



Rotary Club of Coeur d'Alene



Rotary Bulletin 10/18/2024

NEXT MEETING October 25, 2024

Meet Our Member (MOM)/ My Rotary Story (MRS)

Meeting at the CDA Resort Golf Course, Hagadone Event Center

ROSE DELIVERY DAY

JOIN MEETING VIA ZOOM: click [here](#).

Presided.....PRESIDENT ASHLEY LENZ

Invocation.....MARK OLSON

Greeter.....MARIE PRICE

Sergeant at Arms.....JOE RIGHELLO

GUESTS

We had the following guests:

- Kim & Rick Durbin hosted by Tarie Zimmerman
- Briana Francis hosted by Jody Azevedo
- Jessica Anthony & Ty Sisk hosted by Max Mendez
- Genevive Edman hosted by Jim Faucher
- Erika & John Mayshar hosted by Bernie Rosen
- Barbara Botterbusch, wife of Mark Botterbusch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOMORROW:

FALL HIGHWAY CLEANUP will take place on October 19th at 7:30am. Meet to fuel up at Starbucks on 210 W. Ironwood Way in CDA and we will head out from there. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES, safety vests and bags will be provided. Bring your family! Cleanup should last about an hour.

Speakers

Club Leaders



[Ashley Lenz](#)
President



[K. John Young](#)
Club Director
President - Elect



[Rebecca Eyman](#)
Club Director
Secretary



[Brian C. Shull](#)
Treasurer



[Ian Hicks](#)
Club Director
International Service
Chair



[Kiki Miller](#)
Club Director

[Emily Moses](#)
Club Director

LARRY GILL announced the November 2nd family-friendly club service day held at Camp Lutherhaven on Mica Bay, Coeur d'Alene Lake. Work/games/team-building from 9am-12:30pm and lunch will be provided. It will be a great time!

DAN CRAWFORD thanked the club for their support of Disaster Aid USA. He was in southern Florida for two weeks mucking and gutting six homes. Dan said that parts of St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Siesta Key are decimated. Also, Disaster Aid has two teams in Western North Carolina where the reports are horrific of the damage and continued humanitarian disaster. Please pray for the Appalachian mountain area and Asheville communities.

MAREN MAIER announced the downtown CDA Harvest Festival tomorrow, Saturday, October 19 from 10am-3pm. They could use volunteers if you are willing to help out.

ROSE SALE UPDATE

Rose Sale Pickup/Delivery Day is Friday, October 25 starting at 9am at the Hagadone Event Center at the CDA Resort Golf Course.

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 23 Greg Helbling

Oct. 24 Caiti Bobbitt

PROGRAM

HEIDI ROGERS introduced Sam Wolkenhauer with the Idaho Department of Labor who gave an update on the Economic Situation and Labor Force Outlook for our region.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Wolkenhauer explained that 18 months ago, many economists expected a recession. In 2021-22, inflation spiked after the pandemic, exacerbated by the global supply chain disruption and stimulus checks provided to U.S. citizens. We live in a consumer driven economy where 85% of the economy is household spending. The price of goods have increased, most notably groceries up 30-40%, and prices will not come back down. To date, inflation has been at sub 3% for the past six months. The Federal Reserve (FED) will begin to bring interest rates down, but rates will not be back to 2.5% anytime soon. For now, inflation has been brought down without triggering a recession.

In our region, and across the U.S., rent burdens are HIGH. Credit card debt is over \$1 trillion, yet delinquency rates are low. Prices on goods are high, and personal savings is low. Consumers keep spending with personal consumption up. This situation will hold stable, if the labor market remains steady. Currently, the labor market is strong with low unemployment. We are on the tail end of a four-year uncertain economy, but it looks to be holding steady. What would be a cause for concern is if layoffs began in the economy, combined with the high cost of housing, goods, and consumer debt.

LABOR FORCE OUTLOOK

Job creation has been slowing and on a steady decline over the past few years. Locally, job growth has hit a plateau and has been flat for 12 straight months. Fewer people are quitting their jobs and wage growth is down. Unemployment is around 3% and there has not been a rise in unemployment claims or layoffs so far. Overall, the labor market is softening, which is more reflective of the 2018-19 labor market. The labor market is settling back into where it was pre-pandemic, rather than the abnormal post-COVID tightness when 20 million people were laid off.

Historically, what has been driving the labor force growth were the baby boom (boomers), rising work rates among women and rising work rates among older Americans, with later retirements. The year 2020 was the first that more people in the U.S. turned 65 than turned 18. This has caused a direct correlation in a changing demographic with the number of workers per retiree, and the numbers entering the workforce continuing to decline. Currently, the labor force is about one-third and by 2050, it will be closer to a 2:1 ratio. It is difficult to meet the labor demand currently, and immigration is actually what is fueling the labor force growth.

There are slow-burning demographic issues at hand that are the cause of the labor shortage. Birth rates began to fall in the 1960s, and 20 years later there was a slowdown in the labor force. More than 65 years later, there is a large negative effect on the labor force as the native-born workforce has been stagnant or falling. At the same time, the foreign-born (immigration) labor force has been growing. Absent immigration, the U.S. labor force would not grow. Pre-COVID, 800,000 people were retiring per year. We have a "demographically exhausted country" today, as the number of people retiring is reaching 1.5 million per year. By 2030, the death rates may outnumber the birth rates.

So, how does the U.S. increase the labor force? Where are we going to get workers?

1. Automation
2. Immigration
3. Raise the Birth Rate



[Mark Olson](#)
Club Director



[Larry Riley](#)
Public Relations Chair
Club Director



[Ann Thomas](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Britt Towery](#)
Bulletin Editor



[Chris L. Cheeley](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Hank Martin](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Larry Gill](#)
Community Service
Chair



[Maren Maier](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Wanda Chillingworth
Quinn](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Jennifer W Wood](#)
Webmaster



[Doug Rupiper](#)
iPast President

Countries like Japan and China that have not sought out immigration and have wanted to remain “ethnically homogenous” have had to tackle such labor force shortages. Those countries' tactics have been to increase automation and invest heavily in robotics. In countries like Norway and Hungary, they have tried to incentivize an increase in birth rates with little to no success.

For more information on Idaho's workforce, visit LMI.IDAHO.GOV. Reach out directly at Samuel.Wolkenhauer@labor.idaho.gov or (208) 457-8789 ext. 4451.

You can view the presentation slides [here](#).

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

11/1 Matt's Place Foundation & Adaptive Technologies - Theresa Whitlock-Wild and Andy Barrett

11/8 Veterans Program

11/15 Idaho Conservation League

11/22 Rotary 5080 District Governor

11/29 NO MEETING-Thanksgiving holiday

In Service,

BRITT TOWERY

