2013 Ted Robertson Community Service Award Recipients
Greg & Jan Luring of McDonald’s of Yakima County
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Mike Dooley
Chair of the Board of Directors

Greetings!

Fall is in full swing and it feels like winter is just around the corner. The holidays are coming. I can almost smell the turkey and the pumpkin pie. I love the fact that we have four distinct seasons to enjoy in this beautiful valley. The best part is the sunshine over three hundred days per year. It doesn’t matter what season, the temperature, or the color of the landscape, the sunshine is usually here.

With the holidays coming and the shopping season taking off, please remember to support our local businesses. You can find almost anywhere here locally from quaint little handmade and oddball gift shops to fruit companies and wineries selling gift baskets with locally grown and made products. I know my family and friends who live outside our valley feel very special when they receive those gifts. It is easy to forget that we are blessed to live in a region with these amenities. World class wines and the abundance of agricultural products are second to none.

There are many choices for shopping locally for clothing, electronics, sporting equipment, vehicles, and all other gift items. The prices are very competitive, especially with the savings on fuel by staying local. The more we support the local economy the better the probability of thriving and building our community even more.

Our Chamber members need to remember the services we provide for them and the community. We are here to answer your questions and/or to point you in the right direction. We host “General Membership Luncheons” where you can listen to guest speakers on a wide variety of topics that affect all of us. There are “Business After Hours” gatherings where people can network and find out what other businesses do. “Leadership Yakima” is a fantastic program that I am a graduate of myself. It is great for people new to the area. I had lived in Yakima for nine years before I attended the program and d

November General Membership Luncheon them to your advantage. Spend some time on our website www.yakima.org to find more of the services and programs we offer. There are also a “Chamber” and “Community Calendar” to be informed about Chamber events and share your events with other members.

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Verlynn Best
President & CEO

Statistics are hard for me. I believe we need to respect and understand each other. In a recent meeting something I said about the proposed downtown meeting place was quoted and then later misinterpreted by an upset reader. That really concerned me. So what do we endorse as the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce? We regularly ask ourselves, “What is the “pro-business” stance on this issue?” We remember that we represent our members. We will poll you when we feel it will serve the community to see the results. I was sorry for the recent upset, just for trying to keep my remarks positive with the press. We, also, offer opportunities to help keep you informed so you can make good decisions. Our General Membership Luncheon on November 18th, 2013 is one good example. We hosted a presentation on the Downtown Development Concept plans. After this presentation we will poll from our members to ask what they think. We want our members to understand that our mission is to promote pride in our diverse communities through positive, active leadership aimed at creating a cohesive, successful business climate in our county. The problem is, sometimes the members may not all agree on how to do that. Let us respect each other’s opinions, interpretations, and conclusions and work toward resolution, collaboration, and prosperity, which require us to work together for the greater good.

So, on behalf of those of us who find ourselves on the Yellow Brick Road, be reminded that the Scarecrow got a brain, the Tin Man a heart, and the Lion courage! The great Oz was a true friend and teacher. We remember that we represent our community, and work toward resolution, and work toward resolution, interpretations, and conclusions. Let us respect each other’s opinions, and conclusions. Let us respect each other’s opinions, interpretations, and conclusions.

Our purpose isn’t to take a stance on a given topic, to discuss and debate what is best politically and economically for our business community. We try to bring both sides of the issues to the table to discuss and educate our members and overall community on the critical topics. Our purpose isn’t to take a stance on one side or the other, but to educate and inform so that you can support and vote for what you believe is right. The Chamber has over 800 members, so if we take a position on a given topic, we would be certain to upset someone. We can take surveys and polls from our membership and publish those results, but please remember we only report your comments and opinions and that again, we aren’t taking a stance on what we believe is right or wrong. We are an advocate for the business community and we all need to educate ourselves and each other to take care of our community together. It is not about right or left, it is about right or wrong.

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“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”
- Theodore Roosevelt

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Transportation

Tom Rasmussen
Transportation Committee Chair
Seattle City Council

Following World War II my family moved to Washington State from the mid-West. First we lived in Spokane and later moved to Bellevue. Some of my relatives stayed on in Spokane and others moved to Yakima. For Christmas and other holidays we would slowly drive the Yakima Valley Canyon Road and slog our way over Snoqualmie Pass to visit our grandparents and cousins.

Back then, our local and state public officials knew that for our state to thrive we needed a better transportation system.

Boeing recently said that for Washington State to maintain its leading edge in building passenger airplanes we must pass a transportation funding package that maintains our roads and that improves the safety and capacity of critical freight corridors like I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass. This is not an idle threat: other states are working over Snoqualmie Pass. This is not an idle threat: other states are working on an efficient transportation system -- roads, bridges, ferries and transit that get people to and from work and our products to market.

But our system is teetering on the brink of crisis. Many of our roads and bridges need repair. Many are too congested.

Lost time in traffic for commuters and trucks moving freight affects our economy. A lack of investment in improvements to our transportation system affects decisions on location of businesses.

Washington State.

We have critical freight mobility projects, including I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass, that will help relieve traffic congestion, and allow more efficient movement of freight from the Yakima Valley to our Ports. Improvements are needed along I-82 to ease congestion and provide additional capacity along the highway and local roads.

If the bridges and highways of Western Washington are congested, the bumper crops of the Yakima Valley, and the wheat and manufactured products of Eastern Washington won't be delivered without delay and greater cost and we will all suffer the loss of business to other regions and other countries.

Now, the time is right for all of us from both sides of the Cascades, to stand together to urge our legislators to pass a comprehensive transportation revenue bill that fixes our roads and sustains our public transportation systems.

Please join us in contacting your legislators and ask them to vote for a comprehensive package in this special session that was just called by the Governor.

Yakima much faster and much more safely because of decisions made over 50 years ago.

We are now the generation of leaders who must make the forward thinking decisions just as our parents, members of the greatest generation, did before us. Our economy depends on an efficient transportation system -- roads, bridges, ferries and transit that get people to and from work and our products to market.

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Community Service

Greg & Jan Luring of McDonald’s of Yakima County

The Ted Robertson Community Service Award has become the most prestigious community service award in the Yakima Valley. Established twenty three years ago by the GYCC Past Board Chairs to honor individuals each year who have made major contributions for 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.

This year’s honorees were selected by the Past Board Chairs of the Chamber, for their inspiring leadership, achievements, and commitment to the improvement of our community as a business people and citizen of the Yakima Valley.

This year’s recipients, having been in business in the Yakima Valley for the last 33 years, have supported dozens of local organizations through time, funding, and leadership.

Organizations benefitting from their community service are almost too many to name. The valley’s pre-schools, grade schools and high schools, valley sports teams, Allied Arts, Rotary, United Way, Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA, Comprehensive Mental Health, KYVE, Yakima Symphony, Visitors and Convention Bureau, La Casa Hogar, Junior League, The Community Foundation, Heritage College, The Seasons, YVCC, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, Warehouse Theater, numerous churches, Boy Scouts, Booster Clubs, Parker Youth Sports Foundation, Yakima Schools Foundation, McDonald’s Care Mobile and more.

Greg is the Founder and has been President of the Rotary Trust. He has been President of the Yakima Downtown Rotary and is presently District Governor Elect. On two separate occasions he has planned 13 new schools and ran two political campaigns to pass the bond.

Jan has served on over 12 boards and President of several to compile over 50 years of board services. She was Business Women of the Year in 1990 and started the Sunrise Rotary Speech contest for youth that same year. She has successfully chaired auctions for KYVE, Heritage College, Junior League, United Way of Central WA and big ticket items for Rotary and others.

Greg and Jan are personally thrilled with the gift to children through their involvement with Junior Achievement. 12,000 children access additional learning skills through this program in Central Washington.

Starting with one store in 1980, the Lurings now have almost 80 McDonald’s restaurants and 12,000 employees. The Lurings have received numerous awards, however, the most prestigious is the Ronald McDonald Award for community service. It is the highest honor McDonald’s can bestow upon an owner operator. Only one is given in a five state region and they have received it twice.

Ted Robertson Community Service Award Presentation

Greg & Jan Luring of McDonald’s of Yakima County

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Starting with one store in 1980, the Lurings now have almost 80 McDonald’s restaurants and 12,000 employees. The most valuable aspect to their chosen path as McDonald’s owners are the hundreds of Yakima Valley youth they have employed. Some of their most treasured moments are having former employees, who now could be parents or grandparents, say they are successful today because of their McDonald’s work experience.

Tod Robertson Community Service Award Presentation
Scan to Watch Nominees and Winners Video!
BLACK & WHITE

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

ACTNOW, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

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Thanks to you our sponsors, for the BIGGEST Awards Night EVER!

CHAMBER COMMITTEES

Ambassadors Committee - Ambassadors are the “customer care representatives” of the Chamber. These volunteers assist Chamber staff with the General Membership Luncheons, Business After Hours, and Ribbon Cuttings. Ambassadors meet monthly and serve a minimum of one year.

Government Affairs Committee - Meets fourth Tuesday at Noon in the Mercy Leadership Center at the Chamber - The Chamber GAC initiates participation in Chamber Day in Olympia, the development of Legislative Business Agendas, Candidate Forums, E-mail Alerts, and other efforts directed at maintaining a business-friendly environment in the state. The Chamber maintains relationships with city and county officials to establish the vital infrastructure needed to retain, attract and grow business in the greater Yakima area.

Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - Meets second Tuesday each month at 11am. VMAC meets to discuss supporting the Yakima Stand Down, Veteran’s Job Fair, and to support local veterans, military and their families.

Marketing Yakima Valley Committee - Meets second Thursday of the month at noon - Formed to collaborate on marketing projects that promote the positive spirit of the Yakima Valley. We also discuss events, procedures, and tools that can be used by marketing professionals. Our objective is to recruit individuals who have creative marketing ideas, diverse talents and are excited to show Yakima in a positive way, and to collaborate on definable projects. Materials made and or produced by the committee are for community use, and will be distributed for community use by all in the Yakima Valley.

Business Expo Planning Committee – This committee serves the community by providing Chamber members the opportunity to showcase their goods and services while generating revenue for the Chamber. The committee meets monthly; more often if needed as the Expo date gets closer.

For more information, see “Committees” page at www.yakima.org

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Russillo’s Pizza and Gelato is open at the new location! 32 N. Front St in Yakima

Scan code to see Grand Opening Video

Skyline Home Loans Office opens at 3911 Castlevale Suite 109 Yakima

Come see all the changes at the New Koi Bistro 1606 W. Nob Hill Blvd.

Standard Paint and Flooring in Yakima opens a beautiful new West Valley Location at 130 S. 72nd Ave. Yakima.
Message from Yakima Specialties

Do you have jobs that are hard to cover, or are difficult to add into someone else’s busy day? We can do collation, assembly, cleaning, sorting, most any task that you have at your site we can help support you and explain the cost savings to you.

We would like to introduce our agency to you. Yakima Specialties is a local non-profit working with people with disabilities. Our agency is unlike many non-profit agencies that work with people with disabilities. One of the most unique ways is that we take very little government money; we want to run as any other business would be expected to run, profitable. We currently have four divisions to support people with disabilities to earn a competitive wage. We have what is known as the Wood Shop, where we produce tree spreaders, and pallets for the local orchards and packing houses. We also have a Commercial Laundry business providing laundry services to the local Army base and local hospitals, our third endeavor is our Commercial Laundry, which runs; profitable. We currently have four divisions to support people with disabilities, as not only do their abilities vary wildly but their interest do as well.

We are always looking for additional work opportunities for people with disabilities, as not only do their abilities vary wildly but their interest do as well.

We would like to talk with you more extensively if you feel that you could use the services of Yakima Specialties to help with your successful business. Please contact us at 509-453-0386

http://www.yakimavalley.org | Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce | 13
As a 13 year member of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, we understand the challenges that local businesses face. We also know that the world of computers and print technology can be intimidating.

So, here at Print Guys we have been partnering with Yakima Chamber Members to provide solutions for their day to day business printing needs. From the marketing items that bring new opportunities to the forms that keep operations running smoothly, our goal is to solve all of our customers’ challenges with the highest quality printing and best customer service within the time frame that they need.

Call Today! 509.453.6369
2802 W. Nob Hill Blvd., Suite B
Yakima, WA 98902
www.printguysprinting.com