

North Notes

Spokane-North Rotary Club

November 25, 2024

Calendar:

Dec. 2: Noon luncheon at the Bark. **Speaker:** Rotary District 5080 Gov. Lorne Westnedge.

Announcements:

- Coordinator **Lenore Romney** distributed gift tags for the club's "\$60 for 40" holiday program for needy families at Holmes Elementary School. All gifts are due at the Dec. 16 luncheon.
- **Scott and Janine McKorkle** will host the club holiday party 6-8 p.m., Dec. 20. Sign-up sheets are available now. The party is BYOB and includes secret gifts and a cookie exchange.

Happy Bucks:

- **John Mailliard** was happy that a handyman, working on short notice on a Sunday, solved a leaky roof over a dryer vent.
- **Janine McKorkle** was happy that she and Scott have moved to Spokane, since storms in the Issaquah area were without power for several days during the recent high winds and rain.
- **Ron Noble** was happy for a tasty meatloaf lunch and also that Sheila Fritts "came to our club."
- **Teresa Flegel** was just happy to be here.

Newest club member: Paulette Burgess

President-elect **Melinda Keberle** and close friend **Sheila Fritts** welcomed attorney **Paulette Burgess** to our club at the Nov. 25 luncheon.

Paulette is a graduate of Cal State in Los Angeles and Eastern Washington University and the Washburn University of Law in Kansas. She has a law office in Stevens County and works with contracts and as a public defender.

She listed her interests as journalism and free-lance writing and traveling, adding she "likes to meet like-minded people."

In her introduction, Sheila said Paulette "speaks two languages and has worked with the Rio Grande Legal Aid office."

Sheila added about Paulette: "As a friend, she is present, compassionate, helpful and honest...both highly intelligent and deeply compassionate."



“Paulette embodies the values of Rotary in every aspect of her life.”

Class acts: Scott and Janine McKorkle

The Issaquah Rotary Club’s loss is our club’s gain as longtime Rotarians Scott and Janine McKorkle moved to Spokane last year to be nearer to family.

Program chairman Bill Simer interviewed Scott and Janine for an extended classification talk.

Scott and Janine grew up in Wheaton, Ill., in the western Chicago area. Scott said his high school had notables ranging from Chicago Bear Red Grange to the John and Jim Belushi family of television and movie fame. Janine’s family had moved from Coos Bay, Ore., to Illinois via Lompoc, Cal.

Both Scott and Janine graduated at the University of Illinois, where they met. Scott said he started to major in architecture, “but I was not an artist,” and switched to computer science, then a relatively new major, at “a time the country was desperate for engineers.”

Janine studied in ornamental horticulture --“a program which no longer exists” – and worked in floral shop management, specializing in weddings and events. She left the florist trade soon after their son was born, then went into teaching preschool as he grew older.



Scott said he “was on the leading edge of developing computer products no one heard of,” but his sales work “took him around the world.” He spent the last 15 years of his career at IBM, “but I don’t brag about it,” adding, “it was a good firm to retire from.”

While Scott has been in Rotary since the early 2000’s, Janine said her teaching conflicts prevented her from joining Rotary until 2018. That was when the club changed from having noon meetings every week to having two noon meetings each month and two evening meetings at a local pub.

When Simer noted that Scott’s Rotary badge lists “wood worker,” Scott said he now builds furniture as his favorite retirement hobby.

Janine also talked about her pet rabbit and how she uses bunny photos to as a teaching aid while volunteering at the preschool classes at both Roosevelt and Holmes Elementary Schools.

Given the long active service of their Rotary years, we asked Scott and Janine to share thoughts about their involvement with the organization.

For them, Rotary has primarily been about giving back to the community, through committed service to the local food bank, blood donations, and helping area youth in a number of ways.

Secondarily, they have worked for the betterment of their club. Emphasis has always been on looking for ways to build the club’s own sense of community and awareness within the greater community it serves.

Bulletin editors: Chuck Rehberg and Scott McKorkle. Photos by Sandy Fink.