

Rotary



Club of Olympia

Next Club Meeting Date: July 31, 2023

By Dan Lehuta

If you would like to join the meeting via ZOOM, click on this link: [Meeting by Zoom](#)

Join us at our next meeting on Monday, July 31st at the River's Edge restaurant ([Click here for map](#)). Our speaker will be Wendy Mayo who will speak on the subject of Youth and Foster Care. Wendy works at Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court. She oversees the dependency guardian ad litem program (DGAL) A dependency guardian ad litem is appointed to represent a child's best interest in court after a child is removed from their home due to abuse or neglect in parental deprivation proceedings.

Meeting of 7-24-2023 So. Sound Reading Foundation

By Robert Heck on Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Rotary Club of Olympia

The Wheel

Date: 7/24/2023

Today's Program: South Sound Reading Foundation - Jennifer Williamson-Forster

Meeting Called to order: President Debra @ 12:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Corey Gauny

Four Way Test led by: Laurie Tebo

Visiting Rotarians:

No visiting Rotarians today

Guest of Rotarians:

Several guests joined us today including potential new members.

Announcements:

Annual Rotary Club Picnic - Monday, August 7 at Squaxin Park. Lunch will be catered, please pay online. Lunch is \$25. This will also be a membership drive meeting. Guests will have their meals paid for. Please buy your tickets in advance: www.olyrotary.org

Auction - Steve Bean - the club auctioned off a signed baseball and limited edition box of raspberry Girl Scout cookies. All money raised will go toward the Rotary foundation.

Induction:

Larry Poplack introduced **Natalya Rubel** who is from Belarus. She immigrated to the US and moved with her husband to the PNW after living on the east coast. She and her husband own and operate Above Home Health, a senior home-care business. **President Debra** officially welcomed Natalya as a new club member and **Denny Peterson** gave Natalya her official Rotary number.

Happy Bucks hosted by **Gretchen Sturtevant**

Gerry Alexander - shared about learning to read in elementary school in Olympia.

Program: South Sound Reading Foundation - Jennifer Williamson-Forster

Christy Peters introduced Jennifer Williamson-Forster, Executive Director of the South Sound Reading Foundation. Jennifer overcame dyslexia as a child and understands the potential struggles that keep individuals from accessing reading. She and her husband have lived in Olympia since the 90s. She has been in her current role since 2007. She is committed to literacy, learning and her South Sound community. When not working Jennifer is volunteering, reading or doing something fun like skiing, cycling, or hiking with her family.

The Mission of South Sound Reading Foundation is to bring the joy and promise of books and reading to ALL South Sound children. The South Sound Reading Foundation envisions a community where all children read well and enjoy reading, and where reading opens new opportunities. South Sound Reading Foundation is an integral part of bringing our community closer to this vision. Last year, the SSRF provided over 82,000 books to children in Thurston and Mason counties. In addition to books, the Foundation provides services to families for reading engagement to educate families about the importance of reading for life.

Jennifer shared research on the impact of literacy, the outcomes when literacy rates are low and information around the literacy crisis within the US. She took the club through a slide show presentation. Jennifer took questions from club members following the presentation.

The meeting was recorded, if you would like to see the recording, please contact President Debra.

Mr. Snappy: Kristin Taylor won a \$35 gift certificate to Meconi's Italian Subs, donated by Dennis Cooper.

Meeting Adjourned 1:21 pm by President Debra.
