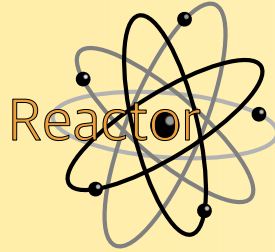
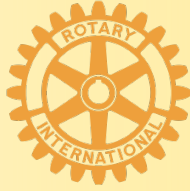


# Rotary Richland



November 7, 2023

Editor: Jan Jackson  
 Photography: Wally Williams  
 Web Site: [www.richlandrotaryclub.org](http://www.richlandrotaryclub.org)  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RichlandRotaryClubWA/>

PO Box 37 • Richland, WA 99352  
 Meetings every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.  
 451 Hills Street, North Richland  
 Charter 7390 • District 5080 • Club ID #262

**November Meetings**  
**21<sup>st</sup> – District Governor Doreen Kelsey**

### Preliminaries

President Terri LeBlanc officiated and asked Dave Larkin for the invocation. She turned over the podium to Karl Dye, CEO of TRIDEC and co-host Diahann Howard, Executive Director of the Port of Benton, present member and past president of the Richland Rotary Club.

### Entrepreneurial Awards

In 1997, two of our Richland Rotarians, Ben Bennett and A. M. Sastry, came up with three award ceremonies; Entrepreneurial Awards which features new start-up companies; Mid-Columbia Small Business Awards Banquet which highlighted any nominated small business; and Tri-Citizen of the Year. Over the years the Mid-Columbia Small Business Awards was dropped and the Tri-Citizen of the Year is hosted by all of the local Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

### Sponsors

Since 1997, there have been several sponsors including: PNNL, WSU Business Links, Port of

Kennewick, Fluor Hanford, Tri-Cities Enterprise Association, Applied Process Engineering Lab and Columbia Basin College. Current sponsors include Benton Franklin Workforce Development Council, Fuse, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, TRIDEC and the Port of Benton who has always sponsored and coordinated this prestigious event.

### Committee

Members of the committee include: Diahann Howard, Wally Williams and Summers Miya from the Port of Benton, Marty Conger from Fuse, Karl Dye and Traci Jao from TRIDEC, Lori Mattson from the TC Regional Chamber of Commerce, David Chavey-Reynaud from the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council, Martin Valadez and Tiffany Alviso from the TC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Dick Richter and Jan Jackson representing the Richland Rotary Club.

### Event

This event and our scholarship luncheon are my two favorite events of the year. I'm always amazed at the high level of scholars in our community and the innovation from our small businesses.

Paul Harris Fellows	Officers
<p>Judy Addis (8S)(B)                      Steve Arneson (8S)                      Jeremy Asmus (4S)                      Jim Bauer (4MD)(B)                      Linda Bauer (4MD)(B)                      Blaine Carr (8S)                      Andrew Cook                      Tom Cowan (4S)(B)                      Bill Crowe (8S)                      Heillie Den Hoed                      Lance Dissel                      Barbara French (8S)(D)                      Jan Griffin (2S)                      Linda Gustafson                      Diahann Howard (2S)                      Jan Jackson (3S)                      Larry D. Jecha (2S)                      Darrel Johnsen (3S)</p>	<p>Roy Keck (5S)                      Phillip Koech                      Dave Larkin (8S)(D)                      Pamela Larsen (5S)(B)                      Bob D. Larson (5S)(B)                      Terri LeBlanc                      Grant McCallum (5S)                      Jerry J. McGuire (1S)(B)                      Ian Napier (1S)                      Greg Oberg (6S) (B)                      Tom O'Brien (2S)                      Justin Raffa                      Dick Richter (5S)                      Chris Senske (6R)                      Mike Sinclair (1S)                      Chris Smith                      Mark Smith (7S)(B)                      Bob Tibbatts (5S)</p>
<p>Sam R. Volpentest (8R)(B)                      Ken Williams (8S)                      Mike Winegardner                      Jacqui Wright                      Joan Wright (2S)</p>	<p>President ..... Teri LeBlanc                      President Elect.....Justin Raffa                      Secretary.....Mike Winegardner                      Treasurer.....Dick Richter                      Foundation Treasurer.....Andrew Cook                      Past President.....Jan Jackson</p>
<p>(B) Benefactor                      (D) Diamond PHF                      (DD) Dbl. Diamond PHF                      (R) Ruby                      (#R) Multiple Ruby                      (S) Sapphire                      (MD) Major Donor</p>	<p><b>Directors</b>                      Community Service.....Mike Sinclair                      Fellowship &amp; Fund Raising.....Justin Raffa                      International Service.....Linda Gustafson                      Meeting Service.....Grant McCallum                      Membership.....Blaine Carr                      New Generations.....Joan Wright                      Public Relations.....Michelle Holt</p>

## Summer's Hub

This company was sponsored by the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. Chris Corbin came to the podium and talked about the 28 food trucks, 32 beer taps, local wines and some of the top foods and beverages being served in this location just east of Sportsmans Warehouse in Kennewick. Their vision is to create a place where you can bring the whole family and enjoy the best foods the Tri-Cities has to offer.



## LiveGrow Bio

Sponsored by Fuse this company is producing microbial bio-pesticides and bio-stimulants for earth friendly agriculture applications. They are the first and only biotechnology company with an innovative microbial fermentation and formulation technology that is capable of manufacturing highly concentrated, metabolically active microbial products with cost of goods on par with chemicals and a shelf life of two or more years at room temperature. Andrey Pinchuk is the CEO and accepted the award.

## Atomic Escape Rooms

Nominated by TRIDEC, this company is owned and was founded by Julianne Wright. Live escape rooms offer an immersive, real-life experience, filled with tangible props and character actors that put you right into the action. Besides escape rooms they offer laser maze challenges and mystery escape dinner shows. They are committed to growing the STEM field by offering summer VR STEM camps. Atomic Escape rooms give you the opportunity to escape from ordinary life and live the stories you love.



## Sister to Sister on the Ave

M'Liss Bierlink opened her flagship store in the Yakima Valley and was looking to expand her kitchen operations in a new store located in the Prosser area. This company offers boutique style clothing, jewelry and gifts and attracts visitors from throughout the mid-valley and beyond. Sister to Sister on the Ave was nominated by the Port of Benton and is located at the Port's Vintner's Village. M'Liss was unable to attend and the award was presented to her husband, Ken Bierlink.

## Teto Eco Wash

Perhaps the most entertaining of the group, Hector Rodriguez shared his story of starting out cleaning neighbors garbage cans with a small pressure washer and over the past couple of years has advanced himself into working for restaurants, real estate and food trucks in the Tri-Cities and Yakima areas. His stories of his wife asking him if ... 'he should be knocking on more doors to get business moving' were quite humorous. Teto Eco Wash was nominated by the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



## Sonar Insights

Nominated by the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council, this company is a market research and business strategy consulting firm. They perform in-depth interviews, focus groups, ethnographic research, online and in-person surveys, subject matter expert involvement and social media scans to help companies make the decisions that will help their customers achieve their growth strategies. Sonny Virakpanyou and Aaron Welling came forward to accept the award after Sonny gave Diahann a primer on how to pronounce Virakpanyou.



## Richland Rotary Members

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Judy Addis (7/89)        | Dave Larkin (4/04)       |
| Eric Andrews (9/18)      | Pam Larsen (2/95)        |
| Steve Arneson (3/02)     | Bob Larson (6/90)        |
| Jeremy Asmus (10/07)     | Terri LeBlanc (6/18)     |
| Allison Ball (4/23)      | Charles LoPrestie (8/10) |
| Jim Bauer (3/19)         | Patrick McBurney (6/09)  |
| Linda Bauer (3/19)       | Grant McCallum (4/19)    |
| Denise Buelt (4/23)      | Jerry McGuire (3/95)     |
| Blaine Carr (12/09)      | Kate Moran (9/20)        |
| Andrew Cook (3/19)       | Ian Napier (11/08)       |
| Bill Crowe II (9/20)     | Greg Oberg (1/88)        |
| Bill Crowe III (3/22)    | Tom O'Brien (11/98)      |
| Bert Day (9/22)          | Justin Raffa (7/20)      |
| Heillie Den Hoed (12/20) | Shelley Redinger (12/20) |
| Lance Dissel (11/21)     | Dick Richter (6/08)      |
| Tara Divers (9/22)       | Diana Ruff (3/23)        |
| Richard Evans (11/18)    | George Sanders (9/22)    |
| Yousef Farawila (1/02)   | Jay Scott (10/19)        |
| Barbara French (11/98)   | Chris Senske (1/80)      |
| Jan Griffin (9/00)       | Clinton Sherman (1/22)   |
| Linda Gustafson (3/08)   | Mike Sinclair (1/11)     |
| Michelle Holt (6/22)     | Roscoe Slade (1/20)      |
| Diahann Howard (4/08)    | Chris Smith (8/10)       |
| Tom Huntington (5/16)    | Mark Smith (3/01)        |
| Jan Jackson (6/00)       | Bob Tibbatts (6/03)      |
| Larry Jecha (8/97)       | Sam Volpentest (1/95)    |
| Darrel Johnsen (8/97)    | Ken Williams (12/00)     |
| Roy Keck (10/04)         | Mike Winegardner (11/09) |
| Phillip Koech (8/13)     | Jacqui Wright (12/13)    |
| David Langstaff (7/01)   | Joan Wright (3/18)       |
| Whitney LaMarche (9/22)  |                          |

## Honorary Members Tom Cowan & Shirley Hankins

Current Members:  
61



## Sammy Award

The host for this year's Sam Volpentest Vocational Excellence Award was C. Mark Smith. He started out with a short dialog about Gary Petersen, 2021 Sammy Award Winner, and what Gary had accomplished in the community including taking over the job at TRIDEC when Sam Volpentest passed away. Gary's memorial service is Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Then C. Mark launched into what the Sammy award entailed, who Sam Volpentest was and some of Sam's accomplishments. He then started listing the accolades of this year's winner:

Since becoming Chancellor in 2018, Sandra Haynes has spearheaded multiple programs that have benefited the entrepreneurs in the community.

- In June 2023, WSU Tri-Cities won the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize for their Empowering the Future Energy Workforce program. This program will help create new academic programs, collaborate with industry, and create entrepreneurial activities.
- WSU Tri-Cities has begun developing new curriculum for a Clean Energy Ambassadors Network that incorporates student research and innovation teams ("incubators") working with faculty and industry mentors to address local challenges related to climate change and its impact on disadvantaged communities.
- With campus research focused on the environment, sustainability and clean energy, along with the need for additional student-industry engagement in those areas, this DOE prize is a catalyst to develop new, or strengthen existing, industry collaborations.

Chancellor Haynes was unable to attend the meeting; however, her Executive Assistant, Pauline Escalera, and Kate McAteer, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, accepted the award for Chancellor Haynes.



## Future Meetings: RSVP on DACdb by the Preceding Thursday

<https://www.dacdb.com/>

- Tuesday, November 21st • Holiday Inn on G. W. Way – 12 noon, District Governor Doreen Kelsey. Please show your support for our District Governor and RSVP on DACdb ASAP!

### *Attendance, A Rotary Commitment*

#### **Meeting Dates of Local Clubs**

Richland	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, Noon Richland Holiday Inn
Pasco/Kennewick	Wednesday, Noon Zintel Creek Golf Club Kennewick
Columbia Valley Daybreak	Thursday, 7 am: Tri-Tech, Kennewick
Columbia Center	Thursday, Noon: Bingo Boulevard Kennewick
Tri-Cities Sunrise	Friday, 7 am: CG Public House Kennewick