

# THE CHAMBER VOICE



**Greater Yakima Chamber of  
Commerce**

10 N. 9th St.  
Yakima, WA. 98901  
[www.yakima.org](http://www.yakima.org)  
509-248-2021

**January - February 2020**

## Message From Verlynn Best



## 2020, the year of perfect vision! What is your vision for Yakima?

In 2019 we saw new business and growth throughout the Valley. We saw the beautiful new YMCA open. YVC is expanding and the Larson Gallery will soon have a new home. Hogback Development built the first hotel by the airport. The Windy Point building that sat empty for years was turned into what is now Freehand Cellars. They did an amazing job on the tasting room.

We have three new council members that were just sworn in. We also have the 1st woman on Yakima County Commission in nearly 20 years.

Each fall I meet with the incoming Leadership Yakima class. The group of people and their energy and ideas always inspire me! Leadership Yakima groups have started the Fur Ball, the 5K4K9 Run, and Yakima Valley Restaurant Week just to name a few programs. We have the talent and next generation of leadership in this valley. We just need to support them and help build them up.

What is your vision for Yakima? How can you make a difference? If you are not already involved in the community think about volunteering in 2020. Maybe it is a one day event or you volunteer to sit on a board. Collectively, we can make an impact.

I wish you health and prosperity in 2020.

Verlynn Best



On Tuesday, January 7th, 2020 the newly elected Councilwomen took the oath of office. Patricia Byers, Eliana Macias, and Soneya Lund are pictured as well as Holly Cousins. Patricia Byers became the new mayor.



November Business After Hours at Comfort Suites.

# Board Profile

## Kristi Foster Wheatland Bank

Occupation: AVP/Branch Manager of  
Wheatland Bank

Education: Proud Naches Ranger, YVC,  
and WSU Graduate.

Leadership Yakima Graduation Year: 2008

Years on Leadership Yakima Executive Committee: 9 years  
I have also been the director of the Leadership Yakima program for 7 years.

Other Boards Kristi Serves on: Downtown Association of Yakima, Camp  
Prime Time, NVHS Baseball and Football Boosters, Hot Shots 3 on 3.

Bio: Born and Raised in Naches, married with 5 boys ranging from 22 to 29,  
and 1 granddaughter. Former foster parent to MANY infants and toddlers in  
the Yakima Valley. Tom Boy at heart. In the summer it is not uncommon to  
run into Kristi at a Pippins game.

Favorite annual event in Yakima: Hot Shots! I have volunteered for the last 11  
years. Although it is a super long weekend, the fun is all consuming.



Work Source Employer Business Center  
Open House & Ribbon Cutting

## Welcome, New Members!

360 Painting of Central Washington  
1010 S. 101st Ave  
Yakima, WA 98908  
(509) 480-2011  
ddeblasio@360painting.com

Christina Williams Insurance Agency  
10 N. Wenas Rd.  
Selah, WA 98942  
(509)697-6106  
cwilliams6@framersagent.com

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Yakima  
1303 S. 1st Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
(509)248-2170  
nathan.j.day@ehi.com

Forever B U Beautique  
Yakima, WA 98902  
(509)961-6870  
foreverbeabeautique@gmail.com

Lamar Advertising Company of  
Central Washington  
23 South Wenatchee Ave. STE 217  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 663-9060  
bgoroch@lamar.com

Malone Workforce Solutions  
701 N. 1st Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
(509) 480-1300  
nick.copeland@malonesolutions.com

**Members For Over 100 Years:**  
Pacific Power

**Members For Over 90-99 Years:**  
Roche Fruit Company  
Sundquist Fruit & Cold Storage





### The Yakima Valley K9 Initiative Has Launched!

The current Yakima Valley K9 Initiative evolved from a 2017 Leadership Yakima team fundraising project, called the “9K4K9 Fun Run and Walk” with the goal of raising \$9,000 to support our Yakima Police Department K9 team.

The May, 2017 event was a huge success and thanks to generous sponsors and citizens, the team gave the YPD K9 department a check for \$13,000. In 2018, we doubled that and raised over \$26,000. This money has allowed the team to purchase a new K9, Trex, attend trainings and conferences, buy safety and protective gear, upgrade vehicle needs for the K9s and provide general operating support not covered by the department.

We are excited to add the Yakima Sheriff’s Office this year as much needed recipients of the funds we raise, alongside the YPD. Between the two agencies, the Yakima Valley has five K9 and handler teams.

We invite you to the 3rd annual “5K4K9 Fun Run and Walk” at Franklin Park on May 30th, 2020. Our mission is to fundraise, promote, and support our Yakima Valley K9 teams so they may continue serving and protecting our communities.

Please check out our webpage at [www.YVK9Initiative.org](http://www.YVK9Initiative.org) and “Like” and “Share” our Facebook posts, under “Yakima Valley K9 Initiative.” We are actively seeking community sponsors, vendors, and exhibitors for this event so be sure to message us or contact us via the website.

### Executive Board

- Chair:** Bob Gerst, John I Haas
- Immediate Past Chair:** Rich Austin, Yakima Sports Commission
- First Vice Chair:** Kristi Foster, Wheatland Bank
- Past Chair Advisor:** Joe Mann, Ron's Coin & Collectible
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Danelle Kindell Alegria & Company, P.S.
- Legal Counsel:** Jon L. Seitz Lyon, Weigand & Gustafson PS
- Second Vice Chair:**
- President/CEO:** Verlynn Best

### Board of Directors

- Jon DeVaney, Washington State Tree Fruit Association
- Jack "JD" Bewley, McDonalds of Yakima
- Steve Mercy, Yakima Theatres
- Natasha Trudeau, Triumph Actuation Systems
- Bertha Alicia Garza, Centro de Servicios Comunitarios
- Terry Wheat
- Kathy Rheame, HUB International
- Jamon Rivera, Virginia Mason Memorial
- Jamie Cuevas Jr., Stokes Law
- Linda DiLembo, Valley Mall
- Ron L. Cardey, Kwik Lok Corp.
- Dr. Christopher Boggess
- Anchored Chiropractic LLC

### Ex-Officio Members

- Ron Anderson, Yakima County Commissioner
- LTC Roger Gavriluk, Base Commander Yakima Training Center
- John Cooper, Yakima Valley Tourism State Fair Park
- Dennis Matson, YV Tech
- Johnathan Smith, YCDA
- Christine Cote, Perry Technical Institute
- Jess Camacho, Central Washington
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- City of Yakima



# Compassion in Health Care and in Leadership

—By Laura Crooks, CEO, Children's Village

Compassion, it is something we all feel, something most subscribe to—to be compassionate human beings. In these time of stress and turmoil, I have often thought, “if we could only be more compassionate toward each other.” But what does this really mean in health care and in leadership?

To be compassionate, by definition we must not only understand another's suffering, but we must be willing to do something about it, to promote well-being and try to find a solution to ease suffering. Each of us comes with our own unique circumstances and experiences. We must extend compassion to understand the experiences of others, and when the circumstances and situations impact their ability to lead healthy and productive lives, we have an obligation to intercede, to reduce suffering. It is not always easy. We have other demands that vie for our attention. Our own situations can cloud our ability to extend compassion to others.

While the word “suffering” may seem extreme, we all experience suffering in many different ways and levels. At Children's Village, where we deliver specialty medical and behavioral health care for over 5,000 families who have a child with special health care needs (providing over 25,000 visits this year), suffering is experienced on a regular basis—and compassion is foundational to our work. Suffering is experienced by families who go to extreme lengths to support their children. It occurs for our teams when we are not able to meet all of their needs or knowing families must wait to have their child seen and a care plan established. We have seen significant growth in families seeking

services, and with our growing Yakima Valley, growth at Children's Village will continue. We must meet these needs in order to be a community of compassion.

But what does it mean to be compassionate in leadership? We have embarked on a journey at Children's Village where we not only have committed to a foundation of compassion to serve our patients and families, but we have also embraced the fact that to have compassion in leadership is to have clarity. This means understanding what our work is and who we need to uniquely serve. To reduce the suffering of our co-workers, we must provide clarity in their roles so they can be assured they are providing the right services for patients and families. We have established clarity in decision making, setting guardrails in which they are free to make decisions—supporting people in their work so they may serve the patients and families.

As we move into 2020, I encourage each of us to lean into a year filled with compassion. At Children's Village, we will do this through providing clarity and continuing to expand services, focusing on those children with special health care needs who require our compassion. Through compassion, in leadership and in our actions, we all can reduce suffering for others and for ourselves.



## Business Briefs

### New laws in 2020

Various statewide media outlets began 2020 with reports on new laws affecting business that went into effect on January 1. Here's a sampling from a recent Spokesman-Review report:

- Teens can no longer legally buy tobacco or vaping products. The new legal age for purchase is now 21, which matches the new federal law. It's more important than ever to proof customers for age.
- The Family and Medical Leave law has taken effect. It allows most employees up to 12 weeks of paid leave for bonding after childbirth, to address an employee's serious health condition, a serious health condition of a qualifying family member and to participate in certain military events.
- Marijuana products must have clear labels that accurately describe THC and CBD chemical contents. Also, labeling cannot claim to cure or prevent disease or appeal to children.
- The former immediate Washington sales tax exemption for qualified out-of-state customers with low or no sales tax is no more. Now, such customers must apply to the state for a sales tax refund if the tax paid was at least \$25. The new law limits applicants to one refund per person.

Source: Spokesman-Review

### Rep. Chris Corry appointed to House Appropriations Committee

Rep. Chris Corry, R-Yakima, has been selected to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. The committee considers fiscal matters for the state, including the biennial operating budget, the supplemental budget and other bills with large financial impacts.

"I'm excited to tackle this new opportunity to serve the people of the 14th District and the state. Our healthy economy continues to produce a significant revenue surplus," said Corry.

14th District lawmaker also serves on the House Education, Capital Budget, Human Services and Early Learning, and Rules Committees.

## 2019 Chamber Award Winners

Celebrating the people and businesses that make this valley great!



**2019 GYCC Member of the Year - Tree Top**



**2019 Non-Profit of the Year - Rod's House**



**Chamber Volunteer of the Year  
Dr. Matt Uhlman**

**Not Pictured  
Emerging Business of the Year  
Freehand Cellars**

# 2020 Chamber and Chamber Foundation

## Events

**Yakima Valley Restaurant Week is scheduled for March 20 through March 28, 2020.** This event is presented by the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce and is open to all restaurants seeking to participate. This weeklong event will celebrate and promote fantastic local restaurants, all while helping our community's students learn culinary and business skills through the Urban Kitchen program.

Yakima is known for its incredible wine and beer, and we want to continue to trend of highlighting the amazing culinary options in our valley, too!



**Business of the Year - Fatbeam**

**The first ever Yakima Valley Bigfoot Con is coming to Yakima in April 2020.**

Join us as we welcome Bigfoot enthusiasts, researchers, and guests who share their experiences! Vendors! Local speakers will be in attendance! Family friendly event! The FIRST Yakima Valley Bigfoot CON will be held at the Yakama Nation's Legends Casino Hotel in Toppenish! MORE INFO coming soon regarding tickets & vendor spaces! Stay tuned.

### Chamber Awards

Every year the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce host the Community Service Awards along with the Ted Robertson Community Service Award. It is a night to showcase and celebrate the accomplishments our members. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**APRIL 17-18, 2020**

**YAKIMA VALLEY BIGFOOT CON**  
LEGENDS CASINO HOTEL • TOPPENISH, WA

ARTISTS & VENDORS • 509.248.2021 • WWW.YAKIMA.ORG • EMAIL: CHAMBER@YAKIMA.ORG



# **Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.**

## **Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!**



### **Members for 50 -59 Years:**

Dunbar Jewelers  
KNDO TV  
Smith Law Firm  
SPD & G Advertising  
US Bank  
Yakima Theatres

### **Members for 40 - 49 Years:**

Stephens Metal Products, Inc.

### **Members for 30 - 39 Years:**

Bernd Moving Systems  
Cascade Eye Center  
Corday & Sharon Trick  
Cowiche Growers, Inc.  
Elwood Staffing  
Fidelity Title Company  
Golden Wheel Restaurant  
Green Baron, Inc.  
John L. Scott Real Estate  
KDA Architecture  
Nob Hill Water Association  
Pro-Build Yakima  
Terrace Heights Development, LLC  
The Capitol Theatre  
The Dolsen Companies  
Therapeutic Associates - Yakima Physical Therapy  
United Buisness Machines of Washington  
Valley Mall Merchants  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
YCCS

### **Members for 20-29 Years:**

3W Trucking  
AAA Washington  
A & A Motor Coach, Inc.  
All American Self Storage  
Central Washington Family Medicine Clinic  
Design Service Corporation  
Don Jordan Energy Systems, Inc.  
Highgate Senior Living  
Johnston Insurance  
MacroPlastics  
Office Depot #937  
Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

### **Members for 20-29 Years:**

Pacific CA Services, Inc.  
Yakima Area Arboretum  
Yakima Training Center

### **Members for 15- 19 Years:**

Advanced Digital Imaging  
Airporter Shuttle  
Amtech Corporation, LLC.  
Better Business Bureau Eastern Washington  
Camp Prime Time  
C&H True Value Hardware  
Cole Industrial, Inc.  
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas County  
Doug Lemon Rentals  
JV Accounting



**Inklings Staff on Shop Small Saturday**  
**Thank you for supporting local business.**

**Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.**  
**Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!**



## YAKIMA COUNTY

**The first annual Lemonade Day Yakima County is coming to the Yakima Valley in June 2020!**

### **Members for 15-19 Years:**

Pacific CA Services, Inc.  
Merit Resource Services  
Northwest Harvest  
Owens Harley - Davidson  
Promotion Physical Therapy  
R.E Powell Distributing  
Rosauers Supermarkets, Inc.  
State Farm Insurance - Linda Roth  
Systems West LLC  
The Print Guys Inc.  
URM Cash & Carry  
Vision Craft, Inc.

### **Members for 10-14 Years:**

Community Health of Central Washington  
Graf Investments, INC.  
Granite Construction INC.  
Hilton Garden Inn Yakima  
Hop Extract Corp. of America  
Manhasset Specialty Company

### **Members for 10-14 Years:**

Umpqua Bank  
Wheatland Bank  
WRP Gateway, LLC  
Yakima Secure Self Storage

### **Members for 5 - 9 Years:**

Assurance Healthcare and Counseling Center  
Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Community Living  
Coviche Canyon Conservancy  
Joel's Tire  
Kronos Micronutrients, L.P.  
Law Office of Sonia Rodriguez True  
Robinson Drilling & Development, Inc.  
Yakima Symphony Orchestra  
Yakima Valley Conference of Governments  
Yakima Valley Pippins

### **Members for 1 - 4 Years:**

Absolute Comfort Technology  
BBSI  
Denny's  
ESGR  
Friendly Automotive  
Gravis Law PLLC  
Hoptown Pizza  
Keller Williams Yakima Valley  
K&L Plumbing Services LLC  
Ponderosa Assisted Living Community  
Silverwood Theme Park  
Boulder Beach Water Park  
SOZO Sports of Central Washington  
The Cleaning Brothers, LLC

## **Chamber Staff**

Verlynn Best, President & CEO  
Amy Lopez, Operations & Marketing  
Trena Cloyd, Director of Member Services  
Citlali Mason, Office Assistant

## **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."