The Ted Robertson Community Service Award, Honoring:

Bill Dolsen  Ken Marble  Al DeAtley
**Message from the Chair**

President’s Report

Member Profile - Lynchpin

Legal - Peter M. Ritchie

**CONTENTS**

4 Message from the Chair
9 What Lies Beneath Yakima?
5 President’s Report
13 Business Briefs
6 Member Profile - Lynchpin
14 Renewing Members
7 Legal - Peter M. Ritchie
15 Business Briefs

Executive Committee Members

Chair: Joe Mann, Ron’s Coin & Book
Vice Chair: Immediate Past Chair: Mike Dooley, Willett Present Inc.
Appointed by Chair: Jeff Leman, Hewitt, Hewitt Associates, Inc.
Appointed by Chair: Ben King, Radio Yakima Legal Counsel: Don Boyd, Carlson Boyd & Bailey PLLC
President/CEO: Verlyn Best, Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce

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Linda Johnson, MBC - Small Business Development Center
Craig Dwight, YV Tech
Lou Bausch, EDC, Greg Stewart, State Fair Park
John Cooper, Yakima Valley Tourism
Mike McElhiney, New Vision/YCDA

Administrative Team members:

Verlyn Best, President & CEO
Thane Phelan, Vice President
Amy Lopez, Information and Events Coordinator
Tracy Dumas, Member Services Representative
Carolyn Gray, Office Administration

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.”

**ON THE COVER**

2014 Annual Chamber Awards

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

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SAVING YOU MONEY AND SAVING OUR PLANET!
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Chair of the Board of Directors

A Better Yakima for 121 Years

In 1893 a group of concerned citizens had an idea of a club to look after business interest of Yakima and the surrounding area. The commercial club (precursor of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce) did indeed support local business. In 1903, the club incorporated by selling 500 members shares at $100 (approx. $2,400 in today’s standards) each with the agreement also of a $100 per year membership fee. With this $50,000, club members went to fairs, expos, and events telling the story of the fertile soil and great weather of the Yakima Valley. Members even went to Alaska territory to distribute this information to entice people to come and start farms, orchards, and businesses. From this time thru the 1940’s, the club (The Yakima Chamber of Commerce) worked on shipping methods, by train, trucks, etc. lobbied for a better roads and pushed for the I-90 interstate and a useable Snoqualmie Pass roadway. Some other projects were the armor; the state fair; and strong irrigation and horticulture laws.

In the 1950’s and 60’s the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, was not only the voice of the business community, but it also started work on forming the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau. With strong committee work and a “we can do it” attitude the visitor’s bureau was formed and guided into the 1960’s when it became its own entity.

Today the chamber is still the voice of the business community. It pushes for a better business environment on a daily basis with ribbon cuttings, private meetings with potential new businesses, having weekly business to business meetings, monthly luncheons, and business After Hours events. The Chamber strives to make businesses better and more efficient in the Yakima Valley. Also, the chamber pushes for a better community by having a yearlong Leadership Yakima course and educational programs. Around this time of the year the Chamber sponsors several political forums so the general public will be well informed of whom and what to vote for and how these votes will affect them. The Chamber also works on getting the valley recognized for the work it does to make the daily life of the citizens better, such as helping with federal/state grants, better schools, parks, fire departments, and public safety, as well projects like the “All-American City” designation. Likewise the Chamber has been involved in assisting with the change of downtown to a more vibrant and friendly meeting place.

So as you can see the chamber has been a helping hand for a better and stronger Yakima Valley for 121 years! So, join today to help make Yakima truly one of the best places to live and raise a family. If you would like to be part of this amazing organization call your Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce! 509.248.2021

Joe Mann
President & CEO

“What Have You Done For Me Lately?”

As of September 14th, 2014, I will have completed three years as the President and CEO of your Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce. I would like to share with you a list of some of our accomplishments.

We have written letters of support for the city, county, and individuals who promote building a healthy community and commerce.

We participated and organized the first attempt at winning the All-America City Award in 20 years, and we made it as a finalist!

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We do numerous Ribbon Cuttings and Grand Openings for businesses every month.

We provide member business referrals. We provide training for the best Leadership program in Yakima County with a total of 674 graduates who are now serving this community and other organizations in many ways. We have created no less than 75 videos for businesses and events.

We answer daily questions—from “are the peaches ripe yet?” to “what hotels and restaurants do you recommend?”, plus we provide a copious amount of information to visitors coming to our community.

We provide access to others (New Vision, Small Business Development Center, SCORE) who provide information on improving or bringing new business to the Yakima Valley. We are a conduit for information regarding regulation and issues facing our business community. We provide relocation packets to people moving to or considering the Yakima Valley for a business location.

My staff and I serve on more than ten Boards and committees such as Unity Works, WCCF, AWB, Yakima Schools Foundation; New Leaders; Leadership Yakima; Rod’s House, Operation Thank You…..so, as you can see, we are very committed to our community and commerce! You cannot have one without the other.

We build and lift the business community by providing memberships (your investment) which in turn, supports our 121 year old Chamber, the oldest non-profit in the Yakima Valley! You ask “what have you done for me lately”…any questions?

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Lynchpin is a social learning community where students and families connect, learn, and grow together. We respect one another as individuals, and blend our unique qualities into dynamic small social learning groups. Outside of group, we provide varied opportunities for our students to come together to develop and practice their social skills. Our team works hard to consistently provide a safe, fun, and welcoming environment for our social learners and their families.

What Lynchpin students and families can expect from our social learning groups:

- Creative, innovative approaches to enhance student social skills in both structured and unstructured settings
- Group sessions that are customized to fit participants’ strengths, interests, and areas for social growth
- Social Thinking® and related skills delivered in a thoughtfully assigned group of no more than 5 students per instructor.
- Group sessions that last 60 minutes with the students, then an additional 10-20 minutes reserved for “family connections time,” when the social teacher will discuss group lessons, goals, and home applications with the family.

How we build groups:
We believe that children make social progress when learning with like-minded peers. Therefore, we carefully group students based on strengths, interests, age, and areas for social growth.

Additional social opportunities include:
- “Teen Nights” every Friday night (excluding holiday weekends).

Lynchpin also has activities for middle and high school students. Activities range from movie nights, board games, Dungeons and Dragons, Rock Band, and Just Dance.

Please contact Erin Lynch with any questions at:
Lynchpin Foundation
1200 Chesterley Drive St. 180
Yakima, WA 98902
(509)895-7611
charges supervising employees. Choosing not to hire such persons would seem a matter of common sense. Employers should be able to inquire about applicants’ criminal histories to protect themselves and their customers. Right? But common sense is rare in the government. Since the late 80’s the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has been working to restrict criminal background checks of applicants. The EEOC is the governmental agency enforcing Title VI, the federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race, religion, color, and national origin. The EEOC recently issued updated guidelines that place significant burdens on how employers can inquire about applicants’ criminal backgrounds. But since criminals are not a protected class under Title VI, how can the EEOC get away with restricting background checks? The EEOC’s crusade to restrict background checks is based on the fact that African-Americans and Hispanics are statistically more likely to have criminal records. Hispanics are another step on the road to eliminating background checks.

The only exception is where the exclusion is job related and “consistent with business necessity,” meaning there is a tight connection between the criminal conduct and the position applied for (i.e., a bank could probably exclude an applicant convicted of identity theft in 2011). In practice, the EEOC’s new guidelines will be burdensome and expensive to employers, and are another step on the road to eliminating background checks completely. They are concerning and should prompt employers to thoughtfully consider and revise their employment policies and adopt narrowly-tailored policies.

Did you know there are old tunnels beneath the downtown area of Yakima? That was the subject of a meeting recently at the old Yakima Train Depot. The meeting was initiated by former Eisenhower High School teacher and Yakima Historical Society chairman, Paul Schafer and organized by retired Yakima Police Officer, Vic Kusske.

Larry Couette surveyed locations for possible electrical hazards and the three visiting spelunkers, trained in safety hazards and the three visiting spelunkers, trained in safety Hazmat procedures, cartography, securing and recording artifacts made incursions into 3 different locations. The first was the old bar on Front Street where they found Vic’s old tunnel entrance blocked and filled in. The second was at the Pacific Hotel owned by Joe and Kathy Mann where no tunnel possibilities found and a third location which was not completely surveyed.

An old whiskey bottle was discovered in the basement of the Pacific Hotel by our explorers as they crawled through dark and dusty areas barely open enough for a person. Bottled in North Yakima by Kellogg and Ford, it was dusted off and found to be at least 110 years old with a label...
Chamber Ambassadors visited the New Starbucks Coffee at 2250 W. Nob Hill Blvd in the Ranier Square!

**RIBBON CUTTINGS**

**Ribbon Cutting for Grocery Girls of Yakima.** They could be your very OWN personal grocery shoppers, With several ways to get them your orders ie: online, curb side etc. Find out more at www.yakimagrocerygirls.com

New Automotive Shop in Town - Stop in to welcome New Chamber Member Brady Johnson and ActNow Automotive at 217 S. 2nd Ave. Certified mechanics, friendly staff, & super competitive pricing!! More info below!

---

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**Domestic, Asian, European, Light Duty Diesel and Class C Motor Homes**

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“Brady Johnson, owner of ActNow Automotive has been our family's mechanic for over 13 years. If you want someone that you can trust to maintain and repair your vehicle, Brady should be your choice!!”

Gerry & Robin Helman

217 South 2nd Ave | Yakima, WA 98902 | (509) 424-4296

www.actnowautomotive.com
MEMORIAL: Compassionate, award-winning care

For more than 60 years, Memorial Family of Services has worked collaboratively to meet the needs of the Yakima Valley, whether it’s the birth of a baby, a new hip or knee or hospice care as you approach end of life.

Now, Memorial has been honored with the 2014 Circle of Life Award for innovation in palliative and end-of-life care—one of just three recipients nationally. This year’s other honorees are Baylor Health Care System in Dallas and Leigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The award is sponsored by the American Hospital Association, Catholic Health Association and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization/National Hospice Foundation.

“As thrilled as we are with this award, we recognize that it wouldn’t be possible without the tremendous engagement and support of our community,” says Anne Caffery, president of The Memorial Foundation. “Our community has demonstrated its commitment to improving the quality of life in Central Washington, and we aim to continue to aid in those efforts.”

Memorial operates a hospice house, Cottage in the Meadow, and offers a largely volunteer-driven Transitions palliative care program that serves more than 200 patients each year in their homes. Monthly community talks provide guidance on various subjects, such as living wills, advance directives and coping with grief during the holidays, and Memorial’s outreach programs work to build dialogue within our multicultural valley about end-of-life issues.

The award recognizes Memorial for its work to identify and meet community needs around end-of-life care throughout its Family of Services, including the needs of low-income and ethnically-diverse individuals. It also recognizes the Transitions Program as a product of visionary leadership and strong community partnerships that offers a patient- and family-centered approach with extraordinary spiritual care and creative use of volunteers.

“These services, when combined with the many other facets of care offered by Memorial, enable us to offer a strong continuum of care for patients and their families, from diagnosis of a life-limiting illness through the end of life,” says Gail Weaver, board member for Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

And Weaver says it’s the focus on the families of which she’s most proud. With some of her own family members receiving hospice care, Weaver says she’s seen for herself the quality care offered by so many people coming together.

“I’m proud of the care and services we’ve been able to provide already, but also the groundwork we’ve laid for the future,” Weaver says. “This award recognizes our community coming together to meet a community need, and it’s that spirit of collaboration and partnership that will allow us to continue that effort going forward.”

Healthy Yakima.

*MEMORIAL: Circle of Life Award* 2014 recipient of the Circle of Life Award: Celebrating Innovation in Palliative and End of Life Care.

\[Image of the award and a group of people celebrating.\]

BUSINESS BRIEFS

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

Evergreen Financial Services, Inc. welcomes Jason L. Woehler as Associate General Counsel and Trial Attorney.

Jason L. Woehler has joined Evergreen Financial Services, Inc. as Associate General Counsel and Trial Attorney for the company. Woehler is a graduate of the University of Washington and received his Juris Doctorate from Seattle University in 1997.

Woehler has been in practice 16 years with emphasis on commercial and consumer collection and contract litigation as well as probate and guardianship matters. He is a member of the Washington Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and is admitted to multiple tribal courts in Washington. He is active in the ABA Litigation Section and serves on the Credit & Collection subcommittee. Evergreen Financial Services is a debt collection agency serving the region with offices in Yakima and Richland.

Evergreen Financial Services, Inc.

Jason L. Woehler

Tina Engebretson Becomes an ALA Certified Lighting Consultant

Tina Engebretson of Inland Lighting Center, Inc., has become an ALA Certified Lighting Consultant (CLC®). The American Lighting Association’s Certification Program is an essential element in developing sales professionals as the source for expert advice on home lighting. Certification represents the highest level of professional recognition that the association has to bestow upon its membership. Among the requirements to become a CLC® are: participating in 40 hours of training or having 10 years of lighting experience/employment, completing a full residential lighting layout, and providing references. Engebretson has joined an elite group of industry professionals widely respected by her peers and knowledgeable on the latest trends in the lighting industry.

Engebretson began work at Inland Lighting in February 2000. In May of 2004, Engebretson signed on as co-owner with her husband, Jim Engebretson. In addition to her membership with ALA, Engebretson is a member of the Central Washington Home Builders Association, the Home Builders Association of Tri Cities, and the Yakima Chamber of Commerce. She holds an Associate Degree from Yakima Valley Community College and a Bachelor of Education from Washington State University, from which she graduated in 1993. Engebretson and her husband live in Yakima, Wash.

Tina Engebretson

For more tips, visit pacificpower.net/safety.

Stay safe around electricity every day and be prepared in case of an outage or emergency with these safety tips from Pacific Power.

Stay safe at home

• Keep tools and ladders away from power lines
• Call 811 before you dig
• Turn off and unplug small appliances when you leave home
• Don’t use electric appliances near water
• Childproof outlets
• Replace batteries in smoke detectors annually
• Don’t overload outlets
• Replace equipment with frayed or cracked cords

Be prepared for an emergency

An emergency or natural disaster can happen at any time. Have a three-day emergency supply kit with the following items ready:

• Water, one gallon per person per day
• Non-perishable food, manual can opener
• Flashlight and extra batteries
• First aid kit and medications
• Battery-powered or hand crank weather radio and extra batteries
• Blankets
• Important family documents
• Cell phone with charger, extra battery or solar charger
• Cash

For more tips, visit pacificpower.net/safety.

Evergreen Financial Services, Inc. welcomes Jason L. Woehler as Associate General Counsel and Trial Attorney.

Safety Always

Jason L. Woehler

For more tips, visit pacificpower.net/safety.

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Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships in June & July 2014

Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!

Members for 1-4 Years:
- A-L Compressed Gases – 3 Years
- Campbell and Company – 4 Years
- Mighty Tieton – 4 Years
- Rodda Paint Company 4 Years
- Yakama Nation Legends Casino – Board of Directors – 3 Years
- Yakima Valley Hearing and Speech Center – 4 Years

Members for 5-9 Years:
- AAA Secured Storage - 8 Years
- Advanced Mechanical & Electrical, INC. – 8 Years
- All Valley Sheet Metal – 8 Years
- Apple-A-Day – 6 Years
- Associated Freight Brokers – 8 Years
- Central Washington Medical Group – 8 Years
- Columbia Homes – 8 Years
- Competitive Plumbing – 8 Years
- Fiestas Foods – 8 Years
- Gilbert Cellars - 7 Years
- G.S. Long – 8 Years
- Interstate Battery of Apple Valley – 6 Years
- Prestige Motors – 6 Years
- Rad’s Auto Repair – 8 Years
- Root’s Coin and Book – 8 Years
- Shopkeeper – 7 Years
- Zaremba Claims Service – 8 Years

Members for 10 -14 Years:
- All About Fun – 12 Years
- AW Roofing of Yakima 13 Years
- Clark Jennings and Associates – 13 Years
- DaVita Dialysis Center, Union Gap – 11 Years
- E.H. B. Mini Storage – 13 Years
- Rescare – 11 Years

New Members

- Acenow Automotive
- Brady Johnson - Owner
- 217 S 2nd Ave
- Yakima, WA 98902
- (509) 424-4296
- www.acenowautomotive.com

- Artistic Properties LLC
- Kate Loeb - Managing Member
- 62nd ST #1109
- Yakima, WA 98901
- (509) 388-0545
- www.artisticpropertiesllc.com

- The Grocery Girls of Yakima
- 6 S 2nd Ave #1109
- Yakima, WA 98901
- (509) 388-0545
- www.yakimagrocerygirls.com

- Starbucks Coffee Company
- 2550 W Nob Hill Blvd #100
- Yakima, WA 98902
- (509) 452-0062
- www.starbucks.com

- The Hawk took flight on Friday, August 29th at 5pm. Radio Yakima found there is very strong demand for a Classic Rock radio station. Based on results of a wide ranging audience research study that talked to hundreds of radio listeners in the Yakima area.

- Radio Yakima is proud to announce the debut of a new radio station, 105.7 THE HAWK.

- The HAWK focuses on Classic Rock from the 70s, 80s and more, playing legendary Rock bands and artists, including Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Pink Floyd, Guns N Roses, and hundreds more... everything from AC/DC to ZZ Top. THE HAWK is filling the void for so many Classic Rock fans!

- THE HAWK replaces 105.7 Bob FM.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The annual Central Washington State Fair is later this month, it is not too early to be thinking about saving some money on admission tickets and ride wristbands. The discounted admission tickets and ride wristbands are now on sale online and at various locations around the Yakima Valley. By purchasing in advance fairgoers can save $3 on General Fair admission and up to $11 on a carnival ride wristband. The wristbands are sold for $30 (Tuesday-Friday) and $35 (Saturday-Monday) during the Fair but in advance of the Fair they sell for $24. A wristband gets a rider on the Butter Amusement carnival rides as many times as they want for one day.

General admission during the Fair is $13 for adults (ages 13-64) but purchased in advance the GA tickets are $10. Seniors 65+ are $7 in advance, $10 during the Fair and children 6-12 years old are $7 in advance, $8 during the Fair. Children 5 and under are free.

All branches of Banner Bank, all Wray’s IGA Food Stores (Southgate, Chalet Place, Meadowbrook), and the Box Office at State Fair Park will be selling Fair admission tickets and carnival wristband vouchers in advance of the Fair. Carnival wristband vouchers are also available at the following locations: Brewers AM/PM (40th & Fruitvale), Fiesta Foods (Fair Ave./Nob Hill & Sunnyside) and Coastal Farm & Ranch.

This year the Fair is also offering a season pass that can be purchased for $50 which allows the holder into the Fair all ten days. Admission tickets and the season passes can also be purchased online this year, in advance of the Fair. Go to www.ticketwest.com to purchase online, or to www.fairfun.com for more information.

The discounted wristbands and general admission tickets are on sale now and will continue to be through Thursday, September 18th. The season passes will be on sale now through the end of the Fair. This year’s Central Washington State Fair runs Friday, September 19th through Sunday, September 28th in Yakima.

Second Half of Lunchtime Live Concert Series Features Variety

The decision to split this year’s Lunchtime Live concert series into two sessions in order to avoid the hottest part of the summer seems to have been a fortuitous one. The last few months have seen record high temperatures, with the hottest part of the summer seeming to come early. The last few months have seen record high temperatures. The weather is cooler off a bit, the series has once again begun to fill Downtown Yakima’s Performance Park with a wide variety of music for five consecutive Fridays which began on September 5th, sponsored by Solarity Credit Union and Stewart Subaru.

Bradford Loomis will bring his folk sound to the Lunchtime Live stage on September 12th and will be followed on September 19th by Navid & Friends, an acoustic pop group led by Yakima favorite Navid Elliot. Hot Barbecue will add its roots country vibe to the Lunchtime Live series on September 26th. The October 3rd show will feature Chelan native Olivia de la Cruz and her lyrical, soulful sound. The 2014 Lunchtime Live series will close on October 10th with the Portland-based indie/folk group Meriou.

All of the Lunchtime Live shows take place at Performance Park, located on the corner of 2nd Street and Sgt. Pennington Way, and run from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. To find out more about the Lunchtime Live concert series and the many other events taking place throughout the year in Downtown Yakima, visit www.downtownyakima.com.

Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!
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.

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