

the wave



May 2020

A Conversation about our Club Foundation

*Scott James is currently President of our own **Edmonds Rotary Foundation**, which is a separate entity from the **Rotary International Foundation**. He recently interviewed Doug Purcell, who assisted as an attorney and member, in setting up our Foundation in its present form. In order to provide members with a better understanding of how our Foundation works and why, he has submitted the following:*

Scott: *How did our Edmonds Rotary Foundation get started?*

Doug: The concept of the Club Foundation had been around for quite a while. The original non-profit was actually formed in 1994 by Dick Cole, an attorney in the Club. It didn't really get off the ground until several years later, when a couple of Club members started thinking about additional options to raise funds. Over the years, we had received donations of one kind or another. We felt we could increase that activity if the Club had a fund raising vehicle where donors could receive a tax deduction. We started working on the paperwork in the early 2000s and the Club Foundation received its 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS in 2003.

Scott: *Why did Edmonds Rotary Club create the Edmonds Rotary Foundation?*

Doug: By being a 501(c)(3) organization, we had a place for both non-members and members to make tax deductible donations, increasing the likelihood for additional funds. That type of organization is also eligible for many types of grants from foundations and businesses that won't otherwise consider the grant.

Scott: *What was the initial purpose / mission / objective of our Foundation?*

Doug: The primary purpose was to create a vehicle to accept tax deductible donations and use the funds collected to support the community and causes to which we as Rotarians were committed.

Scott: *How are decisions made to dispense funds?*

Doug: I need to go a little legal on you here. A 501(c)(3) organization has to have an independent board of directors that makes decisions based on the best interests of the organization. In other words, to be IRS qualified, we could not just say that the Foundation would do whatever the Club told it to do. In the process of setting up the IRS qualification in early 2000s, there was some difference of opinion as to how independent the Foundation board should be, with a few of the strong Foundation supporters wanting a completely independent board, making its own decisions on how to dispense the funds and, on the other side, many who were unwilling to untie the Foundation from those causes and projects that were important to the Club.



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A Conversation *(continued from page 1)*

The great majority of the Club wanted a way to tie the two Boards together, while still meeting the legal mandate of an independent board. So, we do have two boards, the Foundation Board and the Club board, and each is its own decision making body. Our creative solution to the tension between the legal requirement and the desires of the Club was addressed by creating a board for the Foundation that consisted of five members, three of which were Club officers and two of which were elected by the members of the Foundation (whom I might add are defined as all members of the Rotary Club of Edmonds) as directors at large.

When it comes to dispensing Foundation dollars, the Club Board votes to support a project, such as Trinity Place and makes a recommendation to the Foundation board. Since a majority of the Foundation board are, by definition, officers of the Club, the Foundation Board generally accepts the Club's recommendations and votes to disperse the dollars as so recommended.

So the short answer to your question is: The Club Board, while not "mandating" to the independent Foundation Board, generally has the final say as to where the dollars go.

Scott: *What can you tell me about some of the impacts our Foundation has had?*

Doug: The Foundation has proved to be a very effective mechanism for us to provide some, if not all funding, to many causes over the years. As examples, our Foundation has provided funds for Kids in Transition, Edmonds Veteran's Plaza, Edmonds public restroom, Cocoon House, Trinity Place, the Gambia Literacy Project and the Annual Guardian Ad Litem gift program. The Foundation provides a very effective conduit for tax exempt donations, whether through general gifts or donations which are directed to specific projects or uses.

Scott: *In your opinion, which of these impacts is the most significant?*

Doug: Scholarships and, on a world stage, we were able to raise over \$9,000 for the tsunami victims several years ago, but mostly scholarships.

Scott: *Why?*

Doug: In the past several years, as Club direct funding has been reduced, the scholarship program has relied more and more on "charitable" giving, such as the "Raise the Paddle" at our auctions. These funds come directly to the Foundation and the vast majority of the Foundation funds have been paid out for scholarships. Our Club has a long history of making a commitment to the youth in our community and one of the best means of support is helping to provide for their continued education.

Scott: *Thank-you Doug for sharing your thoughts on our Foundation. Any last thoughts you would like to share with our readers?*

Doug: The Foundation is an effective tool for allowing our members and the community to participate, on a tax preferred basis, to support the projects and causes which are so important to us as Rotarians. With that thought in mind, I would like for our members to think of our Foundation as a viable recipient of the charitable dollars which they, and their friends and neighbors are contributing every year. Our Foundation rolls most of those donations right back into our community, where the donors can see directly the impacts they have on the recipients.

From Maggie Peterson...

I am sorry to bring you the sad news that our beloved Rotarian and friend, Jose Longoria, has passed away. I received a call from their close family friend, Linda Black, this morning. I don't have details, but I know that Jose was struggling these past few days, and his wife, Yolanda, had called an ambulance just a few days ago due to Jose's choking issues. He had been experiencing a high level of anxiety as well. I know that he did not go to the hospital at that time, and it's my understanding, though I can't be sure as I have few details, that he died at home in the loving arms of his devoted and heartbroken wife, Yolanda.



Trinity Place Work Party

Saturday, May 16 - 9:00am

Yard cleanup/ planting

Bring Your Own Tools

Remember to wear your mask!

Check out the Festival of Training

Since the District Conference was canceled due to Covid-19, the District has creatively put together a number of "workshops", or courses you can experience online. This will help to build leadership in our club.

Go to the District 5030 website for course information and Registration.

Hunkered In

The self-quarantine lament
Where people's days are sadly spent
All so very much alone
Staring at their little phone.

Some sit and think of ditties
Declaring silently, "How witty!"
Then they read them back aloud
Realizing they shouldn't be so proud!

The hunkered-in quarantine lament
Soon will be a huge torment.
Folks at one another's throats
Screaming, flailing, seeking antidotes!

Calm now....

Eyes glazed, some seek television
Then realize their vapid decision.
Others may drink into oblivion
And awaken to tremors of delirium.

How much time will thus will be spent
In this isolationist lament?
Weeks? Months? Years? Alone?
Such thought and words should make you moan.

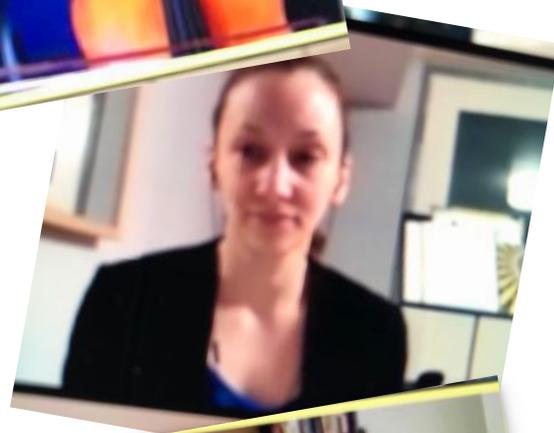
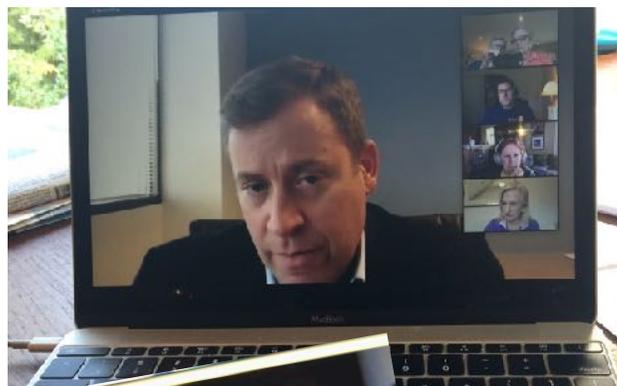
And yet suddenly things are looking up
Someone sent some pix of their little pup.
Another sent some upbeat shouts.
Now, what was it that I worried about?

Get a grip; don't be so distraught
Ignore pessimism from the overwrought!
This too shall pass!
(Or, so I thought....)

John Magnuson, 2020

ZOOM meetings continue

Recent meetings have included Mayor Mike Nelson, top photo, with some insight into "Edmonds in the time of Covid-19". Rose Gear and David Tan represented the ECA, which is one of the community areas that receive our financial support. David definitely brought joy with a lovely cello concert. Former Congressman Brian Baird enlightened us with some of the difficulties of maintaining strong Government functions - and some suggestions to make it better. We try to make time in meetings for members to socially connect. Some meetings, like Cinco de Mayo, and Bring Your pet Day, aim for a little social fun and stress relief as well. If you still need help connecting, contact David Kaufer.



Pat Shields, Karen Barnes, and Larry Fuell continue to help out at an almost overwhelmed Edmonds Food Bank

Current HAH COVID-19 Response Work

Enhanced Core Work

- 14 truckloads in the past week – 6 from Food Forward in LA.
- Transportation assistance for 7 non-HAH loads (Taylor Driving Schools)
- Partnering with WA Trucking Association to engage trucking support for USDA, WSDA, HAH and other loads.

Harvest VISTA Program

- AmeriCorps VISTA repositioned to provide direct service.
- \$25 Billion in additional funding for CNCS to expand new programs and bring selected programs like Harvest VISTA to scale.
- HAH will participate in national training to highlight how CNCS programs can be combined for greater impact (VISTA, Associates & NCCC).

HAH COVID-19 Response – What can you do?

Support your local food bank

- Donate funding
- Volunteer if you are able (211 information)

Support Harvest Against Hunger

- Share connections and networks
- Donate funding
- <https://www.harvestagainsthunger.org/covid-19-resource-page/>

Be an advocate!

- Contact your local representatives
- Advocate among your friends and associates

Rotary First Harvest becomes Harvest Against Hunger

David Bobanick explained how this important longstanding District project continues, with an updated name, to work to connect food producers with local food banks. Our club also continues to donate \$300 in food to HAH on behalf of each speaker to our meeting. We also help at work parties time to time as needed to divide bulk food into serviceable packages before handing off to the food banks. The program has provided a model for similar Rotary projects across the country.

From the Editor...

Hopefully you are still mostly sheltering in place, and maintaining your sanity and sense of humor along with good health. One of my stay at home projects is to wade through a collection of way too many “great” photos of more cathedrals, etc, than I could ever even remember the name of. So far I’ve completed one album of grandchildren (my daughter’s little ones) covering 15 years of their lives so far. I also came across these two photos of my “adult” children long before they became parents themselves. It was on a trip to France.

Aside from the 90’s fashion (including those fanny packs, which may even be back in style again!), it reminded me of the importance of family in bringing joy into our life, and how recollection of fun moments can help us through difficult times.

Seeing my “grown” son add his silly element to our photo on the Riviera beach reminds me that even though change happens as a part of life - like growing up - there will always be some continuity with the past. Your kids will always be your kids in some way after all, even when they grow up. In the same way, even though so much will be changed from this pandemic, for the most part there will be a resumption of life as we knew it. There will be changes, but there will also be continuity. Believe that. And finally, there’s humor. Without humor we would not survive all that is happening around us now. Of that I’m convinced. From YOU TUBE to SNL, to jokes sent by friends, and even smiles in ZOOM meetings, it is a necessary tool that helps us endure.

Whether you’re together or social distancing, reach out to family to let them know you care. Maybe reach out to be “family” to someone who has none.

Try to keep some regularity and continuity in your daily routine. Open up to change, but refuse to accept chaos as the new state of being. And above all, take some time in the day to laugh, at least to smile. Look at a few old photos, of yourself maybe – that should make you laugh.

Pat Thorpe, Editor
c’est finis

