

EARLY BIRD WKEELY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

April 1, 2021



Who would've thought capturing actual photographs of a live meeting would be such a novelty! It was August 13 last year the last time I captured an image that wasn't scraped off a Zoom recording.



President Bill led us off with his own inspiration by quoting [Sam Walker's "The Captain Class."](#)

1. Dogged focus in competition.
2. Aggressive play testing limits of rules.
3. Willingness to do thankless jobs in the shadows. "Pick up that piece of trash without making sure someone's looking."
4. Low key, democratic communication.
5. Motivates others by nonverbal displays.
6. Conviction and courage to stand apart.

Exchange Good News / Bad News: You know you want the bad news first, right? Well, you guessed it, COVID killed another exchange season. But the good news is that there's a chance NHS could allow Early Bird Rotary to take all five students the District allows per year for the 2021-22 school year.

Becky Potter was last week's speaker. Our scheduled speaker couldn't be here so Karen scrambled and, in typical Early Bird fashion, delivered a volunteer classification.

Some people (like me) slide slowly in to the club, not wanting to make too big a splash. Then there are the Beckys of the world that pull up their hair, tuck in their feet, and cannon ball their way in.

Not just to our quiet little club, mind you, it's

just the way she's wired.

When Karen Hall was fretting that our speaker may have fallen through Becky threw right in. Heck, she'd already seen someone else do it on Zoom.

Backing up a little to last year, she was one of our newest Christmas Auction

donors with a case of wine. More on the winery, opened mid-pandemic, in a bit.

Becky has two kids. A Marine and a nurse.

The Marine, a Wounded Warrior with two Purple Hearts, is back in school studying to counsel other veterans.

The nurse works at the VA in Oregon City.

Becky herself quit her nursing career with the VA less than two years ago.

One of her more notable patients was the first black man to serve on a carrier. She goes on to address any WWII vets in attendance, "You are a tough crowd."

She listened to stories from these soldiers, the stories that wives and girlfriends don't often hear. These stories, Becky reflects, were her "greatest honor and greatest horror to hear."

Becky used to be 200 lbs heavier. After losing the weight she entered a body building contest and quipped aloud about doing another, "does anyone wanna see that at 60?"

She attended the county fair with her kids and decided she wanted to learn to knit. Not-Beckys buy yarn and knitting needles.

She bought a sheep and spinning wheel ... oh, and a knitting needle. The sheep became 40 sheep. And her cousin's cafe became a yarn shop. [try and keep up now, k?]

After spending so much time in cousin's cafe the question came, "Hey Beck, would you like to take over the cafe?"

Yes, to a question that came later, she did sometimes have lamb on the cafe menu.

After yarn ran its course she was off to nursing school.

The daily drive to Pill Hill was really dragging on her.

Her husband, a mechanical engineer, built and sold turnkey machines. One was built to manufacture cheer pom poms.

[If you're a guy, trying to keep up as I follow my notes, "this is how women talk." Since we're in squirrel moment mode, take a look at [this clip from Triumph's Rocket III harnessing this phenom to make its bike handle better](#)]

A while back her husband challenged her to a Couples Colonoscopy (it's the only way he could get her to do it). He aced his.

While she was speaking medicines with her oncologist, "the only thing my sweet husband heard was "cancer." Followed by a tender tear and, "what's happening?"

Last week marked her year since the end of chemotherapy, by the way!

"What is the cult of Rotary?" Hey, we've been around for 100+ years and still overcoming the image of cigar smoking old white guys.

Of course she gets it now and chuckles, "thanks for taking my money and letting me in."

She met her husband online. Moved to Sherwood to be closer to him. That lasted for a hot minute before she jumped in and moved to Newberg.

[Meraviglioso](#) is the winery they started in 2017 while still working at the VA, under treatment for cancer, then opening during wildfires and pandemic.

She has no more sheep, just #BellaTheWineDog, a Bernese Mountain Dog that allows the winery to exist for her personal amusement.

And she describes her husband as such a get-to. She got to meet the guy that knows how to speak to her heart. "It's like magic."

