

THE CHAMBER VOICE



**Greater Yakima Chamber of
Commerce**

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

September- October 2020

Message From Verlynn Best

How do you even begin to muddle your way through Covid 19?

Well you start by doing the best you can with what you have and for the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce that's businesses. A large percent of our membership is small business. Honestly, the big stores matter but it is a shame very few belong to your local Chamber. It is the small and medium businesses that are truly vested in our small rural communities and Chambers across American.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of this community (Yakima County) for your continued support! Even in hard times we need each other, and it has been an honor to serve you. There are so many people and organizations working behind the scenes to get our community open. Thank you! I do not want a new normal, it is an oxymoron to even say it. Either we get back to business or we will be out of business. To the many businesses that I met with in person...I hear you and I will represent you passionately. To all who have not opened yet, hang in there, don't give up! We are here and will help in any way we can.

Yakima's numbers are good, and we have complied to reach these goals all the while we continue in a modified phase one. It is not a right or left thing for me, it is doing what is needed to be healthy and move forward. I need to go to church, I mean really! We need to work out, we need time with our friends, and I like to shop. We need to hug, laugh, mingle, like many of you social isolation is not for me.

A few things that will forever be ingrained in my heart, is the old and new friends I have made. The way that non-profit organizations have come together to help the community and each other.



Just yesterday I was reminded of what great humility looks like. A young man came in to pick up a check from Yakima County Development Association per a grant program that YCDA is managing. Jon Smith and his team did a bang-up job! The gentlemen insisted on giving back by doing something for our building so Jon brought him back for me to meet him. He genuinely brought tears to my eyes, humility is a beautiful gift! So glad YCDA's team helped a good guy!

I believe that small and locally owned businesses are the backbone of this nation. In many places these businesses have been egregiously treated as non-essential. To all who have not opened, we are here, and we will help in any way we can. We have been serving the business community for 126 years and will continue to do so for years to come.

Verlynn Best



Studio 16

Owner Andi Wintzer and her team have adapted their space to work within the new guidelines.
Studio 16 - www.studio16salonspa.com
509-452-6751

Member Profile

Studio 16

Andi Wintzer – Studio 16 Salon & Spa Owner

Studio 16 Salon & Spa on Summitview Avenue has been a fixture in Yakima for over 15 years. Lifelong Yakima resident and owner Andi Wintzer has built what is considered the premier salon in Central and Eastern Washington by providing a level of service and quality recognized by her guests – some of which have followed her for over thirty years! As an Aveda Salon, Studio 16 also sets a high standard for natural and environment-friendly practices in an industry often reliant on many potentially unhealthy beauty products.

Asked about how her business has handled the challenge of the COVID crisis, Andi expressed an optimism we don't often hear from many small businesses this year:

"To be honest, there was no shortage of anxiety and panic once we realized the initial shutdown was going to extend well beyond the initial two weeks. But I had already been looking at how to take the business to the next level before this year, and ironically the shutdown gave me the time and opportunity to really think things through and commit to a different approach.

And yes, a four month shutdown was existentially painful for our sales and some of our staff, but I like the way we have come out of it. The reception to the changes from our guests has been validating – I've never had guests look so grateful to feel 'restored'!"

Asked about the key takeaway from 2020's difficult lesson, Andi referred to a newfound appreciation for change – that you need to always be prepared for it whether it is intentional or not. Being forced to move quickly and get creative to serve her guests and keep the business thriving has reduced the fear factor for her in making the big intentional changes Studio 16 may need in its next evolution.



Welcome, New Members!

Avaunt Technologies Inc.
2111 W Lincoln Ave.
Yakima, WA 98908
(509) 575-3600
www.avaunt.com

Edward Jones - Courtney M Beckler
3907 Castlevale Rd. STE 200
Yakima, WA 98902
509-457-3701
courtney.beckler@edwardjones.com

Hansen Family Dental
6615 W. Argent Rd.
Pasco, WA 99301
509-547-9951
www.hansenfamilydental.com

Hispanavision Television
715 W. Yakima Ave.
Yakima WA 98902
509-452-8817
www.hispanavisiontv.com

Lower Valley Machine Shop Inc.
104 W. 5th ST.
Grandview, WA 98930
(509) 882-3381

SBMC Law PS
116 W Pacific Ave Suite 200
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 755-7263
scott@sbmc-law.com

Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services
818 W Yakima Ave
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 453-4400
coordinator@yakimavas.org

Members For Over 100 Years:

Helliesen Lumber & Supply - 100
Horizon Distribution - 100
Yakima Federal - 115 Years

Members For Over 90- 99 Years:

Yakima Herald Republic
H.R. Spinner

Chamber News

Kristi Foster is the Board Chair of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce as of July. Kristi has been an active board member for several years. She has also been the director of the Leadership Yakima program since 2009.

The Chamber would also like to welcome two new board members:

Ranie Haas is the Director of Regulatory & Industry Affairs at Washington State Tree Fruit Association.

Benjamin Record is a lending Advisor for AAI Financial Group.

Member Profile Schab's Bier Den

Schab's Bier Den opened its doors in mid-August after a lengthy delay due to COVID-19. They may be known for their beer selections however they have an abundant variety of wines and ciders to choose from as well.

Primarily, all products are from the Yakima Valley and the Pacific NW, with several varieties of beer and wine from around the world. When the Beer Shoppe closed its doors a year ago, owners Zack & Trena decided that the community still needed something like that in the downtown area for locals and visitors alike.

Stop in for a pint or glass or just take some home! Due to the COVID restrictions, they have limited business hours. Please check their website or on social media for more information. The Bier Den is located at 22 N. 2nd ST. Suite 100



Executive Board

Chair: Kristi Foster, Wheatland Bank

Immediate Past Chair: Bob Gerst, John I Haas

First Vice Chair: Kathy Rheume,
HUB International

Past Chair Advisor: Joe Mann,
Ron's Coin & Collectible

Past Chair Advisor: Rich Austin
Yakima Sports Commission

Secretary/Treasurer: Danelle Kindell
Alegria & Company, P.S.

Legal Counsel: Jon L. Seitz
Lyon, Weigand & Gustafson PS

Second Vice Chair: Kathy Rheume,
HUB International

President/CEO: Verlynn Best

Board of Directors

Ranie Haas, 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

Ben Record, AAI Financial Group

Jamon Rivera, Virginia Mason Memorial

Jamie Cuevas Jr.

Linda DiLembo, Valley Mall

Ron L. Cardey, Kwik Lok Corp.

Ex-Officio Members

Vicki Baker, Yakima County Commissioner

LTC Luke Wittmer, Base Commander
Yakima Training Center

John Cooper, Yakima Valley Tourism

Kathy Kramer, State Fair Park

Dennis Matson, YV Tech

Johnathan Smith, YCDA

Christine Cote, Perry Technical Institute

Jess Camacho, Central Washington

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Patricia Byers, City of Yakima

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



Members for 70 - 79 Years:

Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Yakima School District

Members for 60 - 69 Years:

Triumph Group
Washington State Fruit Commission
Wray's Market Fresh IGA

Members for 50 - 59 Years:

Alegria & Company
Central Mechanical Services
Central Pre-Mix Concrete Company
Cintas Corporation
Harvest Chevrolet
Noel Corporation

Members for 40 - 49 Years:

Dr. Carbery's Oasis Dental
John I Haas
McDonald's of Yakima County
PayneWest Insurance
PLSA Engineering & Surveying
Roy's Ace Hardware
Russell Crane Service
Star Rentals Inc.
Tree Top Inc.
Valley Title Guarantee
Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.
YMCA of Yakima

Members for 30 - 39 Years:

Aubrey's R.V. Center
Avail Home Health
Barton's Center Pharmacy
Edward Jones - Gailon Gentry
Engravings Unlimited, Inc.
HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.
Leonard Rickey Investment Advisors
People For People
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

Members for 20-29 Years:

ALSCO
American Medical Response
Associated General Contractors
Baker Boyer Bank Wealth Management***
BORArchitecture PLLC
Bustos Media LLC
Concord Construction
Conley Engineering, Inc.
Freightliner Northwest
Fulcrum Environmental Consulting
Heritage Bank
Living Care Retirement Community
Oxford Suites
Rural Community Development Resources
Stephens Media Group
Valley Septic Service
Wellness House
West Coast Plastics
Yakima Association of Realtors
Yakima Urology Associates, PLLC

WIN A HOME

ONLY 6,000 TICKETS • TICKETS \$100
PERRYTECH.EDU/RAFFLE



PERRY TECHNICAL
FOUNDATION

BUILD
SPONSORED BY:



Checking • Home Loans • Savings



Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.

Members for 15-19 Years:

AB Transmission LLC
Clark Jennings & Associates
Delaney's Lost Sock Laundromat
H.E.B. Mini Storage
SCORE
Stokes Lawrence Velikanje Moore & Shore
Stoneway Electric Supply
Waffles Caffe
Yakima Rock and Mineral Club
Yakima Valley Libraries

Members for 10- 14 Years:

2nd Street Grill
Ascend Financial Group
Baird
Bear Event Services
Chukar Cherries
Fiesta Foods of Yakima
Gilbert Cellars
Hometown Ace Hardware
Interstate Batteries of Columbia Valley
Invisible Ink
Thompson Audiology and Hearing

Members for 5 - 9 Years:

Act Now Automotive
Aladin Limousine
A-L Compressed Gases, INC.
Allcities Solar
City of Union Gap
Don's Donuts & Julie's Java
Express Employment Professionals
Family Vision Care, PS
Famous Dave's - Union Gap
Get Air Yakima
Habitat for Humanity, Yakima Valley Partners

Members for 5 - 9 Years:

Larson Gallery Guild
Leslie Engineering LLC
Magic Metals Inc.
MB Designs
Panera Bread
Paragon Films
Sister Rebecca Berghoff Foundation
Staci's Catering
Tieton Cider Works

Members for 1 - 4 Years:

All American Discount Flooring Inc.
Caliber Home Loans, INC.
Downtown Association of Yakima
Five Guys Burgers and Fries
Foresight Media Productions
Good Samaritan Healthcare Center
Healthy Eats Classroom
Health Alliance Northwest
Hogback Development Company
Housing Authority of the City of Yakima
Hummel Agency - Farmers Insurance
Integrity Accounting & Tax LLC
Jacobs Engineering Group
Kicking Assets Bookkeeping LLC
LS Networks
Michael Latimer
NW Business Development Association
Pexco Aerospace
Ramsey Companies, INC.
Scott Mitseff
Timothy Surber - State Farm
The Old Warehouse
Vineyard Partners LLC
Wags to Riches Animal Rescue
Wattsmart Electric, 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."