

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 16, 2020



Photo by Linda Sandberg



Last week Past President Rod picked this bonehead out of his hat for Rotarian of the Year. Hey look, with the sign affixed to the door he even kinda gave me the Blue Tape Award, too! Me ... For The Win!

In seriousness, thank you Rod. The whole club became a little closer, a little kinder, and a little smarter during your year.

**Camp Tilikum** was last week's program, presented by Amy Watson, Challenge Course Manager.

Amy came to Tilikum as a camp counselor after serving at Yamhill and Twin Rocks. She has also worked as an adjunct instructor for George Fox U in Experiential Education.

*"Camp Tilikum is a place where people can go to experience creation, build community, find refuge, encounter God, and see lives transformed."*

~ <https://camptilikum.org/>

A "normal" year at Tilikum sees eight weeks of day camping, seven family camp programs, a year round overnight lodge, and a year round challenge course.

Like everyone, everywhere, the coronavirus pandemic is uncharted territory of business survival with cancellations, uncertain seasons, how to keep and pay employees, and how to keep staff and guests safe.

So, despair? Or hope?

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,*

*for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*  
Joshua 1:9

In case scripture doesn't explain it, Tilikum chose hope.

No one knew how to move through a lockdown. The staff had lots of Zoom meetings and did a lot of business survival research.

Financially, help came from lost income insurance, Payroll Protection loan, COVID-19 Relief Funds of the Austin Family Foundation and Yamhill County, as well as countless individual and organization gifts.

What Will Summer 2020 Look Like? Can we have kids and summer staff on the grounds? How will the YC Health Authority weigh in? How do we implement masks and distancing?

Options included a shut down and layoff with modified camp sessions.

Eliminating the Big Swing? "How can you hold summer camp with no **Big Swing?**"

On the surface it seems sad that kids have to come to camp wearing masks. But, if you think about it, masks have become the new normal for our kids. They will STILL HAVE FUN! We can still offer children a place for adventure with safety and a sense of normalcy.

One consultant said, "serve your clients remotely."

And, what does a director do with no activities to direct? "I had never before had to write a communicable disease paper."

Housekeeping staff had much the same dilemma.

So you communicate with your staff weekly, even if you have nothing new to say.

College professors offered free survival coursework. Turns out the middle schoolers loved it so much they didn't seem to miss the challenge course (ouch).

There is an up-side for the staff in all this. Because GFU's dorms are closed they were allowed to stay in the lodge. It became a super bonding experience.

Tilikum launched a Virtual Trail Run and it's NOT TOO LATE to sign up.

<https://camptilikum.org/fun-run-2020/>

Run, walk, bike or [joggle](#). Some time during your race take then post selfies to social media with #TilikumRun2020



Prizes will be awarded the following week from tagged photos. Proceeds will go to camper scholarships.

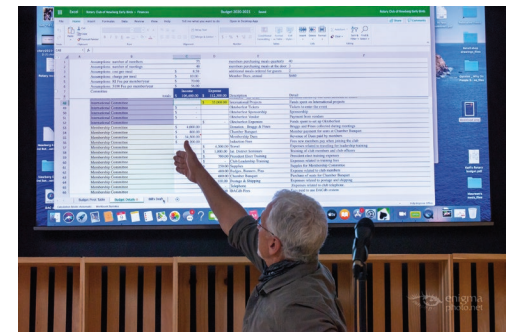
Sponsorships are also welcome.

Linda commented that Tilikum is one of our area's best kept secrets and wondered about a Rotary event. Amy loves the idea and suggested a Rotary Day on the Challenge Course when the pandemic is over.

President Bill spent a few minutes discussing the club budget with a new offer to opt out quarterly for meals.

Raquel can help with questions.

He also praised our board members for trimming our \$51,000 deficit to about \$6,000.



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