

Rotary Club of Olympia
The Wheel
Date: 03/03/25

Today's Program: OAR: Olympia Area Rowing

Meeting Called to order: President Corrina @ 12:25pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by: David Stock

Four Way Test led by: Christy Peters

Visiting Rotarians:

Assistant District Governor - David Brooks

Guest of Rotarians:

Several guests joined us today, including a few potential members.

Announcements:

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - the club helped the effort raise \$2,000 more this year than the year before.

Camp Thunderbird - Bob Wubbena shared that March 21 and 22 will be the next volunteer work party to continue the construction work funded by the district grant. If possible, please join between 9am-1pm.

Auction - Steve Bean, back from recovering from surgery, helped auction off a box of local spirits and snacks. Cindy Zechmann and Corey Gauny combined their efforts to win.

25th Anniversary Paul Harris Dinner - The annual Paul Harris Dinner. It is the 25th anniversary of the event. Paper registration forms are available, if needed. To register online go to: www.paulharrisdinner.com For every member who is in attendance, you will get 100 Paul Harris points toward your next Paul Harris level. The date this year is March 20. The venue is Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

Happy Bucks:

Gretchen Sturtevant - announced that Fred Goldberg gave \$500 toward the club in honor of Steve Bean's successful recovery and return to the club.

Judy Henderson - gave her birthday check and shared that every year on her birthday she has a dinner and asks guests to bring a children's book. She donated one of those books today during the meeting.

Kristin Taylor - celebrated her 59th birthday yesterday.

Corrina Phillips - celebrated her birthday recently. She also brought a book for the literacy project that her niece wrote.

Cyndi Zechmann - gave an update that Jim Balz is recovering and that while he is getting better he will be absent from club meetings for a few weeks and will return.

Chuck Fowler - celebrating his birthday this week.

Program: OAR: Olympia Area Rowing

Amanda V introduced Victoria Tkacz, head coach and Alex Smith, board chair. Amanda shared that her family moved to the area and kept seeing these 'OAR' signs. It took them months to figure out what Olympia Area Rowing was. Now her son has been participating for several years. Formed in 1998 OAR has programs for both adults and youth.

Alex gave some background on the club including the mission and organization goal(s). Officially formed in 1998 Bill Cullen, Les Eldridge and others were instrumental in forming the club. The first location was a chain link area with about six boats. The club now has its own boat house that was recently built. It is a focal point for the club, both as functional storage for boats and supplies as well it serves as a gathering place. The boathouse was designed by Gloria Van Dusen. OAR's budget is funded by memberships, boat storage fees and fundraising. The only paid staff are the coaches.

Youth Programs are offered year round both actual rowing programs as well as programs designed to expose youth to rowing off the water. Adult options include private lessons and group lessons. No participant needs to have any experience to become a member and to learn how to row.

Victoria grew up in New Jersey where she swam, rowed and ran cross country in high school. She attended Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, FL. During her time at JU, the team went on to win four out of five consecutive MAAC conference championships, as well she helped the team earn four out of five consecutive D1 NCAA championship appearances. Victoria graduated with a BA in Kinesiology.

After graduating Victoria held several coaching positions before being recruited to take on the head coach position at OAR. Victoria shared more in dept information about the

different programs, her coaching philosophy and ways youth and adults can engage with OAR.

Victoria and Alex took several questions from club members.

The meeting was recorded, if you would like to see the recording, please contact President Corrina.

Mr. Snappy: Al Cohen won a \$35 gift certificate at the Curry House Restaurant donated by Bret Anderson.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:15 pm by President Corrina.