



GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Bill Elfo
brought Marvin Wolff

John Macpherson
introduced Peter Theisen

VISITING ROTARIANS

Matt Elich and Frank Zurline
Bellingham Bay Rotary

Pete Kremen
Whatcom North Rotary

Ron Kelley
Mt. Baker Rotary

OPENING REMARKS

President Jim Cunningham opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group. Al Archer delivered the invocation.

BUSINESS NOTES

Stating he had never held a job with so many holidays, President Jim announced that there will be no meeting next week, February 20th, due to Presidents Day.

There will be a new member breakfast, Monday February 27th at 7:00 a.m. at Boss Tweeds.

The Fundraising Committee will meet with co-chairs Kevin Williamson and Matt Hammatt after the meeting on the 27th. This is a large group – please check the list to see if you are included.

Peg Larson placed sign-up sheets at the table for the next “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” scheduled for Friday March 16. Be sure to sign up for this fun event!

President Jim thanked Tom Mercadante, Rod Elin and Phil Gubbins for volunteering to work with the 3 Club Taskforce (with Bellingham Bay and the Sunrise Clubs) on the Food Bank Project.

Gregor Hodgson asked for a show of interest for an evening out on April 1 to include the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and dinner. The cost is estimated to be about \$50 per person and 40 people are needed. If you were unable to attend, but are interested, contact Gregor.

President Jim mentioned that he had received a communication stating that the Garden Street Methodist Church is celebrating its 85th anniversary and is looking for members of Boy Scout Troop 20. If anyone was a member or knows of members, contact Jan Martin or Dwayne Rogge.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 20 – NO MEETING

President’s Day

February 27 - TBD

March 6

Virginia Hunter : “Rotary Music Scholarship Experience 50 years ago in France”

March 13

Gary Goldfogel:
CSI Fact & Fiction

March 20

Gerald Pumphrey, BTC

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Dan Cheney, February 14th

Bob Diehl, February 17th

Fred Kaiser, February 22nd

Rick Wright, February 23rd

Ralph Rinne, February 26th

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Nelson, February 12th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Ron Jepson, February 23rd
2 Years

Bruce Smith, February 26th
10 Years

THIS ISSUE:

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HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

Gragg Miller served as Sgt-at-Arms beginning with a call for Board Members of Horizon Bank: **Bob Diehl, Rick Haggen, Dennis Joines, and Laury Evans**, fining them \$2 each. This recognition was given because of their support of the restoration of the Pickford and also of the Whatcom Historical Society.

Wayne Langei was assessed the same amount in recognition of the Whatcom Educational Credit Union's contributions to numerous local charities.

J. C. Hickman was acknowledged because his wife Mary has been named an Aussie Premier Specialist through affiliation with Bellingham Travel which cost him \$10.

Aaron Booker gave \$10 because "it is always fun to help the local media" through his web hosting service.

Dave Bradley and Peggy Zoro provided \$10 and \$5 respectively in recognition of the new branch of Whidbey Island Bank on Northwest.

With the notification that applications for Law School are declining, lawyers present were asked to provide \$5 each; although it is not clear why. This included **Steve Adelstein, Steve Hager, Chuck Snyder, and Tim Farris**. Somehow **Cleary Cone** escaped unscathed.

Robin Halliday was reappointed to the Washington Technology Center Board of Directors, which she claims was announced already but contributed \$2 in a show of good sportsmanship.

John Moles was named to the Board of Mt. Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Chuck Snyder announced that Teen Court would be covered on the KING-5 Evening Magazine program.

SERVICE FUND DONATIONS

Jules McLeland, Program Manager for the WWU Associated Students Child Development Center, along with sponsor and supporter Mary Robinson, accepted a check for \$1,000. These funds are used to provide support for parents who are students at WWU; 94% of persons in this program are Whatcom County residents. This contribution will provide several hours of child care support for 22 families.



Jules McLeland accepts donation from Service Fund



Kay Sardo accepts Service Fund Donation

Kay Sardo, Director, accepted a check for \$1000 for the Opportunity Council. She stated that the funds will purchase school supplies for low income families and that the timing is good since at this time of year, as supplies are running out. She also mentioned that she was looking through Opportunity Council files and saw the faces of many in the room who support the Council in a number of ways and expressed thanks for both the check as well as for all support.

President Jim stated that the Service Committee is looking for project ideas for the next go-around for support.

BOARD BRIEFS

At the Regular Board Meeting held Thursday, February 9, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Bellingham acted on the following items:

1. Major Projects-Fund Raising – Matt Hammatt reported on fund raising plans for the Bellingham Food Bank Major Projects and they will be announced to the membership soon.
2. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner has been set for March 17th
3. Membership Identification & Retention Committee has been calling members who's attendance falls below 50% with success.
4. Ambassadorial Scholarship Awards applications are being accepted by Jeff Jenkins. The age range for participation is 25-30. Contact Jeff for information
5. Tsunami Relief – Tom Grinstad attended the meeting to present a Major Matching Grant project with Rotary International, District 5050 and the PayLayLai, Suphanburi, Thailand. The committee has found it very difficult to find a project. The Board of Directors approved \$1,500.00 and a grant request will be sent to the RCOB Foundation. They plan to set up a disability service demonstration unit in Suphanburi Province with the purpose to assess special needs of the disabled, introducing facilities, media, services and other forms of educational aids for disabled persons, purchasing and lending educational equipment and facilities to the disabled. The disability service demonstration units are aimed to serve disabled individual, parents, care takers, teachers and other educational persons in Region 5, Thailand. The total grant will total \$11,780.00.
6. Food Bank – Tom Mercadante and Rod Elin have volunteered to participate in the project. Design development has started.
7. Letters of resignation were accepted with regret from Rob Pochert, who has accepted a new job opportunity in Oregon, and Jane Relin, who has accepted a position in Seattle. They also accepted a resignation from Jeff McClure due to his inability to attend meetings because of business pressures and a growing family. He was encouraged to reconsider when things settle down.
8. Letters of Appreciation from:
 - a. Salvation Army for Bell-Ringing participation and we raised \$6,486.60
 - b. Los Ninos del Capitan Fund for \$1,000.00 contribution – Cabo Day Care Center

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2006.

HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

PROGRAM



Speaker Dave McEacheran

David McEacheran, Prosecuting Attorney, spoke about the work done in his office, some of the challenges faced in the criminal justice system and in the community relating to crime.

His office has a staff of 52 people and a number of volunteers.

He outlined each of the department's sections within his office, which are:

1. Civil Division, with 6 attorneys and one investigator. This group represents the County, handles lawsuits, and advises County officials. Part of this work includes non-support paternity and other non-support cases.
2. District Court includes 3.5 attorneys and handles all of the gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors in the county, not within cities. DUI and DV are the greatest percentage of the close to 4,000 cases handled this year. Also included are domestic assault as well as fish and game violations.
3. Juvenile Court is managed by 2 attorneys who handle all juvenile crimes such as minor thefts, up to rapes and serious assaults. This is the only division in which the numbers are decreasing. However, this division still handled 600-800 cases and as the demographics change, this will increase.
4. Superior Court consists of 10 attorneys and handled 2011 cases in 2005, a 16% increase.

The Appellate section and Victim Witness Units are also part of the program and a Sexual Assault Therapist to deal with child victims is an important section as well.

David asked how many persons had been victims of crime, pointing out that there are approximately two burglaries per day in Bellingham; the numbers don't mean much unless you are the victim.

He talked briefly about reasons for crime, including the need for treatment, but pointed out that his opinion is that lack of personal accountability is responsible. He pointed out that drugs, mental problems etc. certainly affect people, but do they make them criminals?

Border problems account for the fact that Whatcom County has a much higher crime rate than most other counties our size. The problems include smuggling and the "Bounce Back Effect" which are the people that are not accepted into Canada and end up here. Also 110-130 fugitives are detained by the Border patrol. These result in our jail problems; failure of the system to have the resources to protect the public from people that break the law. Several examples of crimes that have occurred here illustrated the severity of this. A new jail will help change this pattern.

David then provided memorable slides that included a chart on the increase in crime rate: 5 fold since 1974. He showed the cost increase of BC bud from the border to California and several examples of the planes, boats, trucks and other methods of transportation across the border. Xray machines and dogs are used to detect this trade which amounts to \$7 billion per year in BC.

David concluded by pointing out that the criminal justice system is successful. Most of the people that are prosecuted will never be seen again in criminal justice. Since 6% of the people commit 60% of the crimes, they are the focus of treatment-punishment. The system will continue to be vigilant; there will never be a crime-free society. In response to a question from the audience, David stated that he felt the breakdown of the family unit was a root cause of crime and society must recognize this and deal with it.

Karen Morse was happy for the Rotary donation to the WWU Associated Students Child Development Center and also for the recent WWU basketball victories; the men by a whisker and the women overwhelmingly.

Rick Wright's daughter was married in Seattle last weekend and he spoke for many when he stated that there is no better feeling in the world than watching your daughter on this happy day. (Not to mention buying dinner for 135 guests.)

Susie Thomson-Sines gave \$17 in celebration of 17 years of marriage.

Tommy Thomson gave a thinly-veiled sentimental summary of the costs of raising a daughter and ended with a comment about hoping there will be no foreclosure.

Pat Foley gave \$50 for being nominated for the Whatcom County Business Person of the Year and then added a touch of humor with a joke.

Aaron Booker gleefully stated that as a UC Davis Alum, he read in the newsletter that the team had beat Stanford in football and recognized this with \$2.00.

Tom Mercadante was honored by Stewart Title and taken to dinner as well.

Harold Heiner added to the celebrations by announcing that his son will graduate from Medical School next month.

This Tattler brought to you by:
Erick Laine



TATTLER

February 13, 2006

2005-2006

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1917-2005

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The Tattler
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