



Club Meeting

**Bremerton
Meets at Olympic
College Bistro, Building
10
1600 Chester Ave.
Bremerton, WA 98337
Time: Monday at 11:45
AM**

Speakers

**April 22, 2024
Steve Rice
Music Discovery Center**

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

**Dale N. Holdren
April 18th
Denise Ledingham
April 27th
CLINT SHINKLE
April 27th
Alexander Lee Parker
May 15th**

Years of Service

**Steven M. RICE
06-01-1990
34 Years
Karen McKay Bevers
06-01-2012
12 Years
Caroline RIVERS
06-04-2015
9 Years
Daryl Wayne Matheny
06-22-2017
7 Years
Laura McKerrow
05-31-2020
4 Years**



From the meeting of April 15, 2024

BY STEVE LANDAU



Lauren Toth, last year's outbound exchange to Finland, started the meeting by ringing the Rotary bell, at the request of President Geoff.

REFECTION

Doug Berger reflected on the day's date, April 15, which was Tax Day. He said President Lincoln initiated an income tax in 1861 to fund the Civil War. In 1931, the 16th amendment gave Congress the authority to tax all incomes. The due date for returns was changed to April 15 in 1955.

VISITORS & GUESTS

Reama Schuldt, owner, Spread Supplies, winner of a county award for environmental stewardship for weekly clean-ups on Callow Avenue
Melissa Davidson, Bremerton Family YMCA, Senior Director of Health and Well-Being
Lia Fitzgerald, Bremerton YMCA, Senior Member Services Director, speaker
Sunny Saunders, Bremerton Rotary Blackberry Festival manager, speaker
Lauren Toth, last year's outbound exchange student to Finland
Christopher Ali, Sound Publishing and Fathom Realty
Ronnie Jackson, Realtor
Mary Lou Long

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The songsters did a song appropriate for Tax Day, to the tune of "Give Me That Old Time Religion." It included the lyric: "Give Me That Tax Extension and Buy Some Time for Me."

SERGEANT & HAPPY BUCKS



There was some confusion over who the day's sergeant was, so **Doug Berger** stepped in as the ad hoc sergeant. He asked for happy bucks:

Dennis Treger noted that Monday was the day for the 128th Boston Marathon and his daughter, **Kasey Treger Clews**, was a participant, finishing in 3 hours, 55 minutes and 44 seconds. To see how she placed, [follow this link](#).

Kevin Pentz enjoyed spending a few days in Anchorage, where his 12-year-old daughter placed third in a regional gymnastics meet.

Dave Gitch noted the publicity **Steve Landau** gave him in the bulletin for leading the patriotic song in his "baritone voice." He told a story of how his 4th grade teacher had failed him in music.

Carrie Rivers said she had hosted a baby shower/tea party at her home for her childhood best friend.

Not to be outdone by **Dave Gitch's** tale of flunking fourth grade music, **Walt Draper** said he belonged to glee club in the sixth grade, and the teacher would walk up and down and identify which voice each student had (i.e., tenor, soprano, etc.). When he got to Walt he said, "Just move your lips, Walt."

Sergeant Doug donated ten extra bucks and called it a day.

NEW AVID LEADERSHIP



After 12 years at the helm of our AVID Program, its founder **Steve Rice** is stepping down and making way for new leadership. He has been retired a little over two years from his professional work, and has had to step away from his growing volunteer commitments, which have kept him nearly as busy as when he was working.

Steve, who has been a Rotarian for 34 years, said, "This (AVID) is one of the best things I've done in my life. I know it works; I know it makes a difference." Our AVID program is the only one in the country that uses professional community members as mentors. Steve is stepping down as leader, but will continue to be a mentor. We are all grateful for the leadership Steve has provided for the AVID program.



Kevin Pentz, Larry Eyer, Bryan Wichert and Steve Rice

Replacing Steve is a large order. So large, in fact, that it takes five people:

â€¢ **Kevin Pentz** will be in charge of recruiting mentors.

â€¢ **Bryan Wichert** will be in charge of training new mentors and providing continuing education for all mentors.

â€¢ **Tina Bright** (former Rotarian) will serve as Team Facilitator and liaison between the AVID program at the high school and our club.

â€¢ **Karen McKay-Bevers** will continue to oversee the AVID program budget.

â€¢ **Larry Eyer**, AVID liaison with our Rotary Club and Board

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Geoff reported on the trip he and Betsy took to Rosario, a small town an hour's drive south of Mazatlan, Mexico, to deliver medical supplies, including eight walkers, two speed walkers, a wheelchair and shower equipment donated by Baypointe Retirement Community, where our members **Haley Fitzgerald-Parport** and **Jessica Hull** work. We have donated \$5,000 over two years to fund a multipurpose room there which houses a classroom to teach ESL and a medical clinic. Geoff said he and Betsy drove 6,000 miles between home, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta, where they vacation. He said he and Betsy will probably be taking another road trip down next year, because "That's what old people can do."

Geoff announced that we will be holding our annual Military Appreciation Day May 13 at the Kitsap Conference Center. This is a longstanding tradition of our club that involves inviting the heads of the various Navy and Marine commands in the area to lunch to thank and recognize them.



Lauren Toth, who was our outbound exchange student to Finland in 2022-2023, reported on a return trip she made recently with her dad. One especially meaningful experience for her dad was a pilgrimage to an Orthodox monastery. They spent a month in the country. Lauren said she's not ready to go to college yet and is going to Hungary for 10 months to work as an au pair (governess) to children. She said our next exchange student will be coming from Finland and

advised us not to hug her; Finns don't do that. (She'll probably have to get used to it, though, since that's what we do." Editor)

Deborah Jackson, one of our newest members, received her Objects of Rotary plaque from **President Geoff**. She announced and invited everyone to the 2024 Washington State African American Achievement Awards, 5:00 pm at Olympic College, Saturday, April 27th.

PROGRAM

Denise Landis, Executive Director of the Bremerton Family YMCA, introduced two members of her staff, **Melissa Davidson**, Senior Director of Health and Well-Being, and **Lia Fitzgerald**, Senior Member Services Director, to give the program about the YMCA.



The YMCA was founded 180 years ago in England during the Industrial Revolution, and has been in the United States for 114 years. The Bremerton YMCA was originally located next to the ferry terminal in downtown Bremerton. It moved to its current Eastpark location in 1986, after a two-year capital campaign that our Rotary club contributed to.

The YMCA focuses on healthy living, youth development and social responsibility. It offers gym equipment, including strength and cardio equipment, as well as an indoor track and courts for racquet sports. There are 45 classes offered weekly. Financial aid scholarships are offered so that no one is turned away for YMCA membership. Those who belong to the Bremerton Family YMCA can access all YMCAs in Pierce and Kitsap Counties, as well as nationwide and worldwide.

The YMCA also manages the adjacent Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center, which features an Olympic-size pool. This pool has been the home to three locally raised Olympic swimmers—Dana and Tara Kirk and Nathan Adrian.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

April 22: **Steve Rice, Harriette Bryan and Jon Green**, Music Discovery Center

Proofreading and photos by Tom Long