



Club Meeting

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

Speakers

September 16, 2024

Jill Stanton

**Bremerton Housing
Authority**

September 23, 2024

Danessa Grey

Bremerton Zine Fest

October 07, 2024

Lisa Hope

Bremerton Zine Fest

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

Greg J. Wheeler

September 11th

WILLIAM M. M Roberts

September 25th

James Crawford

September 28th

Denise Landis

October 4th

Kade Platta

October 4th

Years of Service

Steven M. Rice

06-01-1990

35 Years

Karen McKay Bevers

06-01-2012

13 Years

Caroline Rivers

06-04-2015

10 Years

Daryl Wayne Matheny

06-22-2017

8 Years

Laura McKerrow

05-31-2020

5 Years



Blackberry Festival 2024



We had wonderful weather and big crowds for the Bremerton Rotary Blackberry Festival over Labor Day Weekend. There was great food, great entertainment, and a good time was had by all.

From the meeting of Sept. 9, 2024

BY STEVE LANDAU

REFLECTION



Mark Miller was still reflecting on the Bremerton Rotary Blackberry Festival and the terrific job **Sunny Saunders** did as our Festival Manager. He suggested we go over and pat her on the shoulder. Mark, whose authors' club has had a booth at the festival since 2015, said this was the most efficient set-up and teardown he's ever seen. "That is an example of Rotary working for the community and working together as a group without selfishness," he said. Mark also acknowledged the anniversary of 9-11 the following day and asked for a moment of silence so that we don't forget the people who were at Ground Zero.

GUESTS & VISITORS

Travis Merrigan, speaker, SafeStreets Bremerton

Dr. Jim Balz, Olympia Rotary and Travis's father-in-law. He gave Karen a banner from his club to us.

Sunny Saunders, Blackberry Festival Manager

MUSIC COMMITTEE



Tim Quigley bragged that the Music Committee is one of the largest in Rotary, made up of multiple choirs, choruses and singing groups. He summoned the red badge folks to come to the front and sing in the Red Badge Chorus. The chorus consisted of **Kevin Pentz** and **Jill Stanton**, augmented by Bremerton Mayor **Greg Wheeler**. They were tasked with singing/speaking every "doo dah" in the following song:

To the tune of "Camptown Races"

*Red Badge Rotarians need a blue
Doo dah, doo dah.
Attend a board meeting, pay their dues.
Oh, da doo da day.*

*Gots to meet folks in our club.
Doo dah, doo dah.
And get folks to sign their book.
Oh, da doo da day.*

*Gots to help fund raise
Won't take much of your day.
Blackberry's fun and is a winner.
(And) Wild Game's a good dinner.*

*Gots to visit a club.
Sit through another lunch
In spite of how much fun you are
A red badge has no punch.*

*Get your blue badge, it's a must
Someday, someday
Leave your red badge in the dust
It's the Rotary way.*

SERGEANT & HAPPY BUCKS



Geoff Pentz's son **Kevin** served as sergeant and whatever fines Geoff received or happy bucks he paid, he tasked Kevin with paying them.

Doug Berger is happy that his granddaughter sings better than the Music Committee (or so he says). He was glad to see one of our "august Rotarians" who will be president next year at a Leadership Kitsap event. (That would be **Marin Solace** in case you weren't aware.)

Dennis Treger was proudly wearing his Cougs' t-shirt in honor of WSU's victory over Texas Tech.

Karen Sawyer-Meehan gave 9 happy bucks, 8 of which were for **Sunny Saunders** because Karen got to see up close all the things she does at the Blackberry Festival. The other buck was for her 8th wedding anniversary with husband **Robert**.

Carrie Rivers was happy that both of her kids made it through their first day of school, her youngest in a mixed 1st/2nd grade classroom, her eldest at the high school, where he signed up to play high school sports. He is only now realizing what a time commitment that is after school as well as on Saturdays. **Carrie** said we did \$1,000 better than last year at the Blackberry Wine Booth.

John Stockwell is looking forward to spending the weekend at the Seabeck Conference Center with all the inbound students in the district.

Geoff Pentz was amazed that he received an actual handwritten thank-you note from our current inbound exchange student from Finland, **Iita Yli-Kuha**, whom he took flying recently. He said it was the first time he received a thank-you note in a long time.

Jim Cline was happy that his son, **Casey**, is a budding actor who won the best actor award at Jewel Box Theatre for the second year in a row. He also was happy to see **Mayor Greg Wheeler** three times over the weekend--at the Manette Fest, First Friday on Callow, and at Monday's meeting.

Larry Eyer went kayaking with exchange student **Iita Yli-Kuha** and her friend **Nora Ramstad**, Interact President and student rep to the Bremerton School Board. He also got a nice thank you card. He is looking forward to the orientation kickoff for our AVID program Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the high school. It's for new and returning mentors.

Tom Long was happy his son and grandson flew up from California and stayed with him and **Mary Lou** last week.

Kevin Pentz had a happy buck because his 12-year-old daughter received an invite to the USA Gymnastics Camp, and a sad buck because she broke her foot and won't be able to attend.

Kevin fined everyone who was excited that the weather is turning to Fall. He also fined anyone who will be rooting for the Dawgs or Cougs this weekend.

President Karen has been an AVID mentor for two years and is looking forward to Friday's orientation. She is in awe that her AVID kids are going to be seniors. She said she volunteered because **Larry Eyer** looked her in the eye a couple of years ago and asked her whether she could spare an hour a month to spend mentoring AVID students. (It's more like an hour and a half,

but she's not complaining.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Karen said we had a lot of blackberry jam left over from the festival, and she gave jars to two individuals whom she felt deserved them. One was **Carrie Rivers**, who manned (womaned?) the Wine Booth every hour of the festival's three days, and was responsible for taking in \$1,000 more in receipts. She gave the other jar to **Tom Long**, who was present each day of the festival to document it in pictures.

PROGRAM

Travis Merrigan from SafeStreets Bremerton was our guest speaker. He said his organization is working on behalf of the next generation, especially schoolchildren. Although his mother thinks his generation is overprotective, Travis said, "The streets of the city have become unsafe for a lot of us, and especially for kids." He attributes the decline in safe streets to three factors: 1. there are more cars on the road, 2. cars are getting bigger than they used to be and 3. everyone is driving faster. He said a 2021 study done by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission showed that 19 out of 20 drivers are driving over the speed limit. The situation will become increasingly worse, as an estimated 45,000 to 60,000 residents will move to Bremerton in the next 20 years. There are several simple fixes for the traffic situation: better lane striping to manage traffic flow, more bike/pedestrian lanes, curb extensions and sidewalks.




President Karen gives the speaker **Travis Merrigan** a jar of blackberry jam.

DRAWING



After being the sergeant, **Kevin Pentz** had the winning ticket in the drawing, but didn't pick the Queen of Spades.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Sept. 16: **Jill Stanton**, Bremerton Housing Authority

Sept. 23: **Danessa Grey**, Bremerton Zine Fest

Sept. 30:

Oct. 7: **Lisa Hope**, Kitsap Historical Society

Photos and proofreading by Tom Long