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The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

August 2024

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 08

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

BLUEBILLS 30th Anniversary Year



August 30th Chapter Meeting Presentation

By Jim Beasley

Our presenter on August 30th will be from the Renton Chamber of Commerce. the topic will be about the chamber on this it's 100th Anniversary.



IT ALL BEGAN A CENTURY AGO

In 1909, two dozen businessmen met in the Melrose Hotel Dining Room (now the Melrose Grill) to form a Chamber of Commerce to advance the community's interest. The original name was first established as the Renton Chamber of Commerce in 1924.

The Renton Chamber's mission is to improve business and economic conditions, and the general welfare of the community. To that end, the Chamber is in the business of serving business, as it has for decades.

The Chamber partners with the [City of Renton](#), the [Renton School District](#), [Renton Technical College](#), [Valley Medical Center](#), and community and [business leaders](#) to promote and sustain a healthy business environment and a vibrant community for Renton's families and workforce

Letter to the Editor

I want to write a little something about Jim Beasley.

Jim, I just wanted to write in appreciation for the way you find interesting people to speak at our meetings. You find people that we didn't even know we would be interested in, at least speaking for myself. As I recall, you wanted to "retire" from finding our monthly speakers a long time ago, yet here you are, still finding people to enlighten us. I know we all appreciate this talent you have.

I'm sure I speak for all the Bluebills.

Janice Hawes



July Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri

Doug Hoople opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. I was the only July birthday in attendance and there are five others on my list: Jerome Durbin, Robert

Osrowske, Lana Mitsules, Jean Syder and Stu Vessey. Micki and Ron Brown had their 47th wedding anniversary on July 7 -- which amounts to 7-7-77.

Doug then announced there would be a potluck at the next meeting on August 30th. Hope we have a big turnout.

Norma reminded Renton VFW is sponsoring a clothing/household drive through the end of August. "Gently used" items such as men's, women's, kids, and baby clothes, as well as shoes and boots, plus blankets, sheets, pillows, comforters can be brought to the July Bluebills meeting or dropped off through the end of August at 416 Burnett Ave. So. between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For questions call (206) 790-3255 or leave a message at (425) 417-4035.

Jim Beasley then introduced our speaker Conrad Swanson with The Seattle Times. Conrad, an Iowa native, covers climate change and its intersection with environmental and political issues.



With the help of a visual presentation, Conrad addressed many factors of the climate change issues. For instance, Washington's electrical grid is in a transitional state right now and there's much at risk. For generations, hydropower has been one of the gems of the northwest and a tremendous source of pride. It remains the single greatest source of electricity in Washington. Approximately, 60% of the state's power comes from hydro. It is generated at a series of dams up and down the Columbia River Basin. In addition, about 10.4% of our electricity comes from natural gas and 86% comes from coal. Wind is at 8%, nuclear makes up 4% and solar is less than 1%

So, that's about how things work now, but times are changing. Our generation capabilities are taking a hit and face legal requirements. On top of that, our demand is skyrocketing.

First, hydropower generation is suffering because of drought. Less snow and more rain mean we can't capture as much water as we'd like. This messes with our ability to store the resource itself, but also means we can't generate as much electricity as we'd like. The problem was so bad last year that City Light burned through millions in emergency reserves buying power off the grid and had to raise rates to build it back up again.

Then we're cutting our coal plants. Some of our utilities are still partial owners of out-of-state plants, but really there's only one coal plant left in the state, in Centralia, and that's scheduled to close in 2025.

To be clear..... We understand that climate change, which is warming our atmosphere and contributing to extreme weather events, is caused by humans burning fossil fuels. That includes coal, natural gas, gasoline, etc. Thus, we need to stop burning fossil fuels.

Such a transition is complicated. We have to replace infrastructure that's been around for generations and has brought a sense of affordability and reliability to our lives. This includes increasing more electricity, which as a result is predicted to increase demand to double by 2050.

Climate change is sharpening the extreme sides of our weather events. It's not your imagination that summers are hotter than they used to be. More people using air conditioning than ever before. These types of extremes spike energy and create moments with extremely high risk. Without a lot of new generation, our energy demand could exceed our supply during times of extreme weather as early as 2030.

So, what is the answer? We need to build more generation, preferably renewable. It seems at this time there is no long-term national plan or even a long-term statewide plan, other than requirements to cut greenhouse gas emissions. And yet, it's a piecemeal approach.

There are a few renewable projects in the works, like the Horse Heaven Hills wind farm south of the Tri-Cities. But that project is not enough. It's the largest wind farm yet proposed for Washington and we would still need 20 more of them to replace the generation lost by coal and natural gas in order to meet increasing demand .

Plus, it's taking forever. There is massive opposition to this with much back and forth between the state board and the governor. It has taken years longer than expected and however it turns out, it's going to set a precedent for any other group that might want to build a similar project here in the future.

Federal money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act can help. That's being used to build new generation and transmission, but again it's not enough. We need more money, more generation, and some say a regional power market, which would not only help the buying and selling of electricity up and down the coast, but might also help connect some of the dots between all these different local utility district, state and federal agencies and independently owned utilities.

We clearly need more wind and solar and battery storage to go with them too, but where do we put all these things? Rooftop solar? What about wind out on the water? We've got challenges there, too. What about using ocean movement to generate power? Sure, but it still needs to be developed and built to scale. Perhaps modular nuclear reactors which could be built (theoretically) quickly and employed all around.

We are at an inflection point. We know the basic outline of these problems, we know where we're at, the problems we face, and about where we need to go, but we're still not quite sure on how to get there.

Conrad concluded with a number of questions and comments from the audience. The meeting was adjourned following the door prize drawing.

BLUEBILLS August Potluck

FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH

10:00am-11:30am

VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA

Social begins at 10:00am with coffee and donuts 10:30am presentation from the Renton Chamber of Commerce with potluck following. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship with your fellow BLUEBILLS.



Volunteers: Back to School Shopping

Please join KIRO 7 CARES and The Salvation Army for the annual Back to School Shopping at Old Navy event!

This program is 100% funded by our generous community. Last year, 825 kids received clothes, shoes, and a coat to start the new school year feeling confident and ready to learn. *(Pls see attached)*

Volunteers play a critical role in the success of this program by serving as chaperones to help the kids shop.

- We shop as a group, before the store is open to the public.
- The kids generally know what they want. Chaperones help them find the correct sizes and make sure they spend the **\$150 that's allotted per child.**
- Kids do not try on clothes; chaperones simply do their best to select sizes. *(Parent/Guardian can always exchange later if needed)*

Below are a couple of Old Navy Store locations where we could really use some volunteer help:

Saturday, August 17th, 8:00am-10:00am, Marysville, 2615 172nd, St.NE, Marysville. <https://volunteer.usawest.org/OpportunityDetail.aspx?ID=8127>

Tuesday, August 20th, 8:00am-10:00am, Factoria, 4037 Factoria Blvd SE, Bellevue. <https://volunteer.usawest.org/OpportunityDetail.aspx?ID=8128>

Thursday, August 29th 8:00am-10:00am, Southcenter, 17470 Southcenter Pkwy, Tukwila. <https://volunteer.usawest.org/OpportunityDetail.aspx?ID=8129>

Thank you, **KIRO 7** for helping raise awareness!

Promo: <https://vimeo.com/988663586/ecf446d3d5?share=copy>

If you'd like to sponsor a child, please visit: <https://www.kiro7.com/shopping/>

Thank you for helping give kids dignity, grace, and a fresh start when it matters most to start out as equals in their school community.

With appreciation,

Lisa Borders

Corporate Engagement Director

Click here: [The Salvation Army Northwest Division](#)

MY DRAMA SOCIETY ROAD TRIP TO GREECE
By: Carla R. Becker

Part II Greece



With the exception of the roads, we didn't see much difference between rural Greece and rural Yugoslavia. But in the towns, we saw more modernity and even American influences.

The overall impression was that the urban Greeks were more prosperous and up to date than the Yugoslav's. With a hot sun burning overhead, we reached the Aegean Sea. Desiree, pushed to her limit, with smoke pouring from all quarters of her engine, we coasted into a campground in Thessalonika. We enjoyed swimming in the Aegean, especially at night when with each stroke the water sparkled from the phosphorous. However, the campsite was filthy, and the flies filled the bus until we could take the bus away to a garage to be fixed. We had no idea how long that would take, and it was necessary to communicate with our contacts in Athens. I was dating John, who was the student body president, and he had been very helpful in making contacts in Athens. He had decided to meet us in Athens along with a couple of his Greek friends. He had helped us make some important contacts, so it was necessary that we send an envoy to Athens. In short order Jancis and I were selected to hitch hike to Athens. With only a Greek phrase book between us, we hit the road with our thumbs out hoping for a lift. A truck with a cargo of oranges didn't stop for us. It took a while, but we finally got a ride only to see the truck that carried the oranges that had not picked us up, over the side of the mountain, oranges everywhere. It was an overnight ride in the truck, and we found ourselves hitching in the morning. We got a ride from a doctor on his way to work and explained to him we were very tired and wondered if there was a place we could rest for a few hours. He offered us his apartment, saying he would be at work all day and we could rest there. We accepted his kind offer. The apartment was beautiful, all white with white shutters and I thought that when the day comes for me to have my own apartment, I want it to be just like his. We rested there for a few hours and then we were back on the road. We got rides from a couple of journalists, a lorry and finally a couple of Englishmen in a Land Rover driving back to London from a tea plantation in East Pakistan for a six-month break. They stopped for the evening, and we said goodbye and found cheap digs for the night and were on the road early the next morning. We got a ride with a driver who drove the range of hills as though he had forgotten he

had brakes. We climbed beside Mount Olympus viewing several vehicles over the side of the mountain. We marveled at the little white houses that we had seen in pictures and storks standing in piles of twigs that were their nests.

And then we were in Athens with the Parthenon, white against the blue sky in its majesty. Despite the awe of being surrounded by the wonders of ancient history the first thing we wanted to check was our mail which we hadn't had since leaving London. John and his Greek friends, who had been very helpful in setting up our schedule had not arrived but should be there the next day. We met a couple of locals who led us to a hostel and introduced us to Constitution Square and wonderful iced coffee that they served there. Jancis was looking for something, and one of them took her to a store where she could purchase what she was looking for. While they were on their errand, he told her that his friend had told him that he planned to seduce me. Jancis told him in no uncertain that he wouldn't be successful. When he insisted that he would, she became annoyed and told him that if his friend succeeded that he could seduce her. Of course, Jancis won the bet. For me, it was my first lesson in what it is like for someone to have your back, to have someone really know you and stand up for you. It has been a standard for friendship every sense.

The next day John and his Greek friends arrived, and we were put up in the lovely homes of our Greek hosts. We introduced John to the wonderful, iced coffee in the square and checked the date for our production which, at this point was now in question without most of the cast, the sets and the costumes. Of course, we missed the date and by the time the rest of them arrived they only had a day or two in Athens. Their journey had been perilous with the brakes failing on the mountainous route and the drivers driving in first gear. The filthy campground made seventeen of our twenty people ill with five people having to go to the hospital. Jancis and I had escaped that by hitching to Athens. Fighting off amorous Greeks was nothing compared to what they went through.

Our next destination was Patras where we had a firm date to present our play and arrangements made for us to stay in private homes. We travelled through Corinth, across the top of Greece's largest island, Peloponnesus, to Patras. We could look across the straits of the Ionian Sea to the Greek mainland and washed over from orange groves on the other side, came oranges floating on the blue water. We slept

under the stars and swam at midnight in the phosphorescent splendor of the sea. We thought we were in Paradise.

To advertise our production, Desiree drove slowly through the town with three of us in sixteenth century costumes adorning the roof of the bus and the rest of us, also in costume handing out programs. Everything went smoothly and the play was a big success. The next evening, four weeks after we started our trip we boarded the ferry to Brindisi. The ferry was crowded, and we spent an uncomfortable night on deck, but the morning was beautiful as the sun rose behind the Albanian hills and the Ionian Sea became the Adriatic. We had a rest full day on deck but that was followed by a refusal for permission to pass through Italian customs until we paid a fee for ferrying the bus. The fee was much higher than what we were told in Greece and all the repairs had taken most of what money remained. Haggling was postponed for the night during which we were allowed to sleep on the concrete floor of the customs shed. After we managed to reach a compromise, we were on our way with very little money in the coffer. It was a jolting few days. Something was wrong with the engine, but the cause could not be found. For two days we stayed in a small Italian village where most of the people in the town kept a vigil around the bus all day and night. We managed to set off again with the engine boiling over everyone hundred yards. We argued about the ethics of helping ourselves to the tomatoes that grew in the acreage beside the road. Hunger solved that problem.

Five nights after arriving in Italy we drove off the road into a big field that had a haystack and tomatoes. Some of us slept in the haystack and were viciously bitten by insects making the experience one of the worst of the trip. We woke up the next morning facing the reality that we were dead broke in southern Italy. Whatever personal money we had, and there was precious little of that, was all there was. Five people had left after Patas and five decided to stay with the bus and ten of us needed to get back to London. We were five males and five females. We decided to pair with a male partner; this was Italy in the 1950's and girls needed chaperones.

I would be travelling with Allen, and we got a ride in a fast Italian car that made me very nervous on those curvy hills. The driver asked Allen what was wrong, and Allen said the speed was making me nervous and with that the man stopped the car and offered to let me drive which I did. It was then that I realized that Italian men could be very gallant.

Unfortunately, I have no memory of any of our other rides, but we made it to the road to Calais France where we stood for a couple of hours waiting for a ride. I should have known better as Sylvia, and I were stranded there on our return from Spain during spring break. We dragged ourselves to Paris where I got a loan from the American Embassy. Standing in line at American Express we overheard the man in front of us ask for a ticket to Dover. We explained our situation to him, and he gave us a lift over the Chanel and right into London in his car. What a lucky break and a peaceful finale to a hectic and often hazardous adventure which I wouldn't have traded for anything.

Carla R. Becker **July 7, 2024**



Securing today
and tomorrow

Submitted by Micki Brown

There are links to 2 articles that may be of interest to you:

- 1) HOW WE PROTECT YOU FROM MISLEADING ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS
- 2) SOCIAL SECURITY IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

Social Security produces a monthly publication of articles to share with local media outlets. The [September 2024 publication](#) is now available online and includes articles and images related to our programs, services and initiatives.

Please consider publishing these articles and images in your print and digital outlets. For more information about Social Security, please visit www.ssa.gov and follow us at [@SSAPress](#).

Regional Public Affairs Office
Community Outreach
Social Security Administration
DEN.SEA.Public.Affairs@ssa.gov

This also should be of interest:

We are making changes to how you access our online services, including *my* Social Security. The changes will simplify signing in, adhere to federal authentication standards, and ensure safer and more secure access.

Soon you will no longer be able to sign in to your online Social Security account using your Social Security username and password. To access Social Security online services, including *my* Social Security, users will need to have an account with one of our Credential Service Providers, either [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me). For people with an existing Login.gov or ID.me account, a new account is not needed to access our online services.

If you or your clients currently use only a username to sign in and do not have an existing Login.gov or ID.me account, please:

- Go to www.ssa.gov and, at the top right, select “Sign in”.
- Select “Sign in with Social Security Username”.
- After signing in, you will be asked to create an account with Login.gov.

Please Note: This change applies to accessing all our online services, not just *my* Social Security.

For technical assistance with Login.gov, please contact their customer service at 1-844-875-6446 or for assistance with ID.me, go to the [ID.me Help Center](#).

Please visit our [blog](#) to learn more. We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Bits & Pieces

Perhaps a laugh, but definitely an enlightenment

- So now cocaine is legal in Oregon, but straws aren't. That must be frustrating.
- I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.
- We live in a time where intelligent people are silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.
- The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts his sails.
- There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.
- I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.
- Singing in the shower is fine until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.
- How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.
- Then there was the time Fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court... it was a briefcase.



Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

Aug 30, 2024

Social: 10:00AM
Meeting & Potluck 10 :30 - 11:30 AM




Speaker: Presenter from Renton Chamber of Commerce

Subject: The Chamber and it's 100th Anniversary



Come to the meeting, enjoy coffee, donuts, informative presentations, and socialize with other Boeing retirees.

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Calendar of Events 2024 In Person Meetings

Jan 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Jul 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 23	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Aug 30	Chapter Picnic/Potluck
Mar 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Sept 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Oct 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 31	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Nov 22	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Dec 20	Chapter Holiday Potluck

Don't Forget to Report Your Hours!

PDF format Newsletter available

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Our mailing address is:

Bluebills - Heritage Chapter

PO Box 3707 M/C 1K-B02

Seattle, WA 98124

(206) 544-6286

e-mail: bluebills@boeing.com

Web Site: www.bluebills.org

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