the meeting to talk about the club's earlier years as he knew them, both through his dad's presidency and during his own days of being active with the club. There were projects typical of the local community at the time: tree-planting downtown, development of park spaces, and a popular annual picnic for all teachers at the beginning of the school year. Jim laughed at the memory of the teacher's picnic, explaining that the first few years the picnic fare included beer. That was later "taken off the menu" by no-alcohol policies. It didn't seem to affect the appreciation from the teachers for the show of support each fall.

Jim was in the insurance business with his father while active in the club, but he eventually returned to teaching. He missed the kids. He retired after 20 more years with the Redmond School District. He and wife Jan each have adult children who live in the area.

The story Jim shared about his dad during the meeting, while a hit with the group, wasn't the most colorful story offered by him. When first contacted about visiting the club last week, Jim promised he had "lots of stories", and just had to share one of his favorite as sort of a down payment on the treasure trove he held in the memory vault.

Jim was serving as the program speaker coordinator one year, and as usually happens at least once a year, there was a last-minute need for someone to give a presentation. Jim got a great lead from his dad about a banker named Bill Ellis who had developed an interesting memorization technique sworn to help even the worst of us recall names at an instant. Jim hurriedly called and arranged for Mr. Ellis to appear at the club luncheon the next day.

Sure enough, Bill Ellis showed up with a meticulously prepared program, complete with pictures and charts. Only it quickly became obvious the subject matter had changed. This all-male club (this was back in the 70's) was faced with making it through a thorough and graphic presentation by **Dr.** Bill Ellis, a urologist eager to impress the importance of health from his perspective.

Jim claims to this day it was the quietest meeting he can remember, especially once the members knew they were in for a lecture all had successfully avoided until that day.

We hope Jim will join us for more stories of our past....right??

WHERE WERE YOU in '52???

What was happening in Redmond in 1952 when the club was formed? Well, for one thing, the Odem Medo Drive-In Theatre opened. It was located where the current Redmond Cinema sits now. The then-famous Redmond Potato Show reflected the area's peaking potato production, but was transitioning into being part of the newcomer event, the Deschutes County Fair. It would be the late 50's when the potato party stood on its own again for another decade or so before agricultural trends moved on to other types of crops.

Double Doh!



First, a teaser that the big 50/50 raffle pot grows, as Paul Spain wasn't able to find the 1-in-14 marble **not** colored blue. Sorry, Paul. With one less blue marble in the bag at next week's raffle, a winner could haul in over \$2500!!

*This editor incorrectly reported in the last newsletter that the club's portion of the raffle funds go to The Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus campaign. We keep these dollars closer to home, as the club invests its 50% share to our own **Redmond Rotary Charitable Corporation**, which is the 501(c)3 status account through which our scholarships are administered. *She stands corrected.**

DDD Details

The committee organizing our May 21st event is focused on logistical planning, now that sales are underway. There are a lot of moving parts, with food vendors, activity organizers and facility decorations to be worked out. Volunteer assignments will be finalized and communicated as soon as they are ready. Meanwhile, get your Rotary aprons washed and ironed and practice your popcorn popping and chocolate fountain refilling skills! If you're on the clean-up crew, no practice needed. 😊



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