

GREATER YAKIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACTION REPORT

Quarterly News Magazine - Oct • Nov • Dec 2017

GREATER YAKIMA
Chamber of Commerce



BLACK & WHITE

GALA PRESENTATION OF THE
TED ROBERTSON COMMUNITY SERVICE
AND ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

October 12th, 2017 - Reception: 6:00pm

Dinner and Awards Presentations: 7:00pm

Yakima Convention Center

\$85/PERSON - or - \$680/TABLE OF 8



Honoring the Ted Robertson Community Service

Award Recipient Rick Pinnell

AND The 2017 Chamber Award Nominees for: "Volunteer of the Year"

"Non-Profit of the Year" "Emerging Business of the Year"

"Member of the Year" & "Business of the Year"

Register online at www.yakima.org or call 509.248.2021

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Also in this issue: • *Building a 21st Century Workforce*
• *Seattle's Minimum Wage Wager* • *Renewing Members and*
New Members • *President's Message - Message from the Chair*

GREATER YAKIMA

Chamber of Commerce



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2017 Chamber Award Nominees

Congratulations! Winners will be announced at the 2017 Chamber Awards on October 12th - Register to attend at www.yakima.org or call 509.248.2021

Chamber Volunteer of the Year

Jon Ison - Chair VMAC Veteran and Military Affairs Committee
Kristi Foster - Board of Directors
Bob Gerst - Board of Directors

Non-Profit of the year

Habitat for Humanity, Yakima Valley Partners
Yakima Humane Society
Love INC of Yakima

Emerging Business of the Year

Hoptown Pizza
Jose Miguel Puro, LLC.
Hop Nation Brewing Company



GYCC Member of the Year

HUB International Northwest
Dr. Yami Cazorla-Lancaster
Kellie Connaughton - Yakima Greenway Foundation

Business of the Year

Cowiche Canyon Kitchen & Icehouse Bar
John I. Haas, Inc.
Virginia Mason Memorial

ON THE COVER

"Chamber Awards"

Photo by Thane Phelan

Action Report Layout & Design by: Amy O Graphics & Thane Phelan



10 N. 9th St.
Yakima, WA. 98901
(509)248-2021
www.yakima.org

Executive Committee Members

Chair: Rich Austin, *Yakima Sports Commission*
Immediate Past Chair: Joe Mann, *Ron's Coin & Collectibles*
First Vice Chair: Bob Gerst, *John I Haas*
Second Vice Chair: Kristi Foster, *Wheatland Bank*
Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Price-Scott, *Alegria & Company, P.S.*
Past Chair Advisor:
Past Chair Advisor:
Legal Counsel: Don Boyd, *Carlson Boyd & Bailey PLLC*
President/CEO: Verlynn Best, *Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce*

Board of Directors

Jon DeVaney, *Washington State Tree Fruit Association*
Jack "JD" Bewley, *McDonalds of Yakima*
Steve Mercy, *Yakima Theatres*
Natash Trudeau, *Pexco Aerospace*
Bertha Alicia Garza, *Centro de Servicios Comunitarios*
Terry Wheat, *Gesa Credit Union*
Tami Cain, *Central Pre-Mix Concrete Co.*

Ex-Officio Members

Dominic Rizzi, *Yakima Chief of Police*
Ron Anderson, *Yakima County Commissioner*
LTC Jarret Mathews, *Post Commander - Yakima Training Center*
Craig Dwight, *YV Tech*
Maria DJ Rodriguez, *RDRC*
Greg Stewart, *State Fair Park*
John Cooper, *Yakima Valley Tourism*
Christine Coté, *Perry Technical Institute*
Jonathan Smith, *Choose Yakima Valley - YCDA*
Kathy Coffey, *Mayor City of Yakima*

Administrative Team members:

Verlynn Best, *President & CEO*
Thane Phelan, *Vice President*
Amy Lopez, *Information and Events Coordinator*
Gary Myhre, *Member Services Representative*

Mission Statement: "The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce is an organization that promotes pride in our diverse communities through positive, active leadership aimed at creating a cohesive, successful business climate in our County."

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Advertisement

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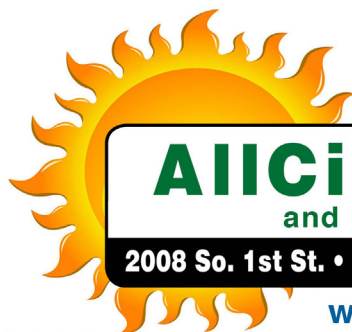
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Verlynn Best
President & CEO

Please join me in welcoming the Leadership Yakima Class of 2017/2018!

We have an exciting class this year and look forward to sharing the best of the Yakima Valley.

Who knows? A future Ted Robertson Awards recipient could rise-up out of this class.

Arlene Fisher Maurer -
City of Union Gap

Karen Lynch
*Regional Thrift Volunteer
Coordinator
The Salvation Army
Northwest Division*

Corporate Social Responsibility. Wow, a big term to describe a simple concept! One humble way to make this huge concept into a manageable bite size is to take your business out into the community and give back to the place that sustains you. Did you know that the need is ever increasing for The Salvation Army's food bank, for example? What can your business do about that? What can you do about that?

"Doing the Most Good" has been the motto of The Salvation Army for a long time, but recently our thrift stores have really taken it to heart. In addition to being a resource for gently used and afford-

Stephanie Arnold -
Pexco Aerospace, Inc.
Becky Willms -
Tri-Ply Construction, LLC
Andrew Holt -
Downtown Association of Yakima
Guillermo Mattox -
Wheatland Bank
Megan Kleck -
Field Group
Elissa Southward -
Virginia Mason Memorial
Morgan Birkby -
Perry Technical Institute
Mary Lynne Brewington -
Children's Village
Jared Fair -
Yakima Valley Libraries
Anita Quintana -
Pacific Northwest University
Josette Gonzales -
Northwest Harvest
Melissa Vickers -
Yakima Valley Libraries
DJ Henn -

Rent Ready Property Management
Gregg Tate -
John I. Haas
James Todd Daley -
WSDOT
Lupita Carillo -
Safe Yakima Valley
Tina Powers -
Tree Top, Inc
Joshua Jackson -
Rod's House
Michael Uhlman -
HLA Engineering
Holly Marie Siler -
Second Harvest Inland NW
Chad Workman -
Brookside Funeral Home & Crematory

P.S. Get your tickets for this year's Ted Robertson Awards Gala and Business Awards on October 12, 2017! See you there!

Rich Austin - Board Chair
Verlynn Best - President & CEO

able goods, providing a resource for material re-purposing making our community greener, providing employment and training for community members, and providing resources for our social services division that has a food bank in this community among other things, we recently asked ourselves, "How ELSE can we serve the greater Yakima community and businesses and do MORE good?"

What is one of our strategies? The Salvation Army Thrift Store has a brand-new volunteer program! "What's different?", you may ask yourself. The answers are simple, we have an increase in donations, heard the need for increased social services in our community, and are responding to the Yakima community to be a partner in serving this great city and surrounding areas by volunteering. To accomplish those goals, we have a new full time volunteer coordina-

tor, the store staff has been trained on volunteer interactions, we developed an orientation and training that outlines expectations and clear volunteer assignments have been created. Now all we need is YOU!

You can help feed the needy in the Yakima community. You can pass the word about the great things happening at the Yakima & Union Gap Salvation Army Thrift Stores. You can encourage your place of business to practice corporate social responsibility and bring a group from work in to volunteer, just like the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce staff has committed to do. You can make a difference by spending just a few hours sorting and stocking our donations. Bring your colleagues, bring your energy, bring your desire and help us "Do the Most Good" in the Yakima community.

CAMP HOPE



Camp Hope is a homeless encampment managed by Transform Yakima Together, that opened in March of this year in response to the needs

expressed by local city and county officials to meet the needs of the homeless and relieve the stress on downtown Yakima.

The 24-hour encampment consists of barracks style tents for the residents and will host up to 60 guests each night. Since opening, the camp has served over 320 unique individuals, and provided over 7000 bed nights, and more than 20,000 meals. Volunteers and staff put in hundreds of hours and community members have given their time and resources contributing over \$50,000 in cash and materials to help us with the camp. Thank you!

We're grateful to be able to serve the city and the needy among us. One middle aged woman told us, "I used to sleep in the alley behind the Arco. Now I feel safe and like I belong." A couple staying at the camp shared, "This is the first time in months that we've gone to bed with food in our stomachs on a consistent basis."

Remarkably, all the above has been done without the benefit of having running water or sewer on the property! This has been a real challenge for every one at the Camp. In order to continue serving the community and to expand our capacity, we need to bring in these utilities and improve our facilities to better meet the needs of the homeless.



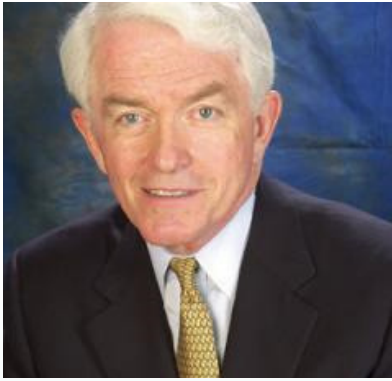
To support this effort, the Camp will be having the "Building Hope" banquet and fundraiser on October 26th at 6:30 PM. You can register to attend by calling 509-673-2100



or email Andy Ferguson at aferguson57@gmail.com

We're incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of so many who have made Camp Hope possible. If you haven't had a chance to come visit the camp yet, please come down and say hello and get a tour.





Thomas J. Donohue
President and CEO,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

With school starting back up, this is a good time to think about how we train and equip our students for success. It's no secret that the skills needed in our economy have changed dramatically in recent years. Millions of lower-skilled jobs are disappearing, and millions of higher-skilled jobs are being created in their place. As businesses and workers struggle to adapt, it's time to have a serious discussion about how to build a 21st century workforce.

To understand what's at stake, let's look at the manufacturing sector. Over a million new American manufacturing jobs have opened up over the past seven years, but about 390,000 of them have yet to be filled. This is because most of these jobs require specialized skills and technical know-how. They involve supervising complicated computer-directed machinery, using software to track inventory, or assembling increasingly intricate high-tech products. Workers displaced from old jobs by auto-

mation often don't have the skills needed for these new positions, and many new graduates haven't learned them either.

The problem extends far beyond manufacturing. Today, 50% of available positions in America go unfilled because qualified candidates aren't available, and 40% of businesses can't take on more work because they can't fill the jobs they have. The skills gap is a complex challenge affected by many factors. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is advocating for policy changes and exploring practical steps that communities and employers can take.



For example, we're advising the administration on workforce training and apprenticeship issues. The U.S. Chamber Foundation Center for Education and Workforce has been building a signature workforce development initiative called Talent Pipeline Management. This initiative empowers businesses to communicate their employment and skills needs to education providers.

It's designed to put the business community in the driver's seat of education and workplace partnerships. In addition, the Foundation is rolling out a localized consumer information tool called Launch My Career, which helps identify hot jobs in a state, the skills necessary for those jobs, and the programs and institutions that can offer those skills.

When it comes to building a 21st century workforce, there are no easy solutions. Our government leaders and policymakers must take a cue from our private sector economy and think creatively. Businesses and workers face

modern challenges that require modern solutions. The Chamber looks forward to continuing to spark discussion, explore options, and develop solutions to the workforce challenges our country faces. Few issues are as important to the health and growth of our economy—or to the future of our nation's schoolchildren.

Seattle's Minimum Wage Wager

Sean P. Redmond
Executive Director,
Workforce Freedom Initiative

For the last several years, organized labor has engaged in a multi-faceted campaign to raise the minimum wage to an inflated \$15 per hour, and unions like the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) have funded the so-called fight for \$15 effort as a broader organizing effort. Although the SEIU has yet to recruit any new members through this effort, the \$15 minimum wage has still taken root in some cities and states dominated by their political allies.

One such municipality is Seattle, which is gradually raising its minimum wage to the much-desired \$15 per hour after passing an ordinance to do so in 2015. After two years, however, new evidence should make those contemplating a similar action think twice.

In a report released earlier this summer, commissioned by the City of Seattle itself, researchers from the University of Washington (UW) evaluated the effects of the Seattle Minimum Wage Ordinance on wages, employment, and hours worked. In a nutshell, the report revealed that the sharply escalating minimum wage is having a negative effect on hours worked and total take-home pay for the workers the ordinance was supposed to help.

The report acknowledges that other evaluations of higher minimum wages have suggested a negligible impact, but it “reaches a markedly different conclusion: employment losses associated with Seattle’s mandated wage increases are in fact large enough to have resulted in net reductions in payroll expenses—and total employee earnings—in the low-wage job market.” Put simply, the report indicates that small increases in the minimum wage may not have a lot of impact, but the push for \$15 is causing low-wage workers to make less money.



The researchers attribute the difference between their conclusions and those of others to their ability to “circumvent” data limitations present in other research, including the fact that Washington is one of only four states that collects data on both wages and hours worked. Moreover, the paper observes that other research into the minimum wage typically focuses on a particular industry, such as food service, while the researchers examined “all categories of low-wage employees, spanning all industries and worker demographics.”

In examining the evidence, the report found that Seattle’s most recent minimum wage increase to \$13 “associates with...significant hours reductions between 7.9% and 10.6% (averaging 9.4%)” and finds that “employers are not only reducing the number of low-wage jobs, but also reducing the hours of retained employees” by as much as 3.5 million hours per quarter. The report also suggests that Seattle’s inflated minimum wage “caused the elimination of 6,317 low-wage jobs at single-location firms,” with job losses of about 10,000 when factoring in multi-location firms.

Workers were also affected negatively in terms of wages, as the report suggests that “low wage workers lost \$3 from lost employment opportunities for every \$1 they gain[ed] due to higher hourly wages.” The report concludes that the net effect of the higher minimum wage for low wage workers is a decrease of 6.6%

in wages per month, or \$125.

The release of the UW report caused a bit of tempest among labor activists and supporters of an inflated minimum wage, who savagely challenged its veracity. Nevertheless, citing an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who was not involved in writing it, the Washington Post called the report “very credible.”

Perhaps knowing the UW report would not be too flattering, the mayor of Seattle, who publicly supported the minimum wage increase, commissioned a second study from the University of California at Berkeley. Not surprisingly, the Berkeley report came to a different conclusion, and the mayor released it a week ahead of the city’s official study. In a masterpiece of timing, the mayor’s office had an infographic already prepared to accompany the Berkeley report. An accompanying celebratory press release failed to mention the UW report’s adverse conclusions.

Notwithstanding the political posturing, the UW study offers an important insight into the impact of the SEIU’s misguided Fight for \$15 campaign. Supporters of that movement breezily dismissed the UW study, but a more balanced view—one informed by mature economic understanding—would suggest caution as public officials consider whether to buy into the SEIU’s slogan.

2017 Ted Robertson Community Service Award Recipient Rick Pinnell

The Ted Robertson Community Service Award was established in 1989 by the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents/Board Chairs to honor individuals each year who have made major contributions to the betterment of the greater Yakima area. Ted Robertson, former publisher of the Yakima-Herald Republic, held a strong belief that good fortune earned in a community should be shared with that community. Ted also believed that we, as a community, ought to find more ways to honor people who distinguish themselves through their community service over and above their chosen profession.

The honorees are selected by the Past Board Presidents/Chairs of the Chamber for their inspiring leadership, achievements and commitment to the improvement of our community as business people and citizens of the Yakima Valley.

The prestigious Ted Robertson Community Service Award has become the Yakima Valley's highest recognition for civic accomplishment and involvement.

The Past Chairs of The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce Rick Pinnell as the 2017 recipient of the Ted Robertson Community Service Award.



Rick Pinnell graduated from Washington State University with a B.A. in communications. He served as platoon leader in Vietnam. Rick's business ventures include a copier business and leasing company here in the Yakima Valley.

Rick has chaired boards for; Yakima Rotary Club, YMCA of Yakima, The Yakima Rotary Trust, Heritage University, and Yakima YMCA Trust. He has served on the boards of Yakima Valley Bank, Red Cross, Providence Hospital, many business associations.

He has also provided leadership to many local organizations including La Casa Hogar, the Yakima Chamber Foundation's Leadership Yakima and others.

Rick and his wife Mary Jo have a daughter and two grandchildren. Rick will be honored as the Ted Robertson Community Service Award recipient on October 12th, 2017 during the annual Chamber and Ted Robertson Community Service Awards celebration at the Yakima Convention Center.

Past Ted Robertson Community Service Award Recipients:

June 22, 1989 - Bea Noel
 April 5, 1990 - Greta Bryan
 April 25, 1991 - Dorothy "Bill" Donelson Robertson
 March 5, 1992 - Wesley H. "Bud" Snyder
 March 5, 1993 - Melvin Wagner
 February 4, 1994 - Bob DiPietro, Sr.
 February 24, 1995 - Shirley Doty
 February 6, 1996 - Marvin Sundquist
 February 8, 1997 - Bob "Straight Arrow" Lynch
 April 17, 1998 - "Ollie" Nelson
 February 10, 1999 - Eugene "Gene" Shields
 February 25, 2000 - Curtis King
 March 2001 - Ester Huey
 May 22, 2002 - Senator Alex Deccio
 April 3, 2003 - Paul Campbell, Gary George, Mel Moore, Gene Rostvold
 May 20, 2004 - Rick Linneweh
 April 14, 2005 - Gary Webster
 October 25, 2006 - Sid Morrison
 March 27, 2008 - Bob Hall
 September 24, 2009 - Dale Carpenter
 October 8, 2010 - Gary Lukehart
 September 16, 2011 - Bob Brown
 September 14, 2012 - John Gasperetti
 November 7th, 2013 - Greg & Jan Luring
 October 9th, 2014 - Ken Marble, Bill Dolsen, and Al DeAtley
 October 22nd, 2015 - Dr. Linda Kaminiski and Ronald King
 November 3rd, 2016 - Steve & Anne Caffery and Dr. Lloyd Butler

CHAMBER EVENTS



Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting at the all new Popeyes, at 2406 West Nob Hill. Yakima will be thrilled to enjoy the new Popeyes and their Louisiana inspired chicken. They're open now!



Chamber Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening festivities of Hoptown Wood-Fired Pizza at 2560 Donald, Wapato Road, Wapato. Their business is in the old Donald Mercantile Building and later Piety Flats Winery.



August Chamber Membership and Community Luncheon - "Legislative Session Wrap-Up" featuring Washington's 13th, 14th and 15th district legislators - Thanks to former City of Yakima Mayor, Micah Cawley, who moderated the event.



Former Yakima City Councilman and 1280 KIT personality, Dave Ettl, was the moderator for the September Yakima City Council Candidates forum luncheon

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Heritage University Dean Awarded Fellowship with National Higher Education Group



Merrilou Harrison, the Dean of the College of Education at Heritage University, has been awarded an Impact Academy fellowship, joining a cohort of fellows selected for their commitment to improving educator preparation.

The year-long, Impact Academy fellowship aims to accelerate field-wide transformation by empowering a network of leaders who are dedicated to improving their educator-preparation programs. Each cohort is limited to no more than 20 leaders, each of whom went through a rigorous nomination and application process.

“We believe it will be the collective work of leaders like Dean Harrison that will transform how we prepare future educators,” said Benjamin Riley, founder and executive director of Deans for Impact. “Efforts such as the Impact Academy will nurture and support those leaders as they work to improve their own educator-preparation programs and the field more broadly.”

The Impact Academy fellowship is made possible by Deans for Impact, a national nonprofit organization that empowers, supports and advocates on behalf of leaders at all levels of educator preparation who are committed to transforming the field and elevating the teaching profession. The organization is guided by four key principles: data informed; outcomes focused; empirically tested; and transparent and accountable.

Harrison began her 2017 fellowship with a four-day conference at Southern Methodist University in Dallas this past July. She’s thrilled to be involved with Deans for Impact. “Because Heritage University is unique in not only its rural location but also in its approach to educating stu-

To submit a “Business Brief”, announcements, staff changes, awards etc. E-mail brief copy and picture to rhane@yakima.org (copy may be edited for space) Include “Business Brief” in subject line.

dents, it is critical as Dean of the College of Education that I connect with other deans in the nation to help answer the question of how to best educate teachers for the future,” said Harrison. “Deans for Impact draws deans who are striving to develop the best possible programs and answer that question. Throughout our year of learning together, we are expected to share and implement best practices while being held accountable for our actions and our learning. This strengthens my own personal practice, connects me with other deans, and unifies our approach to developing world class colleges of education for the success of our future generations”.

Deans for Impact is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of programs preparing new educators in this country, and the selection of Harrison and others reinforces that commitment. Harrison is one of 17 fellows in the 2017 cohort, who collectively lead programs that enroll more than 7,400 candidates in 13 states and Washington D.C. Through her selection, she is the only fellow representing an institution located in a rural community.



SOZO Welcomes New Employees

As SOZO Sports of Central Washington continues to grow as the premier sports complex in Washington state, the

501(c)3 non-profit has hired a new full-time employee.

Wendy M. King joins the SOZO team as the Business Development Director. In this position, King will be primarily responsible for the business operations of SOZO, including developing community/business relationships and partnerships, advertising, fundraising, donations and other revenue opportunities, as well as general office management.

King has proven experience in the non-

profit sector as well as marketing and sports management. She was involved in the Memorial Foundation and the Children’s Miracle Network Hospital program for ten years and worked with Memorial’s neo-natal intensive care and pediatric units. King, also, worked with the Yakima Valley Pippins helping to develop community partnerships. As the mother of two athletic sons and the wife of an experienced coach, King has consistently been involved in youth soccer, football and baseball and is looking forward to working for a health and well-being focused organization like SOZO. King will continue SOZO’s mission of ensuring “no child is left inside” and SOZO is proud to have her on the team.

SOZO WELCOMES NEW OPERATIONS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

As SOZO Sports of Central Washington continues to grow as the premier sports complex in Washington State, the 501(c)3 non-profit is proud to announce



they have hired another new full-time employee.

Nicole A. Miles joins the SOZO team as the Operations and Athletic Director, working alongside SOZO

newcomer, Wendy King (Business Development Director). As the Operations and Athletic Director, Miles will be primarily responsible for the field operations of SOZO, including scheduling practices, games and other events, working directly with league officials, coaches and referee associations to ensure the games go smoothly and supporting King in continuing the vision of SOZO Sports.

Miles has a long history of sports playing, coaching and management. As a multi-sport athlete, Miles grew up in Bend, OR playing volleyball, soccer, basketball, and baseball as well as enjoying recreational bowling. Miles received a bachelor’s degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Community Health Education from Portland State and is still quite active playing adult recreational leagues. Previous to SOZO, Miles worked closely

BUSINESS BRIEFS

with the Special Olympics of Oregon, helping with the Youth and State Games and most recently worked in managerial capacities in multiple health clinics in Oregon, proving fitness and health are strong personal values of hers.

Choosing to join the SOZO team was easy for Miles as she firmly believes that “kids should learn that being active is part of everyday life”. In the past, she has worked full time and coached in the evenings so she is especially excited to mesh “operations/day to day management with coaching/youth programming” saying “this is the perfect blend of my two worlds”. Miles will continue SOZO’s mission of ensuring “no child is left inside” and SOZO is proud to have her on the team.

YWCA Hires New Executive Director



Cheri Kilty recently moved to Yakima to lead the YWCA. She has been involved with nonprofit agencies helping women and children since 1984. Cheri grew up going to the YWCA in her hometown attending swimming, tennis, dancing, and leadership classes offered for young women. It was during this time that

Cheri learned the value of making a difference in her community. Never did she dream that would lead her to a life of service in different communities including four other YWCA's before landing at the Yakima YWCA. Cheri moved to Washington State in 1999 from Indiana and immediately went to work with nonprofit agencies providing programs and services to women and children impacted by domestic violence and homelessness. Cheri moved to Yakima in August 2017 bringing with her two Sphynx cats. She loves connecting people together who have likeminded interests, and mentoring young women as they navigate their work worlds. She loves late night talk radio when all the mysteries of the world are discussed.

MEMBER ADVICE

Credit Card processing for Yakima Valley Business

By: Mack Hendrick – Blue Dog Processing

Telephone solicitors for credit card processors are getting a bad rap why? They deserve it. They earned it. They use dishonest sales tactics by misrepresenting costs and agreement terms.

You are to believe they are your friend who will save you money by to reducing your credit cards costs. They ask for confidential information that should not be sent to someone you don't know. They respond with a proposal that is too good to be true. If it is too good to be true, it probably isn't true. It is disheartening to know how many merchants are scammed because they don't understand the pricing protocol. Some of these proposals promise such a cost reduction that the processor would lose money, not a likely scenario. The first rule, never buy merchant services from someone you don't know. The second rule is never buy based on discount, you must buy based on markup: markup is the great equalizer. All processors pay the same for the service, markup is their income.

The only fair and consistent pricing protocol is cost plus markup pricing with no downgrades for non-qualified cards. Downgrades are free profit to the processor at your expense.

Therefore the scam artist wants to divert your attention from the markup. Some of their diversions are discount promises, flat rate processing, club memberships and annual pricing.

Currently, solicitors are falsely representing themselves as agents of your processor. Merchants are being told that the company has noticed that they are being overcharged; they may say that your agreement needs renewal. There are other stories, none of them true. If the merchant agrees to let them “help” then they will send a new agreement for signature. The agreement will be with a new company. Sometimes just a signature page with no pricing is sent, so the merchant doesn't know what you are agreeing to. The new agreement will have higher rates, an irrevocable set term, an early termination fee and could leave you open to liability from your current processor. Many merchants have fallen victim to this scam.

Reputable companies will not use this tactic. They will not call to ask you to renew and they do not check to see if you are being overcharged.

At some point, I expect telemarketing of this industry to be regulated, but until that time, your knowledge, understanding, discipline and a local representative are your best defense.





A Hospital Built by the Community, for the Community



Russ Myers, CEO
Virginia Mason Memorial

Virginia Mason Memorial opened on June 21, 1950, as Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Its first patient was a baby born the next day. The idea for a second hospital in Yakima, however, was born seven years earlier when the only hospital in town was St. Elizabeth's.

In 1943, Ed Mueller, an accountant in town, brought in his daughter, Carol, who was suffering the effects of polio.

Her parents weren't able to be in the room with her because of overcrowding, and she passed away without them. This was the catalyst to build another hospital. And some of those relationships, and the families that came together back then, are still present today.

Virginia Mason Memorial has grown to include more than 20 primary care practices and award-winning specialty care services, and 3 convenient-care clinics. On Jan. 1, 2016, Memorial took another big step toward making top-quality health care available in the Yakima Valley by affiliating with Virginia Mason Health System. Memorial approached its search to achieve smart growth in the ever-changing health care environment with great care. Collaborating with Virginia Mason Health System was perhaps Memorial's most important and memorable achievement so far.

Today our shared vision is that patients receive the same high quality, coordinated care in Yakima and at Virginia Mason in Seattle. When patients require a level of care unavailable in Yakima, our goal is to create seamless care transitions between Yakima and Seattle.

As a two-hospital system, Virginia Mason Memorial is now able to provide services in a greater part of the state and serve more patients in Yakima. We are also able to provide world-class specialty care unavailable in Central Washington.

Our affiliation has the potential to bring more resources (physicians, nursing education, best practices in care, expansion of surgical and specialty care) eastward. Providers are sharing best practices and are working collaboratively.

Virginia Mason Memorial, as the largest nonprofit employer in the Yakima Valley with almost 2,800 employees, is invested in our community and we're excited to see what the future holds.

We are committed to ensuring that Virginia Mason Memorial remains the trusted community health-care provider and a prominent economic engine in the Yakima Valley. We remain devoted to working with our community to create a healthier Yakima.

Healthy Yakima.



NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the following new businesses have joined your Chamber during the month of June, July, & August 2017

Life Choices of Yakima
305 S 11th Avenue Ste. 1
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 248-2273
www.friendsoflcy.com

DB3 Yakima LLC
15 N Naches Avenue #6
Yakima, WA 98901
(253) 219-2904

Pexco Aerospace
2405 S. 3rd Avenue
Union Gap, WA 98903
(509) 248-9166
www.pexcoaerospace.com

My Place Yakima
21 S 18th St.
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 833-8704

Caliber Home Loans, INC
1415 Lakeside Ct. Ste. 100
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 457-6552
www.caliberhomeloans.com

Cummings Inc.
1905 E Central Avenue
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 248-9033

Hop Nation Brewing
Company
31 N 1st Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 367-6552
www.hopnation.us

The Senator, LLC
20 E. Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 248-2146

Connect Hearing
1703 Creekside Loop #100
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 453-8600
www.connecthearing.com/hearing

Ramsey Companies, INC.
61 W Wapato Rd
Wapato, WA 98951
(509) 949-7650

Yakama Legends Casino Hotel
580 Fort Road
Toppenish, WA 98948
(509) 865-8800
www.legendscasino.com

Ashby Law, PLLC
212 N Naches Avenue
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 572-3700
www.pnwfamilylaw.com

Tax Reform: Hard Work and High Stakes Ahead - Thomas J. Donohue - President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[This is part of an ongoing series entitled "The Case for Tax Reform," which examines the importance of reforming the outdated tax code, and how achieving that goal will advance economic growth, jobs, and prosperity.] <https://www.uschamber.com/>

Members of Congress are back in their home states for August, but the U.S. Chamber of Commerce isn't taking any breaks. We're busy preparing for the upcoming battle to pass pro-growth tax reform. We're activating our extensive grassroots and small business network to build support from the ground up, even as we ramp up our lobbying, policy, and communications efforts in Washington. Our message is simple: tax reform cannot wait.

Before the August recess, key congressional leaders and administration officials released their principles for reform, signaling a unified approach and seeding the field for the upcoming legislative process. Many of the priorities outlined were consistent with the principles the Chamber shared with top tax leaders last month.

As we said then, among our top priorities is to lower rates for all businesses, including the many small businesses that file on the individual side of the tax code. Further, we must simplify rules to limit compliance costs, increase certainty so that businesses can plan for the future, and move as far as possible toward allowing all businesses to expense capital purchases. We also want to see an internationally competitive system that eliminates the double taxation companies now face when they earn profits abroad.

True reform is going to require compromise and trade-offs. The Chamber has been up front that any viable tax reform plan will create tensions in the business community, but we will judge any plan on one simple test: will it spur economic growth? We will encourage members of Congress—all of whom have their own pet tax issues—to judge legislation on the same basis.

Tax reform is too critical to become another casualty of Washington dysfunction or competing interests. Everyone involved acknowledges that our tax code is outdated and ripe for reform—but that doesn't mean the effort will be easy. It will be tough to write the legislation, tough to negotiate it, and tough for businesses to transition to the new system—which is why the Chamber has made it clear that effective transition rules must be written to provide adequate time to adjust.

Pro-growth tax reform is the most important piece of the puzzle when it comes to sparking a new wave of wage growth and job creation. Its significance cannot be overstated. To get tax reform over the finish line, all Americans must get involved—businesses, government leaders, voters, and grassroots organizations. Let's roll up our sleeves and commit to finish the job by the end of 2017. The economy will thank us for many years to come.

RENEWING MEMBERS

*Chamber Members who renewed their
Membership in June, July, & August 2017.
Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!*



Members for 1- 4 Years:

A & M Nutritional Consultants - 1 Year
All American Discount Flooring Inc. - 1 Year
Arastede Hairston, LMP - 1 Year
Arvato Digital Services - 1 Year
GESA Credit Union - S. 1st St. - 1 Year
Health Within Wellness Center - 1 Year
Heartland Payment Systems - 1 Year
Jacobs Engineering Group - 1 Year
Jason C. Eaton Agency - American Family Insurance - 1 Year
Michael Latimer - 1 Year
Phil Lamb - 1 Year
Pita Pit - 1 Year
RJ's Tire Pros & Auto Experts - 1 Year
Sterling Concepts - 1 Year
Studio 16 Salon & Spa - 1 Year
SOZO Sports of Central Washington - 1 Year
Tel-Com Solutions - 1 Year
US Army Yakima Recruiting Center - 1 Year
Costco Wholesale Service Center- 2 Years
Better All Auto Sales- 2 Years
Independent Truck Driver Training, Inc.- 2 Years
Leading Force Energy & Design Center- 2 Years
Panera Bread- 2 Years
Visual Marketing NW- 2 Years
Yakima Adjustment Service Inc.- 2 Years
Enigma Marketing Research & Design- 2 Years
ActNow Automotive- 3 Years
Family Vision Care, PS- 3 Years
Get Air Yakima- 3 Years
Lynchpin Foundation- 3 Years
Elks Lodge #318- 4 Years
ThermAll Heating & Cooling Inc. - 4 Years
Tony's Big Cheese Pizza- 4 Years
Famous Dave's- Union Gap- 4 Years
American Cancer Society- 4 Years
Aladin Limousine- 4 Years
Arbor Care Lawn and Pest Control- 4 Years

Members for 5- 9 Years:

Girl Scouts Eastern Washington &

Northern Idaho- 5 Years
Results Realty Group LLC- 5 Years
Selah Clinic- 5 Years
A-L Compressed Gases, Inc.- 5 Years
MB Designs- 5 Years
Central Washington Internal Medicine- 5 Years
Central Washington Pain Clinic- 5 Years
Cost Less Energy- 6 Years
Yakima Valley Hearing & Speech Center- 6 Years
Yakima Valley Human Resource Association- 6 Years
Rodda Paint Co.- 6 Years
Shields Bag & Printing Company- 6 Years
Primerica- 7 Years
Heartlinks- 7 Years
Miller & Associates Wealth Management- 7 Years
Thompson Audiology & Hearing Aid Center- 8 Years
Chukar Cherries- 8 Years
Interstate Battery of Apply Valley- 8 Years
Megalodon, LLC- 8 Years
Hometown Ace Hardware- 9 Years
Central Washington Endocrine Center- 9 Years
Central Washington Orthopedic Surgeons- 9 Years
Central Washington Rehabilitation Clinic- 9 Years
Central Washington Surgical Associates- 9 Years
Summitview Family Medicine- 9 Years
Terrace Heights Family Physicians- 9 Years
Gilbert Cellars- 9 Years
Utilities Plus, LLC- 9 Years
Yakima Craft Brewing- 9 Years

Members for 10 -14 Year

Yakima Valley Community Foundation- 10 Years
Zaremba Claims Service- 10 Years
Fiesta Foods of Yakima- 10 Years
True's Auto Plaza/Autos To Go- 9 Years
Columbia Homes- 10 Years
Competitive Plumbing- 10 Years
Central WA Medical Group- 10 Years

D & M Chemical- 10 Years
Ron's Coin & Collectibles- 10 Years
Roy Farms- 10 Years
Meyer, Fluegge & Tenney, PS- 10 Years
Mike L. Clark, DDS- Family Dentistry- 10 Years
Mountainview Home Health LLC- 10 Years
Norm Johnson- 10 Years
Northstar Attachments- 10 Years
Ozeki Japanese Restaurant- 10 Years
Parry Jewelers- 10 Years
Pegasus Project- 10 Years
Precision Paving & Grading, Inc.- 10 Years
Ken Gaub Ministries- 10 Years
McCown Crafted- 10 Years
Consolidated Electrical Distributors, LLC- 10 Years
Farwest Climate Control, Inc.- 10 Years
Foursquare Church- 40th Ave- 10 Years
G.S. Long Co., Inc.- 10 Years
Bob Hall's Mazda- 10 Years
Fred Meyer Store- 10 Years
Advanced Mechanical & Electrical, Inc.- 10 Years
All Valley Sheet Metal, Inc.- 10 Years
Associated Freight Brokers, Inc.- 10 Years
Ahtanum Ridge Family Medicine- 11 Years
Bethel Ridge Family Resources- 12 Years
CALCOE Federal Credit Union- Yakima Branch- 12 Years
Bethel Ridge Retreat- 12 Years
Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.- 12 Years
Peopleworks- 12 Years
Carlson Boyd, PLLC- 13 Years
Central Washington Occupational Medicine- 13 Years
DaVita- Union Gap Dialysis Center- 13 Years
ResCare- 13 Years
Villbrandt, Stark, & Moorers, PLLC- 13 Years
Yakima Valley Libraries- 13 Years
El Sol de Yakima- 14 Years

RENEWING MEMBERS

Members for 15-19 Years:

Clark Jennings & Associates, Inc.- 15 Years
H.E.B. Mini Storage- 15 Years
SCORE- 16 Years
Waffles Café- 16 Years
Waffles Café- West Yakima- 16 Years
The Salvation Army- 16 Years
2nd Street Grill- 17 Years
Living Care Retirement Community- 17 Years
Baker Boyer Bank Wealth Management Invest- 17 Years
Eagle Signs, LLC- 17 Years
Northwest Asthma & Allergy Center, PS- 17 Years
Yakima Urology Associates, PLLC- 17 Years
Comfort Suites Yakima- 19 Years
West Coast Plastics, Inc.- 19 Years

Members for 20-29 Years:

American Medical Response- 22 Years
Mid Valley Insurance, Inc.- 23 Years
Concord Contruction, Inc.- 23 Years
BORArchitecture, PLLC- 23 Years
Conley Engineering, Inc- 23 Years
Jaenicke & Company- 23 Years
PayneWest Insurance - 23Years
Yakima Association of Realtors- 23 Years
Valley Septic Service- 23 Years
Meadowbrook Family Fun Center- 23 Years
Atlas Staffing- 23 Years
Rural Community Development Resources- 24 Years
Central Washington Family Medicine Residency Program- 25 Years
Petersen CPAs & Advisors, PLLC- 25 Years
Apple Tree Golf Course, Bar & Grill- 25 Years
South Central Workforce Development Council- 25 Years
Sundown M. Ranch Corporation- 25 Years
Washington State Employees Credit Union- 25 Years
Avail Home Health- 27 Years
Bartons Center Pharmacy/Gibbons Pharmacy- 27 Years
J.L. Smith Co.- 27 Years
American Independent Marketing- 28Years

Yakima Greenway Foundation- 29 Years

Members for 30-39 Years:

Central Vending- 30 Years
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services- 30 Years
CWI Security- 30 Years
Aubrey's R.V. Center, Inc.- 31 Years
Leonard Rickey Investment Advisors- 32 Years
Noel Communications- 32 Years
Hall Financial- 33 Years
Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc.- 35 Years
People for People- 36 Years
Roy's Hardware- 37 Years
YMCA of Yakima- 37 Years
Dr. Carbery's Oasis Dental- 37 Years
YWCA of Yakima- 37 Years
Yakima Pediatric Associates- 37 Years
Yakima Heart Center- 37 Years
Charter Communications- 38 Years
Russell Crane Service, Inc.- 38 Years
King Beverage, Inc.- 39 Years
Comprehensive Mental Health- 39 Years
Gasperetti's Restaurant & Bar- 39 Years
Valley Title Guarantee- 39 Years
Star Rentals & Sales, Inc.- 39 Years

Members for 40-49 Years:

Lee Peterson Buick, GMC, & Cadillac- 41 Years
JELD-WEN Windows & Doors- 41 Years
Wells Fargo Insurance Services- 41 Years
Tree Top, Inc.- 46 Years
Alegria & Company, P.S.- 47 Years

Members for 50-59 Years:

Gress-Kinney-Parrish Insurance Center- 50 Years
Noel Canning & Bottling Corporation- 50Years
Noel Transportation & Warehousing- 50 Years
KAPP TV- Apple Valley Broadcasting, Inc.- 51 Years
Bob Hall's Honda- 56 Years
Sunfair Chevrolet, Inc.- 56 Years
Schreiner Title Co.- 59 Years
Industrial Service and Electric (ISE)- 59 Years

Members for 60-69 Years:

AmSan Yakima- 62 Years
Wray's Market Fresh IGA- Chalet Place- 62 Years
KIMA TV(CBS),
KUNW(UNIVISION), & Sinclair Broadcast- 64 Years
Triumph Actuation Systems-Yakima- 64 Years
QBSI- A Xerox Company- 65 Years
Cook Northwest- 67Years
Washington State Tree Fruit Association- 67 Years
Johnson's Auto Glass & Upholstery- 69 Years

Members for 70-79 Years:

Wray's Market Fresh IGA- Southgate- 73 Years
Wray's Market Fresh IGA- Meadowbrook- 73 Years
G.H. Moen, LLC- 77 Years
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company- 78 Years
Keith & Keith Funeral Services- 78 Years

Members for 80-89 Years:

Rankin Equipment Co.- 82 Years

Members for 90-99 Years:

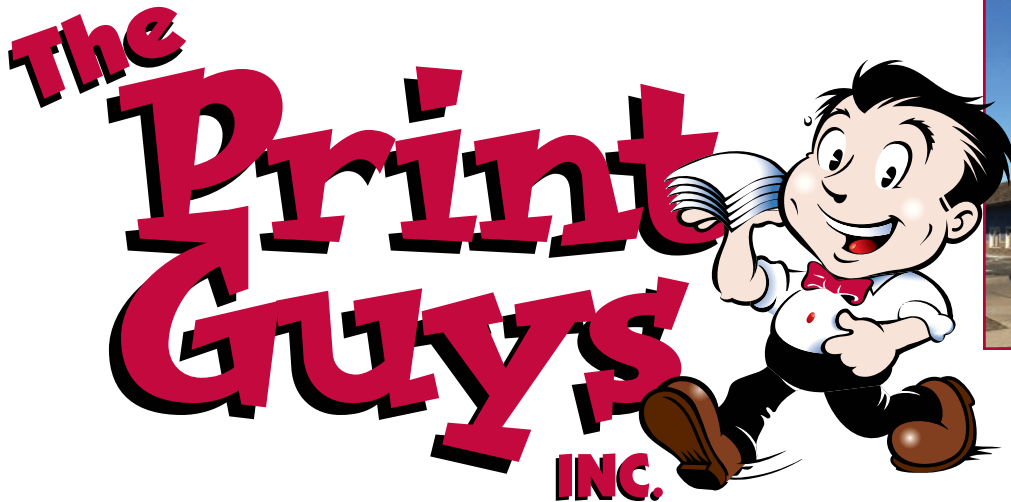
Yakima Herald Republic- 90 Years
First American Title of Yakima- 90 Years
Horizon Distribution, Inc.- 97 Years
Helliesen Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.- 97Years

Members for over 100 Years:

Yakima Federal Savings & Loan Association- 112 Years

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