

Rotary



Club of Medford Rogue

February 17 Communicator

Medford Rogue Rotary: Chartered April 20, 1977

Bulletin Editor: Ian Foster, plannerfoster@gmail.com

Zoom meeting link: [Click Here For Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 985 6479 3691

Passcode: 022697

Involved Rotarians

Inspirational Moment: Linda Brown

Sergeant at Arms: Davis Wilkerson

Greeters: Paul Christy

Attendance: Danielle Atkinson

Technology: John VanSickle

Song for Today

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

[Click Here for Song](#)

Thanks to Frank Pulver

This Week's Speaker:

Feb. 17: Matt Heverly, Mars exploration engineer and former driver of Mars lander

Topic: Mars Revisited!

Last Week's Speaker:

Dr. Bret Champion, Medford School District Superintendent

Topic: Next Steps for Medford School District

Summary of last week's topic:

Dr. Bret Champion, superintendent of the Medford School District (MSD), provided an update on the district, and how they are navigating the task of reopening their facilities. Campuses will begin opening for in-person instruction starting on February 16. This will be a collaborative and phased approach, with an overall goal that it should be done urgently and responsibly. This last week, as they started orientation, they had more students in the buildings since March 12 of last year.

One important piece to their reopening plan is to ensure their faculty and staff have access to vaccines. At this point, forty five percent of educators are vaccinated with at least the first dose, while twenty one percent are waiting. In order to keep the campuses safe, they have implemented new safety standards that include increased student screening (on-site rapid testing), 6-foot physical distancing protocols (which equates to 35 square feet per student and adult), improved and upgraded air filters and HVAC equipment, and the addition of air circulators.

With all of these measures in place, they will begin the phased reopening plan starting with elementary schools and beginning with grades K-1. By March 1, all elementary students will be back. By March 29, a hybrid model will begin for middle and high school students.

Ultimately, their reopening plan relies on the continuing trend of falling numbers in Jackson County. Right now we are at a high level of numbers, down from extreme. Continuing that trend will lead to eased restrictions on schools.

Feb 24: Randy Sparacino, Medford mayor
Topic: Thoughts From Medford's New Mayor

Health News: Rita Sullivan

Most research on the health benefits of laughter show positive effects. The mental health benefits are well documented. There is evidence that a good guffaw yields immediate and long-term benefits like a stronger immune system, improved mood and reduced stress. There are now laughter exercises and laughter therapy programs. We know that laughter does you good. Best of all it is fun, free and easy to use. Laughter makes you feel good. It improves the quality of life and strengthens the relationships with the people you laugh with. And this positive feeling remains with you even after the laughter stops. Enjoy the fun moments in life they are good for you.

Friendship Zoom Groups

The New Members Committee has created Rotary Friendship Zoom Groups (RFZGs) to enhance our social connections during the Covid restrictions. It will help us expand our Rotary friendships and be especially helpful to our newest members. Zoom Group hosts will send Zoom invitations to those who send an email of interest to join a particular host. Members are encouraged to visit any of the hosted sessions. There are no rules as to frequency, length or topics discussed. But, in general, Rotary avoids political and religious topics.

Here are our Rotary Zoom Group Hosts and their emails. Let them know if you wish to join them for a session. Emmett Armstrong, emmett@metronomeagency.com; Paul Christy, ptc97504@gmail.com; Gary Newland, gdnw@charter.net; Debbie (McHargue) Graunke, dmchargue@hotmail.com; Beth Zerkel, 1bzerk@gmail.com.

Rotary Action Group For Peace

[Click Here For Video](#)

Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus program, By Eric Hodnett, Co-Chair of Polio Committee

District 5110 places an emphasis on Polio during the month of February. With that in mind I thought I would share some information that from a recent issue of the Rotary Magazine.

You may wonder what your donations to the Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus program go toward. One-month last year the Rotary Foundation approved the following grants:

- 19,306 vehicles were hired for frontline workers in Afghanistan
- 90 million doses of oral vaccine
- 12,139 vaccinators were trained in Sudan
- 2,530 community health workers recruited in Pakistan

Remember, all donations to the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus account are matched 2 to 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A \$100 donation generates \$300 toward polio eradication.

Finally, it has been recognized how valuable the polio eradication infrastructure is for other medical responses. Currently this infrastructure is being used in many countries for their Covid-19 response. We should all be proud of that as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions related to Polio eradication.