Royal Rosarians

Royal Update

Issue 445
May 2026

Electronic Newsletter of the Royal Rosarians

Greetings, Rosarians and Friends,
Thank you for reading the Royal Rosarian e-newsletter created in 2005 by Duke Peter Glazer and we are now looking for a new editor. Please contact Ron Fisher if you are interested.

According to the Edict of the Royal Rosarians, the annual election shall be held on the Thursday following the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade. This year's election will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. Voting will begin at 5:30pm and end at 6:30pm All voting must be done in person. The Edict does not allow absentee or proxy voting.

All Rosarians must register at the voting table to receive their ballot. Once completed, the ballots are to be placed in the ballot box.

This year, there are thirteen candidates for Council and three candidates for Secretary of State. Vote for a maximum of nine candidates for Council and one candidate for Secretary of State. Note: A successful Secretary of State candidate must be elected to Council; be sure to vote for your preferred Secretary of State candidate for Council as well.

There will be four candidates for the Royal Rosarian Foundation Board. Vote for a maximum of two.

Voting must be completed by 6:30 pm. The Election Committee will count all ballots submitted by 6:30 pm. Counting will be done by six Royal Rosarian Dukes and Duchesses, joined by two Rosarians who are not past Prime Ministers, as is Rosarian policy. Election results will be communicated to Prime Minister Ron Fisher so that he may announce the results before the end of the meeting. Election results for the Foundation will be communicated to Foundation President Marilyn Schultz.

Candidates for Council

Michelle Veentjer

My most satisfying roles within the Royal Rosarians have been all the ones that allow me to bring people together, support our traditions, and create meaningful experiences for others. I've especially valued the opportunities to serve and help plan several events, where I can blend organization, creativity, and heart.



One of the roles I've cherished most is helping plan is the Royal Rosarian Foundation Auction. This events require teamwork, communication, and attention to detail, and I've loved being part of the effort that makes this event successful. Working closely with fellow Rosarians, vendors, and community partners has strengthened my appreciation for the spirit of service that defines our organization.

Another highlight has been welcoming and supporting potential new members. Introducing people to the history, purpose, and heart of the Rosarians — and watching them discover their own place within the organization.

Across all these responsibilities, what satisfies me most is knowing that my efforts help uphold the traditions of the Royal Rosarians while fostering community, kindness, and connection. Being part of something larger than myself, and contributing to moments that bring joy to others, has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Serving on Council would be an honor!



Ron Pfeifer

At the age of ten I was chosen as my school representative for the Junior Court. This entire experience has molded my life and fostered in me a lifelong goal to become a Rosarian myself. Now, as a life member, I can offer this Council the mutual benefit of an older member point of view plus my personal perspective to enhance the future of the organization through greater involvement with the children of Portland.

During my tenure, I have served on many committees, including as chairman of the picnic committee and the Christmas brunch committee (where I once played Santa Claus), and on Newsmaker committees for 3 years. I also worked twice as Co-chair of the Rose Garden contest, in addition to being a judge. I have helped on the Grand Floral Ball a total of nine times (as co-chair twice) with my forte for floral work and décor setup experience. I have also served on other hospitality committees--food for hospitality suite, fun night committee, managed Grand Floral Float, and as a security guard. A retired Navy veteran with a 21-year service record, became an officer of the Blueback Council for the Navy League. I managed and set up all rider assignments on Down River Cruises for Fleet Week, served as a greeter to Navy ship officers, and helped arrange the Officers' Fleet Week reception.

For the last several years, having been unable to fully participate as much as I would have liked while working to overcome several health challenges, I am now recovered to be an active Rosarian again.
I am a testament to one of the many ways to attract a child's attention and plant a seed for a future Royal Rosarian, and I strongly believe that enacting some of the concepts I envision can help us function well beyond my lifespan to keep this organization a strong community service.



Carolyn O'Doherty

1-Describe your most satisfying roles and responsibilities to date in the Royal Rosarians.
So far, my favorite position with the Rosarians has been as Royal Chaplain. I love the pomp of Rosarian ceremonies and very much enjoyed having a formal role in many of our events. I also had a great time that year representing Portland at all of the out-of-town festivals. Acting as Lord High Steward has provided different rewards, as there is tangible satisfaction in ensuring an event runs smoothly.

2-How will your election to Council benefit the Royal Rosarians?
I joined the Rosarians in 2022 and retired from my job in 2023. During most of my professional career, I worked with non-profit organizations to develop affordable housing for low-income individuals and families (well, that and a less noble sideline writing fiction that is purely aimed at entertainment!) There are many lovely things about being retired, but feeling like a contributing member of society is not one of them. Becoming part of the Realm, and particularly my roles on council, has provided that missing piece for me. I value being part of a team that works together toward a common goal, and it is important to me to feel like I am contributing in some way to my community. I am eager to continue applying the passion, organizational skills, and commitment I previously put toward alleviating our city's housing crisis to support the goals and traditions of Rosaria.

Ken Yohe

I became a Royal Rosarian in January 2020 — two months before the pandemic. When I became eligible for Council, I ran and was elected.
Over the past three years on Council, I have served on the budget and finance committees and have been responsible for Newsmakers, Children's Parade, Hosting by Starlight, Starlight Parade, Grand Floral Parade, and Hospitality Weekend.
One of my proudest moments arose when financial problems led to eliminating Hosting by Starlight from the budget. Rather than accept the cut, I proposed a zero-dollar budget and asked permission to develop a fundraiser. Cherrie and I opened our home and cooked a surf and turf dinner, raising enough to cover all costs.
My second year on Council, Prime Minister Amy put me in charge of Hospitality Weekend. With an outstanding team — Kimberly Takla, Carolyn O'Daugherty, Holly



Fowler, and others— we were successful in every respect. When you surround yourself with great people, great things will happen.
In spring 2025, I was asked to take over mid-year as Exchequer — making me probably the first Rosarian to serve simultaneously as Council overseeing both Hospitality Weekend and Exchequer duties for 2025. I led an effort to modernize our financial procedures and make the process easier for members and future Exchequers.

I have spent three years demonstrating that I will step up when needed, find creative solutions, and build strong teams. My background consists of a 4-year degree, 25 years in law enforcement with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, 4 years active duty with the Army as an MP, and running my own business. This experience has prepared me to serve with discipline, integrity, and dedication.
I am asking for your vote for Council and Secretary of State so I can continue serving this organization that I love.



Craig Dirksen

1-Describe your most satisfying roles and responsibilities to date in the Royal Rosarians
The most memorable and satisfying role I have had with the Rosarians so far was actually my Red Cape year in 2017. It coincided with the change in my professional and public life which allowed me to more fully invest my time here. I was able to make being Royal Chaplain my first priority, which means I was able to be part of pretty much every Rose Planting, and I was able to attend every Out of Town weekend but one. This allowed me to meet and become friends with so many of our Festival Partners and really soak up the culture of the Royal Rosarians.
In later years, especially as twice being Lord High Chamberlain, it has been my pleasure to maintain those contacts and continue the close relationships we have with our Northwest Festival Hosting partners. And working with successive Prime Ministers (and First Ladies!) to create fun and memorable Hospitality Weeks for our Members and Festival Friends has also been very satisfying.
Overall, since stepping away from my years of City volunteerism and 20 years in public office, the Royal Rosarians have been my way of continuing my civic and charitable activity.

2-How will your election to Council benefit the Royal Rosarians?
I believe my 19-year past history with the Rosarians and my past years on Council clearly demonstrate my willingness and ability to both maintain our traditions while

also looking to the future to help determine our path forward. The Rosarians need strong, experienced leadership with knowledge and respect for the past as well as a vision for the future, and I believe I possess those qualities.



Kimberly Takla

Joining the Royal Rosarians has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I truly have enjoyed putting my leadership, people and organizational skills to meaningful use while embracing the Royal Rosarians as my second family. I strive to be as actively involved in as many committees and events as possible to better understand and support every aspect of our organization.
Some of my most fulfilling roles have included chairing membership meetings, helping to bring Prime Minister Mike Ware's vision to life, while being under budget. Chairing New Member Knighting along with Hospitality for PM Amy Arrasmith was a massive, and purely satisfying job. I was very proud to lead the Hospitality team, coming in not only under budget, but to raise thousands of dollars to support future events. Serving this year as Royal Gardener for PM Ron Fisher has been my greatest Royal Rosarian honor, while also allowing me to create a beautiful and memorable Christmas Brunch with my team.

My experience serving on so many committees and events, including Council this year, has given me valuable insight into how we can continue to improve, evolve, and grow as an organization. I strongly believe that membership growth is essential to sustaining the Royal Rosarians' future, and I am proud to have personally sponsored five outstanding new members into our organization.
I believe, if elected to Council, my strengths in communication, relationship-building, leadership, attention to detail and fiscal responsibility will serve the Council and our membership well as we move into our 115th year.



Holly Fowler

I joined the Royal Rosarians in 2018 and took the advice of my sponsor, Kathy Bagley, and my mentor, Kathy Fastenau, and tried a little of everything. I've enjoyed serving on and chairing many committees, marching in local and out-of-town parades, attending airport greetings and rose plantings, judging rose gardens, and celebrating with the winners. I donated art classes as an auction item, dined at auction dinners, and attended and chaired Purely Social events. I have been at nearly every Membership Meeting, working on the traveling float, and attended Fleet Greetings. I've volunteered as a calligrapher. Gayle Whitehurst appointed me Royal Seamstress, and I have fitted capes for Council Members for the last five years. Reed and I have had the pleasure of going on five Prime Minister trips and

are packing for the sixth. But, by far, my most satisfying role has been that of Honorary Knighting Liaison. While it seems like a small role, it is a year-long job working with the Prime Minister to curate their list and reach out to deserving recipients, some of whom know very little about the Royal Rosarians. I have enjoyed introducing citizens of Portland to our organization and to the logistics of getting them all to the DoubleTree, the International Test Garden, or, most recently, Oregon Square to acknowledge their contributions to the city of Portland and the Royal Rosarians.

I bring this wealth of experience, genuine joy at helping others, a love of Portland, and an effervescent positive energy to the Rosarians. I believe I have a strong understanding of the responsibilities of a council member, and to further prepare myself, I have attended all Council meetings this year. I am excited about the opportunity to serve in this new capacity.



Nate Aazzerah

Last year was my first year on the Council, and I do feel I made a difference for our membership and our community at large.
As your Auction Team Chair, we were able to bring in over $100, 000, and stay under budget, as well as, bring in over 177 people to our event. I believe our team will hit the 200 mark for this year.
But that is only one part of my Council responsibility, as Master of Ceremonies this year. I was in charge of membership dinners, as well. Now pleasing over 120 people at the same time is extremely hard! However, this year I felt our Membership dinner team did a great job bringing back the large wine glasses, offering more wine bottle options at your table, and providing better menu choices! Because we are now using our own PA system, membership is now saving about $400 plus each and every meeting, and see no reason why we can't continue to use our system for next year and years to come, saving membership thousands of dollars.

I work hard, and am a team player, as well as always looking for new opportunities to advance Our "Good Will" as Royal Rosarians, like last year getting a booth at the Boat Show, and talking with other show producers to be able to do a few more for next year, and connecting with more folks around our community.

Karen Murphy

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the elected council of the Royal Rosarians. Since being knighted in 2023, I have had numerous opportunities to serve our organization alongside my husband, Kevin. The roles I find most satisfying are those in which I can collaborate in meaningful ways with other members. From attending local and out-of-town festivals, to helping as a “worker bee” at events like the Milk Carton Boat Races, to co-chairing the 2025 New Member Knighting, or even just assisting with event set-up and take-down, being part of the Rosarian community brings me great joy. It has been a true privilege to



serve this year in the role of Royal Scribe as a member of the planting team. It is my sincere hope to serve again with these dear friends as elected council members for the coming year.

I approach both my professional and personal life through a lens of gratitude, collaboration, and lifelong learning. These values have guided my involvement with the Royal Rosarians and inspired my desire to serve. Even during active chemotherapy treatment and recovery, I found meaningful ways to contribute — such as arranging flowers for membership meetings — because this organization and its people mean so much to me.

If elected, I would bring leadership experience, fierce optimism, and strong organizational and communication skills to the council. I care deeply about preserving the traditions of the Royal Rosarians while also helping the organization continue to grow and adapt for the future.

I am committed to strengthening our relationship with the Royal Rosarian Foundation and its important focus on At-Risk youth, which personally impacted me during my years as an educator.

We have a dynamic and talented slate of candidates this year; thank you for your consideration and support.



Holly Morgan

My most satisfying role since becoming a Royal Rosarian has been this year as the Lord High Sheriff. Being responsible for our membership growth and retention is critical to our long term sustainability. Being able to share our mission and expectations of membership along with making dreams come true is very fulfilling. I was honored to share the impact our organization makes in our great city of Portland and the other communities we contribute to, while also making our team stronger.

If I am re-elected to council I strive to benefit our organization with my skills and desire to continue our growth and increased visibility to make sure we are a viable part of our city for many years to come. I love to continue our rich traditions while also incorporate new ideas to keep us viable and relevant. The power of our team is incredible and we need each and every one of us to achieve our ultimate success. Let's lean in together-UNITED!

John Jackson



1. Describe your most satisfying roles and responsibilities to date in the Royal Rosarians.
The Royal Rosarians are the Ambassadors of Goodwill for the City of Portland. As a Rosarian, I love interacting with people on behalf of our city. Fulfilling my responsibilities as the Lord High Chamberlain, Lord High Sheriff, Councillor, and regular member, I have promoted the City of Portland through my participation at local and out-of-town festivals. I have enjoyed encouraging others to participate as well, bringing Portland's energy to our festival partners. Engaging in events both local and away, I find most satisfaction from the interactions I have with the people I meet.

2. How will your election to Council benefit the Royal Rosarians?
My demeanor, positivity, energy and engagement with Rosarian activities are beneficial both to the organization and to the City of Portland. I love my role as ambassador to the city, and I can't wait to expand it by continuing my participation on Council.



Judy Rompa

1. Describe your most satisfying roles and responsibilities to date in the Royal Rosarians.
Some of my most satisfying responsibilities have been marching and drumming in parades and relaunching our Sister City Liaison Program. As a Rosarian, it is especially meaningful to march through Portland's streets and witness firsthand the joy and pride we bring to the city — a reminder of the unique role we play in Portland. Rebuilding the Sister City program has been equally rewarding, reconnecting our organization to Portland's global partnerships in a tangible way. I also deeply value the friendships and connections within the Royal Rosarians that make our organization so special.

2. How will your election to Council benefit the Royal Rosarians?
I believe my one of my strengths is connecting people and building relationships — and I think that directly benefits the Royal Rosarians. In my first year on Council, I focused on learning our history, traditions, and systems, while helping reinvigorate the Sister City Liaison Program. With that foundation in place, I'm ready to do more. In my second year, I hope to help deepen our connections with Portland's diverse communities, grow meaningful partnerships across the city, and bring fresh energy to the programs and traditions that define us. The Rosarians have an incredible story to tell, and I want to help ensure we keep telling it to an ever-wider audience.

Terry Johnsson



Describe your most satisfying roles and responsibilities to date in the Royal Rosarians.

One of my most meaningful roles in the Royal Rosarians has been marching in parades and serving as a drill master. As a former White House Honor Guard member, I served during the administrations of 3 U.S. Presidents, and it has been an honor to bring that experience to the Royal Rosarians while representing Portland with pride, tradition, and professionalism.

My connection to the Royal Rosarians began when I was five years old. During a parade, I marched nearly five blocks with the Rosarians before my parents realized I was gone. Even then, I was drawn to the pageantry, service, and sense of community they represented. From that day forward, becoming a Royal Rosarian became a lifelong dream.

Serving as Royal Chaplain has also been deeply meaningful. Combining faith, service, patriotism, and fellowship has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Supporting fellow Rosarians during celebrations and ceremonies has strengthened my appreciation for the values and community our organization represents.

The Royal Rosarians are more than a civic organization to me — they are a tradition of service and an opportunity to continue giving back to the city I was born in and the people I love.

How will your election to Council benefit the Royal Rosarians?

As a proven leader in the U.S. Air Force and hospital administration of 3 hospitals, my greatest strength is building strong teams and empowering overlooked voices. If elected to Council, I will bring that same leadership approach to the Royal Rosarians by identifying untapped talent within our membership and creating opportunities for broader participation. Having dyslexia, I know how easy it is to stay in the background. I want to find those background people and bring them forward. I will encourage collaboration, fresh ideas, and inclusive engagement while honoring our traditions.

Candidates for Secretary of State

Craig Dirksen

Holly Morgan

Ken Yohe

Jim Nielson's Truisms

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."

– Winston Churchill



(The late Jim Nielson, Prime Minister in 1979, was famous for his "truisms" which he happily shared in each issue of the Royal Update from its launch in 2005 until his death in 2011. Jim was knighted under the rose Sutter's Gold, pictured. Truisms now are either from Jim's archives or are quotations Duke Peter Glazer thinks Jim would like. If you'd like to suggest a quotation please email it to Peter.)

Royal Rosarians

P.O. Box 6915, Portland, OR 97228-6915

Phone: (503) 570-2767

Contact Us

Royal Rosarians | P.O. Box 6915 | Portland, OR 97228-6915 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!