

North Notes

Spokane-North Rotary Club

December 2, 2024

Calendar:

Dec. 9: Noon luncheon at the Bark. **Speaker: Bill Simer** on our club charitable fund.

Announcements:

- At the Dec. 2 luncheon, following the recommendation of a board subcommittee, a district grant request will be submitted for a special welding machine for students at Glover Middle School. President **Melinda Keberle** said the \$3,500 device would be the first of its type at a middle school in the state.
- Remember: Gifts for the club's "\$60 for 40" holiday program for needy families at Holmes Elementary School are due at the Dec. 16 luncheon. **Lenore Romney** is coordinating.
- Hosts **Scott and Janine McKorkle** distributed bags for secret gifts for the club holiday party 6-8 p.m., Dec. 20. The party is BYOB and includes secret gifts and a cookie exchange.
- Several members have signed up to help tear down holiday decorations at the Spokane Fairgrounds on Dec. 20 from 9 to Noon.

Happy Bucks:

- Club visitors shared their happiness, including Ron and Gwen Margolis of Princeville, Kawai, Hawaii. Ron, president of the Hanalei Bay Rotary Club, won our weekly ticket draw and donated \$12. They are visiting grandchildren in Spokane.
- Rotary District Gov. **Lorne Westnedge** of Nelson, B.C., and Assistant Gov. **Maggie Crawford** of Spokane also donated some happiness.
- **Sheila Fritts** and **Laura Zahn** also shared some happiness.
- **Melinda Keberle** was happy son Landen was named as an honorable mention football player at Lewis and Clark and named offensive lineman of the team.

From Spokane to Zambia

Approval has been secured for a nursing scholarship for Annastazia Kaira, a Rotarian at the Rotary Club of Kasama Central. She was reached through connections with a friend of Sheila Fritts. Lenore Romney and Sheila coordinated the scholarship, shared by our club and another club of Sheila's.

Club gets a good report card

The Spokane North Rotary Club got high marks when District Gov. Lorne Westnedge visited at the Dec. 2 luncheon.

Joining Lorne was wife, Dorothy, and Assistant Gov. Maggie Crawford, of Club 21, who supervises District 5080 Areas 7 and 8, covering clubs in the Spokane area.



Key annual goals for Spokane North exceeded in recruiting new members – five this Rotary year, a goal met in less than half of the year – and Rotary Foundation support, where 72 percent of club members contribute, compared with an RI average of 46 percent.

Board members set a new goal – adding five more new members to a total of 30, by June 30, 2025.

Area Governor Maggie Crawford “We want to celebrate what your club has done,” Westnedge said. Following “America the Beautiful,” Dorothy Westnedge helped sing “Oh, Canada,” for the couple from Nelson, British Columbia.

Before digging into the numbers, Lorne talked about his own story.

Not highly motivated to go to college, after high school he said he took a six-month job at a credit union, then traveled elsewhere to other jobs. But 15 years later, he said, adding “it’s tough to leave home,” Westnedge came home to a new job in sales and, in 1993, was asked to join a Rotary Club.

He said he served on that first credit union’s board of directors for 20 years, including four as chairman, thanking Rotary connections along the way.



District Governor Lorne Westnedge and Dorothy Westnedge

Rotary District 5080 has 57 clubs in Eastern Washington, North Idaho and southeastern British Columbia.

While Rotary membership and financial contributions reduced during Covid years, he said growth worldwide is growing.

“We want you to have a good time at Rotary,” Westnedge said, noting that didn’t seem to be a problem at this meeting. Acknowledging seniors, he added, “We need old people, not just old people, but a good mix of folks.”



He suggests that clubs “set 13 goals for club excellence – make that 16, in case you don’t make a few goals.” Westnedge, at a board meeting following the luncheon, also suggested that the club “create a three-year Rotary plan” to help future growth.

Board members told the governor how well our Rotary rotation of quarterly club presidents has worked and how we are eager to achieve our first district grant. Westnedge said some money for grants were not funded “to some extent last year, but that should not be the case this year.” Deadline is April 15 to submit plans.

He said RI has a goal of \$2.025 billion next year to reach a bequest commitment. The current bequest total is \$1.7 billion, he said.

Celebrating our club’s successes and the theme of “The Magic of Rotary,” Westnedge said, “Your club has created magic. Don’t be afraid of big dreams.”

Bulletin editors: Chuck Rehberg and Scott McKorkle. Photos by Scott McKorkle and Janine McKorkle.