

Rotary Club of Olympia
The Wheel
Date: 03/24/25

Today's Program: Higher Education in Thurston County - SPSCC, TESC, St. Martin's University

Meeting Called to order: President Corrina @ 12:17pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by: President Corrina

Four Way Test led by: President Corrina

Visiting Rotarians:

None today

Guest of Rotarians:

Several guests to support the Golden Bear nominee and our speakers

Announcements:

Auction - Steve Bean auctioned off Oscar Soule's famous BBQ sauce and tickets to a ballet in Seattle.

Golden Bear - Reagan - nominated by the OHS librarian. As the nominator the librarian shared Reagan's story of starting as a part-time student her freshman year and the academic/personal growth she experienced throughout high school. Reagan thanked the club and shared that after she graduates from high school will move to Colorado to pursue a degree in Social Work.

Ralph Munro - Cindy Hough shared some details and memories about the last few weeks of Ralph Munro's life. He passed last Thursday very peacefully and comfortably surrounded by his family. Cindy also shared about all the ways in which Ralph served and benefited our community and the state. Cindy and Natalya Ruble put together a slideshow presentation for today's meeting as a way to honor Ralph's life and legacy. The celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 28. The time and location are TBD.

Happy Bucks:

Jen Boeltz - happy about the club scholarship process, the increase in the award amounts and addition of the Golden Bear Scholarship (\$3,000, open to the Golden Bear nominees)

Christy Peters - Shared an update about the literacy project/program and The South Sound Reading Foundation.

Amanda Bielawski - Shared about how local Rotarians celebrated the UN's National Water Day on Saturday.

Judy Henderson - sad that we've lost Ralph Munro as a club member, community member and friend. In honor of Ralph today she wore her Rotary vest used to identify Rotarians working on international projects.

Osca Soule - called for club members to help support Mr. Snappy prizes.

Hunter Sipe - invited club members to the annual GROWL auction/ceremony honoring OHS athletes.

Nate Peters - St. Martin's University raised a record setting amount during their day of giving. He also shared that club member, Kelly Green, has officially filed to run for reelection to retain her seat on the Olympia City Council. He encouraged club members to get to know and support Kelly.

Program: Higher Education in Thurston County

Nate Peters introduced Tim Stokes, President of SPSCC, John Carmichael, President of The Evergreen State College and Bill Brownsberger, President of St. Martin's University. Nate shared some prepared prompts/questions for each of the presidents to answer as a way to structure the panel discussion.

All shared the positive news around expanding current programs and positive movement in enrollment growth. They were honest about the challenges ahead for each of their institutions. It is clear that our community has a very healthy higher education sector. To conclude their time the panel took questions from club members.

The meeting was recorded. Contact President Corrina for the recording.

Mr. Snappy: Kelly Green won a \$30 gift certificate to the Olympia Seafood Company donated by Jim Young.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 pm by President Corrina.