



Sunday, February 9, 2025

Club Meetings and Time

The Rotary Club of Mercer Island meets at the **Mercer Island Community & Event Center**
8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

First and Third Tuesdays of the month 12:00 PM - 12:30 - Socializing
12:30 to 1:30 - Meeting and a speaker

A catered lunch by Pogacha (a restaurant on Mercer Island) is available for \$25 or you can bring your own.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
(no cost to visit)

Club Leaders



Benson D Wong
President



Todd White
President-Elect



Judy Clibborn
Vice President



Patricia S. Turner
Secretary



David Thompson
Foundation Director
Treasurer



Walter Boos
Club Foundation President



Julie Hsieh
Club Director - Public Image



Dave Leibman
Club Director - Club Support



Jennifer Lyn McLellan
Club Director
RYLA Club Chair
Youth Service Chair



Robert L. Olson
Club Director - Club Administration



Diane Tien
Club Director - Membership

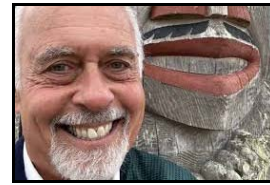


Stuart Scarff
Club Foundation Secretary

WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Spotlight on Mercer Island Rotary



In the latest edition of Greet Magazine, Greg Asimakoupoulos, "The Rev", highlighted how our club helps Mercer Island be seen as a welcoming place to live. Greg also gave another "shout out" to Rotary in his latest "Rhymes and Reasons". Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFkmmek7dd4>



February 18 - Club Meeting Speaker - Frank Blethen, Publisher of The Seattle Times



Seattle Times publisher and CEO Frank Blethen will step down at the end of 2025 after four decades leading the family-owned company, but will retain his position as board chair of The Seattle Times Co.

Blethen led The Times through some of its highs — nine Pulitzer Prizes, including one awarded in 2020 for the paper's coverage of mistakes by Boeing leading to two 737 MAX crashes — and its most difficult lows, including the Great Recession and an industrywide contraction.

A family-owned, daily print newspaper is a rarity in American media, which has faced unprecedented economic collapse. Blethen has been called an eternal optimist, a journalism fanboy and a visionary.

February 18 - New Rotary Member Celebration!

District New Member Celebration

Meet new Rotarians from all over King County
Socialize, network, enjoy free appetizers!

Tuesday Feb 18th
4 to 6:30

Dave & Buster's
11639 NE 4th Street, Bellevue



New Rotarians (joined after January 1, 2024) are invited to a welcome event hosted by Rotary District 5030 (King County).

Connect with fellow new members and district leaders while enjoying complimentary appetizers and networking. Beverages will be available for purchase.

Cost: Free
RSVP Required- space is limited, so don't wait—reserve your spot now.
<https://district5030.org/event-tickets/>

February 26 - FIELD TRIP - Visit to DADS



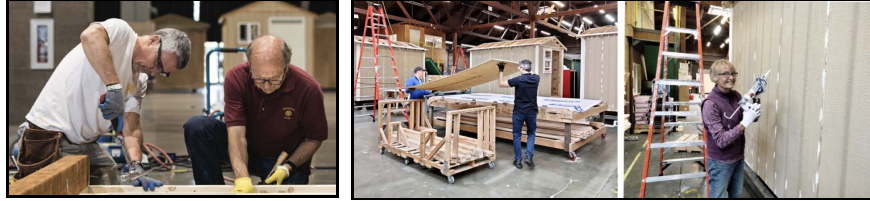
Marvin Charles, the CEO of **DADS**, an organization helping to support fathers and improve parenting skills, has invited our club members to visit their facility.
February 26th - 9:00 to noon.

Marvin will pick up our members from MI Community Center, then drive to their office. We will have a tour, then meet with staff and maybe some of their young father clients.

Because of limited space, RSVP is REQUIRED: If interested, please contact John Hamer: jhamer46@gmail.com

February 22 - SERVICE PROJECT - 4th Saturday Every Month - Help Build a Tiny House

On the fourth Saturday of every month, anyone from our Rotary District 5030 can help build tiny homes. (Bring your family members and friends - must be 16 years of age). This is a great opportunity to meet other Rotarians from around the King County area. Click here to sign up: <https://www.soundfoundationsnw.org/>



February 26 - SERVICE PROJECT - Operation Nightwatch



Prepare food for those in need at Operation Nightwatch in Seattle. 6:00 to 7:45 PM

This is a great project for family and friends. Bring your kids and friends. (Children leave by 7:30 before serving begins)

Contact Todd White to Volunteer.
<http://tdw56@hotmail.com>



What do you want to do to contribute to our club and community?

There are many opportunities to help in our club and in the community. Check out the opportunities listed below and sign up.

Planet Earth Committee



The Rotary Club's **Planet Earth Committee** partners with District 5030 and other clubs on environmental projects.

Their current focus is:

- 1) promoting recycling beyond Recology/Ridwell;
- 2) supporting solar installations on Mercer Island buildings; and
- 3) planting trees (including reforestation) with the Arbor Day Foundation and the City.

They are also exploring projects related to air and water quality, tree preservation, neighborhood recycling, and hazardous waste disposal. The committee meets as

needed. New members are welcome!

Contact Michael Finn, who currently serves as the Committee's chair - mjfinn9@gmail.com, or 206.432.6449.

Parks and Playgrounds Committee



The **Rotary's Parks & Playgrounds Committee** maintains Rotary Park (including events like last fall's "Leaf Art"), collaborates with the City on playground renovations for accessibility and inclusivity, and partners with Mercer Island Preschool Association on the Dragon Park renovation (following the successful Train Park project). The committee also advocates for continued support of Mercer Island parks. This ad hoc committee will meet as needed, starting with an initial organizing meeting convened by John Hamer.

Contact John at jhamer46@gmail.com or at 206.910.7520.

Membership Committee

Our Membership Committee attracts, engages, and retains members by:

Developing membership: Identifying potential members, strategizing for growth, and promoting the club.

Recruiting and engaging: Guiding applicants, explaining Rotary's values, and integrating new members into club activities.



Retaining members: Fostering a positive environment and supporting activities and service projects to bring people together.

Contact Diane Tien dianehtien@gmail.com to find out more.

Community Service Committee



The Rotary Club of Mercer Island seeks a member to lead its **Community Service Committee** and serve on the Board, overseeing the club's service projects.

This role involves coordinating opportunities for members to support community needs through projects like meal preparation (Operation Nightwatch), building tiny homes, a children's clothing laundry program, and Salvation Army bell ringing. New service projects are always encouraged.

The club also needs at least two members to join the committee. The current director, Todd White, will become president on July 1, 2025, so his position as Director will be open. The committee typically meets remotely and doesn't hold

regular meetings.

Contact Todd White to learn more. tdw56@hotmail.com, or at 240.561.4958.

Nominations Committee



The **Nominating Committee** plays a vital role in shaping the leadership of our club. The committee identifies candidates for board of directors and officer positions.

The goal of the committee is to present a slate of candidates in December 2025 who will lead the club beginning in July 2026. Meetings will generally be just in the fall.

If you are a new member or a long-standing member, your voice needs to be heard.

To volunteer, contact Todd White. tdw56@hotmail.com

Golf Tournament



RCMI Annual Golf Tournament

The goal is to raise \$10,000-\$15,000 for the RCMI Foundation for local and international grants.

Date/Location: Monday, July 21, 2025, at Mt. Si Golf Course

Our club members (and friends) are needed to make this event a success.

Immediate Needs:
* Website/Registration interface

- * Design/produce promotional materials
- * Solicitation of sponsors and players (80+ players)
- * Prepare "swag bags"
- * Organize raffle
- * Tournament logistics
- * Design tournament games
- * Day-of registration staffing (4-6 volunteers)

Time Commitment: Meetings will increase as we get closer to the event. Expect at least one meeting per month in February, March, and April (after the regular club meeting).

Contact: Benson Wong bensondwong@gmail.com or 206.940.9294 to volunteer and indicate how you can help!

Pickleball Tournament Committee



The Mercer Island Rotary Club is hosting its first annual Pickleball Tournament, August 22-24, 2025, at Luther Burbank Park, to benefit the RCMI Foundation.

The goal is to raise \$10,000-\$15,000 (net) through entry fees, sponsorships, and a Friday night party (including Dick's Drive-In cheeseburgers!).

The **Pickleball Tournament Committee** (Stuart Scarff, Diane Barrett Tien, Julie Hsieh, Bob Olson, David Thompson, Kim Thunen, Jessica Prince, and Paul Burstein) meets monthly, increasing frequency closer to the event.

Volunteers are crucial! The success of our tournament depends in large part on every club member helping in some capacity.

Help is needed with: marketing materials; sponsorship acquisition; creating sponsor packages; tournament signage; awards; food/beverage trucks; the Friday party (including a pickleball demo); player swag bags; and day-of staffing (check-in, court runners). Contact Stuart Scarff stuart@scarfflaw.com or 206.236.1501 to volunteer.

Grants committees



The **Grants Committees** meet about 3 or 4 times a year to review and recommend grant submissions to our club's foundation.

Grant requests come from a variety of organizations on Mercer Island, in the Seattle area and internationally.

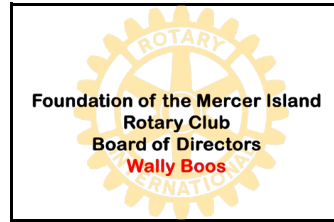
This is a great way to learn about the amazing work people are doing in our community and in the world through the generosity of our

foundation.

Contact Fred Rundle to get involved in the Local and Regional Grants committee. fred.rundle@mercerislandschools.org

Contact Vyvienne Stumbles to get involved in the International Grants committee. vyviennes@ticketstotravel.com

Foundation of the Rotary Club of Mercer Island: Board of Directors



The **Rotary Club of Mercer Island Foundation (Foundation)**, a separate entity from the Rotary Club, funds worthy causes through tax-deductible donations. The Foundation Board, composed of Club members (currently Wally Boos, Stuart Scarff, David Thompson, and Todd White), approves these investments based on proposals from the Club's Local/Regional and International Grants Committees. The Board, which meets roughly monthly, seeks to expand its current four members up to the allowed seven. Any active Club member interested in grant making is welcome to join.

Contact Information - If you would like to learn more, please contact Wally Boos, the Foundation President - wally@bowfits.com or at 206.399.6035.



The **Club Service Committee** helps the club run smoothly by managing many of the club's administrative functions in coordination with the President and Treasurer.

Duties include:

- Setting up and taking down the meeting room materials
- Selling lunch tickets (cash and credit card)
- Ensuring someone is available to handle the AV needs at meetings

Volunteers are needed, especially as occasional "back up".

Contact Dave Leibman to volunteer: linedoctor@gmail.com

Social Committee



The **Social Committee** organizes our fun social gatherings.

Currently, we have a summer party, usually in August, a holiday party in December, and a "changeover" dinner (when the leadership of our club changes) in June.

Sometimes other social events are planned, e.g. happy hour for members and friends, a family picnic, etc.

Contact Benson Wong to volunteer: bensondwong@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: March 14 - Harvest Against Hunger - Annual Fund Raising Event



Every day, millions of pounds of the food grown in the United States goes to waste, while an estimated 1 in 6 children suffer from hunger and food insecurity. In Washington, roughly 2 million people turn to food pantries or hot meal programs to meet a basic human need.

Harvest Against Hunger plays a unique role in the hunger relief system by connecting farmers, transportation providers, produce packers, volunteers and hunger relief organizations to move healthy produce from farms and fields to the plates of those in need.

SAVE THE DATE: July 21 - Mercer Island Rotary's FIRST Golf Tournament

Even if you have not previously attended (or even don't play or even like golf), we need folks to pitch in to make this fundraising effort a success.

If you want to get more involved, please contact Benson Wong at



bensondwong@gmail.com. or by text or phone (206) 940-9294.

SAVE THE DATES: AUG 22-24, 2025 - First Annual Pickleball Tournament



Contact Stuart Scarff to volunteer:
stuart@scarfflaw.com



RESOURCES

Club Website: <https://mirotary.org>

Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MercerIslandRotary>

Club Mailing Address: PO Box 1, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Club Email: rotarymercerisland@gmail.com

Prospective Members and Applications for Membership:
Diane Tien, Director of Membership dianehtien@gmail.com

Have ideas for, or to volunteer for Community Service
Benson Wong, President bensondwong@gmail.com

Financial reimbursement - forms are available online and at the meetings.

- **Reimbursement under \$100:**
Fill out the reimbursement form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with, then give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com
- **Reimbursement over \$100:**
Fill out the pre-authorization form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with. Once pre-approved, complete the rest of the form and give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com

To include something in The Dawn (newsletter), or to change your contact information
Pat Turner, Secretary turner.pat@gmail.com 206-852-4717

To include something on our Facebook Page
Julie Hsieh, Director of Public Image juliehsieh@outlook.com

Birthdays This February and March



[Mark J. Scalzo](#)
February 6th



[Todd White](#)
February 13th



[Terry Lee](#)
February 16th



[Olivia Lippens](#)
February 26th



[Jennifer Lyn McLellan](#)
March 3rd



[Joyce A. Wagar](#)
March 5th



[Daniel Jacobson](#)
March 15th



[David Schiffrin](#)
March 16th



[Kellis Borek](#)
March 21st



[Alan Judy](#)
March 22nd



[Flo Chambers](#)
March 25th



[Linnea Augustine](#)
March 27th



[Fred Rundle](#)
March 27th



[Trina Westerlund](#)
March 30th



[Vyvienne C. Stumbles](#)
March 31st

Years of Rotary Service This Month



Brian E. Jennison
27 Years



Elizabeth Baska
20 Years



Mike Cero
16 Years



Jennifer Lyn
McLellan
7 Years