



THE ROTARY CLUB *of* BELLINGHAM
BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

TATTLE



July 12th, 2010

2010-2011

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Announcements:

President Kathy informed the Club that from time to time she is going to share "factoids", items of information that we should find interesting and that we might all like to know. Her factoid for this meeting related to the Building Communities: Bridging Continents program theme, and in connection with that she shared statistics about area and regional rotary clubs.

Joan Airoidi, on behalf of the Blood Drive Committee, reminded Club members that the next blood drive is September 20th. For those planning to donate then, the last day to safely donate between now and then is July 26th. She urged participation in this very worthy cause.

Brad Burdick reported briefly on the outcome of the member's weekend ascent of Mt. Baker. All who participated succeeded in making the climb. It was a tough

climb but a good time was had by all. A full report on the trip will be forthcoming in two weeks.

Presentations:



Debbie Ahl, classification Insurance-Medicare, was inducted into membership of the Club. She was presented for membership by **Larry Ziels**. For both, this was a special occasion since Debbie is a member of the Ziels family. She is an officer in the Sterling Life Insurance and Olympic Health Management firm and has been a leader in the hospital and health care insurance business for 30 years. The new-member induction was conducted by Past President **Tim Farris**. In his comments he reminded members that it was not many years ago that the first women, **Ann Jones** and **Mary Robinson**, joined our Club and how they have paved the way for the women who have followed.

The Michael K. Mischaikov International Service Award was presented by **Bruce MacCormack** to **Robin Halliday**. Robin was recognized for the work she has been doing in support of a day care center in Guatemala City, a facility that now serves 75 children and 50 youths and adults. This has been a Halliday family commitment, and she cited the strong

Barry Hanson

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Chmelik Sitkin

& Davis, P.S.

Teri Treat

Sage Management

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THIS WEEK'S TEAM:

Editor:

**Matt Hammatt &
Pam Kiesner**

Reporter:

Arlan Norman

support she has received for her efforts from her husband Dan and other family members.

President Kathy, with the help of a film clip from "Groundhog Day", drew attention to **Bruce Clawson** and the fact that he had been mistakenly listed in the new roster as chair of this year's fund raising committee.

Program

The program speaker, State Representative Doug Ericksen (R, 42nd Legislative District), was introduced by **John Macpherson**. John reminded us that he is an engineer and not a lawyer (like his predecessor **Steve Adelstein**), therefore he does not do jokes well.

Ericksen, who is now a candidate for the Senate seat being vacated by Dale Brandland, spoke on his view of the State and State government. Ericksen reminded Club members of the great geographical and economic diversity represented within his legislative district and how that has made for a challenging, but exciting position to hold. He reminded members how in addition to the regular activities he has encountered as a legislator, he has also had some unusual experiences, such as the Evergreen College student protest, or the trash-can banging Kaiser union members who shut down the Legislature, or a humorous case where a group of protesters mistakenly handcuffed themselves to the wrong State building.

Photographer:
Del Vandekerck

Sgt. at Arms:
Tom Grinstad

Invocation:
Rabbi Cindy Enger

Introduction of
Visitors:
Dave Bradley

Greeter(s):
Dale Rings

Raffle Tickets:
Glenn Butler

Music:
Don Anderson

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Representative Ericksen looks back on the past legislative session and sees some "wins", such as defeat of the proposed B & O tax on refinery oil products, the extension of a system of modest tax credits for the Whatcom County Alcoa/Intalco aluminum plant, and the amendments to the bail laws that followed the tragic Lakewood police shootings. On the negative or "not done" side, he cited the budget problems that are looming because the State likely will not get a previously-expected \$460M federal Medicaid subsidy payment. He also mentioned the problems associated with solving a \$5.5B biennial budget problem with one-time funds, an unsustainable solution.

Although there are signs the State economy is recovering, there are still great challenges in how to deal with revenue shortfalls. Ericksen urges strongly that the State get out of certain ventures that could be done in the private sector, such as the State printing office and motor pool operations. However, even though the State has problems to solve, overall he feels we have a good system and if given the chance, can find solutions.

Guests of Rotarians

Robin Halliday introduced her husband Dan



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Club Website
www.bellinghamrotary.org

Teri Treat brought Kyle Rogers with Morgan Stanley and Meg Brown with Toolhouse

Upcoming Program

7/19 Jonathan Hensley - Access to Health Insurance

7/26 Mt. Baker Climb Celebration - Dick Tucker

8/2 Dave Nichols - Stop the War on Drugs

8/9 Dr. James Douglas - Cardiac Surgery

District 5050 Website
www.district5050.org

Club meets
Monday - 12:00 Noon
Northwood Hall



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