Royal Rosarians

Royal Update

Issue 50
May 2024

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 now edited by Dame Lydia Lundberg, with technical support and continuity from Tom Marantette and Peter Glazer. If you have suggestions or contributions, please email to Lydia at Lundberg@elitecare.com

Election of Council

According to the Edict of the Royal Rosarians, the annual election shall be held on the Thursday following the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade. The election will take place on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. All voting must be done in person. The Edict does not allow absentee or proxy voting.

One ballot will be issued to each eligible Royal Rosarian voter. The Elections Committee, chaired by Duke Denny Baker will check off the name of each Rosarian receiving a ballot. The Rosarian may then vote for a candidate for Secretary of State, up to nine candidates for Council, and candidates for the Foundation Board. The ballot will then be deposited into a ballot box supervised by the Elections Committee. Anyone having concerns or questions about their voting should contact Duke Denny Baker.

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 several 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 Mike Ware so that he may announce the results before the end of the meeting. Election results for the Foundation will be communicated to Foundation President Scott Stuhl.

Royal Rosarian Election Candidates

The candidates for Council are asked to answer the following Questions:

1. How would you explain to a potential new member the benefits of being a Royal Rosarian?
2. What do you perceive as the most significant hurdle facing the Royal Rosarians in the coming years, and how do you plan to contribute towards addressing it?

David Althaus



Being a member of the Royal Rosarians expands a participants' social networks, which makes them more aware of opportunities to be physically active in Portland's neighborhood communities. Engaging in meaningful civic activities also helps develop a sense of purpose, which may promote continued civic participation and benefit the city as a whole. The Royal Rosarians are also an extremely social organization. We're a fun civic group to be a member of and after all, who doesn't love a parade?

Being an elected council member is very appealing to me, and I believe my past three years on council have well prepared me for a fourth. My strengths include clear and articulate communication with fellow civic organizations, local neighborhood groups and Rosarian members. I take my role on council very seriously and feel I have excelled in my duties and responsibilities. I look forward to serving another year.

Shari Brown



I have been a member of the Royal Rosarians for 3 years now. Even before I joined my spouse and I helped Michelle Veentjer with an auction. We have continued to help annually with the auction, the milk carton boat races, hospitality weekend, attending parades, rose garden judging and doing flowers. I look forward to increased involvement and leaning more about the organization.

While working I had a leadership role and learned to work with different people to find solutions to problems. The financial crises facing the Royal Rosarians is no secret. It has been discussed at the last 2 membership meetings and also in emails. We must do what is necessary to improve the financial standing of our organization. Bringing together a diverse group of people to form new solutions to the existing problems, including the financial status of the organization and increasing active members and membership numbers is needed.

I am from Portland, I grew up in NE Portland and attended the Junior Rose Festival Parade annually. I can not imagine the city not having the Royal Rosarians we must unite to solve problems and continue to thrive.

Craig Dirksen

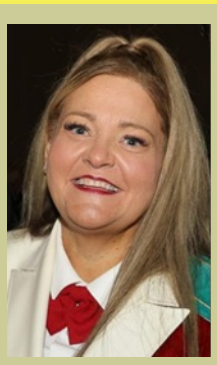
During these challenging post-covid times the Royal Rosarians need increased participation and strong leadership to see us into the future. I

believe my (and my wife Jackie's) past engagement and activity with the organization shows our dedication. We have recently relinquished our winter home in New Mexico, so we will be able to be involved year-round.



Many people will say our biggest challenge is our declining membership. I believe what we need is to maintain and increase our relevance to the community, both actually and, perhaps more importantly, our perception in the eyes of the community. If we do that, as our presence in the community grows, we will attract quality members. As society changes, we need to continually identify community needs and seek new ways to help meet those needs.

Holly Morgan



If I am to be elected to council I plan to be beneficial to our organization by my involvement in our activities, my commitment to whatever assigned position I am given, and continuing my work towards growing our membership. I would strive for more involvement of others as this builds our strength and that is what we are in need of. The more involvement, ideas, voices and hands, the stronger we are.

It seems that our dwindling membership is the most significant hurdle that our organization is facing. I have brought 2 new members into the organization in my first 3 years as a member and I would like to continue to work on this collaboratively with others. We need to build our membership to sustain our viability, together as a team is ideal.

Neil Nathanson



First, let me assure you that I personally answered these questions without any assistance from the ubiquitous artificial intelligence engines spreading into our business and personal lives. As I continue to wind down my legal career into retirement, I am looking for ways to stay relevant and engaged with the community. As a Rosarian Council member, I will bring to bear my

many years of experience as a manager and problem solver, to support the Rosarian's traditions while also looking for ways to modernize the organization. While the mission of the Rosarian's is serious, I intend to bring humor and lightness to my tasks. In my experience, purpose-driven organizations are more effective when everyone is having fun!

Just as I am trying to personally stay relevant as I move into retirement, the biggest challenge facing the Rosarians is staying relevant to the community. While the organization has many short-term challenges, including attracting new members and maintaining financial viability, solutions to those challenges will follow easily so long as the organization can consistently demonstrate value to the community at-large. In conclusion, please contribute generously to the Chat-GPT Foundation.

Kathleen Nielsen



Hello. I am Kik Nielsen and I am currently Chancellor of the Exchequer. With my experience as a Royal Rosarian Council Member, my election to Council will benefit the Royal Rosarians in many ways. As a past Royal Chaplain, I take pride in writing blessings to recite before any event and I had a fantastic experience being part of the Rose Planting team and overseeing the Blessing of the Festival. Having been Lord High Sheriff, I am well versed in communicating to anyone and everyone on the traditions and rewards of being a Royal Rosarian.

As Lord High Sheriff, I was also in charge the New Member Knighting. As Master of Ceremonies, I gained experience planning Membership meetings and working closely with many committee chairs to make these meetings educational and creative. Now, as Chancellor of the Exchequer I not only know how to plan big events, I am learning so much about how to budget for them and and how to keep track of all aspects concerning the finances of our organization.
With my dedication and my positive approach to all things Rosarian, I will continue to be a great addition to the Council.

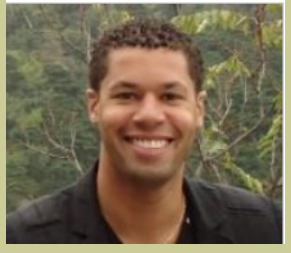
The most significant hurdle I perceive facing the Royal Rosarians in the coming years is our diminishing membership, which is also affecting our bottom line. The strategy to overcome this hurdle lies with each of us.
If every current member were to invite one new person to join the Royal Rosarians, one talented friend, a colleague, a neighbor, a well loved teacher, a bookclub member or even a stranger who was touched by getting a sticky rose, we could easily double our membership.

In doubling our membership, we would not only immediately double our financial resources but we would also double our talents, our strengths and our representation in the city of Roses. In doing this, we can continue to work together, to build upon and to carry out our fabulous traditions as The Royal Rosarians.

Patrick Patterson

My election to council will benefit the Rosarians by

introducing the youngest organizational member to council. This will add an energetic and tenacious member who is ready to perform council duties, represent the Rosarians, and appeal to a wide range of audiences.



The most significant hurdle facing the Royal Rosarians in the coming years is the dwindling membership.

My plans to address this issue include showcasing the Royal Rosarians by leveraging my peer group, political affiliates, and family members to spark interest in individuals appropriate to become prospective members.

David Rich



I am proud to be a Royal Rosarian and strongly believe in the goals and tenants of the organization. I have previously served as Royal Scribe, Councillor and Minster of Foreign Affairs and bring over 50 years of insight and experience as a successful results-oriented business owner and volunteer leader, skilled in organization, planning, and execution utilizing strong interpersonal, communicative and decision-making skills. My professional and volunteer skill sets include:

- Effective Leadership skills
- Extensive Project Management experience
- Wide ranging experience in the facilitation of large and diverse groups
- Proven track record of on time project implementation
- Tactful and Diplomatic Problem Resolution
- Effective Communication with both Executive Level and Support Personnel

I believe the most significant hurdle facing the Rosarians is membership. That does not just mean the number of members that we have but it means how we indoctrinate and mentor the new members so that they understand our mission and how their individual skill sets can contribute to obtaining our goals.

One of the most important things that I have learned from my corporate and volunteer life is that good members, like good employees, are hard to find and we must work very hard to keep them.

Making our new Rosarian members feel valued is the most effective retention tool of all. We need to create a sense of ownership, be flexible to their needs, be creative in their assignments and most importantly communicate regularly.

Developing a vested interest for new members takes time and the active involvement of the members' sponsor, and the entire Rosarian membership. It is essentially a three-step process of ORIENT, KNIGHT and INVOLVE.

Michelle Veentjer

I have had the honor of serving on Council since 2020. Over the years I have learned so much about the traditions of all they events. If I am elected to serve another year I hope that my experience will benefit the elected council and also help mentor any new elected council. If elected I will help support our 2025 Prime Minister Amy Arasmith and making 2025 a success with ever lasting memories.



I believe one of the biggest challenges we are facing over the next few years is retaining and getting new membership. I would love to be part of the mentoring program, small group gatherings and I would love to help all new members learn the rich history & heritage and tradition of the Royal Rosarians. I will continue to be a positive example, active member and an Ambassador of Goodwill to our city that I love.

Yushonna Wilson

In my professional life I have held a variety of leadership roles that required innovation, compromise, inspiration, crucial conversations, and decision-making skills for the betterment of the organization. This was the expectation even when there was not a pandemic. I had the privilege of joining the Royal Rosarians in 2020, most laugh or gasp when I say 2020, I embrace it as a badge of honor.



The Rosarians were not able to do business as usual, we were forced to be innovative and do things differently. Here we are in 2024, our commitments are the same as 2018, but our membership and finances are dwindling. We are at a time when how we do business may be different than how it's been done in the past. We must preserve the values and traditions that we hang our hats on to be sustainable for ourselves and the communities that we serve in the future. I believe I have the temperament needed to help Council move towards this trajectory.

Membership involvement is currently lacking with the Royal Rosarians, the weight of putting on various events, parades, etc., continue to be carried by the same 20-25 members and their spouses. We need to re-recruit our current members via phone outreach to invite/remind them we have a membership meeting or event and invite them to join a committee. Their reengagement should ease the "multiple commitment burnout" of others. Increased current member involvement should enlarge community connections. Our presence and appearances will show our community who we are (age, race, gender, diverse backgrounds) and stir up curiosity. ALL Rosarians should have their elevator speech at the ready to answer the question of what/who the Royal Rosarians are. I believe this strategy will help us gain new members and increase current member satisfaction.

Patrick Wong



In 2021, PM Dwight Terry appointed me as a Royal Chaplain. The following years, I was elected as a council member for the terms 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. I found these three years incredibly fulfilling. Serving on the Council has been an honor, allowing me to engage with community members and preserve the unique traditions of the Royal Rosarians.

I enjoy connecting with our community and members. Over the past twenty-five years, I have built and maintained a customer-focused management practice in a multi-disciplined, complex, and ever-changing business and technology environment. This experience has allowed me to utilize my organizational and communication skills effectively. It has also sharpened my ability to work with diverse people, work well unsupervised, and juggle multiple expectations.

As a council member, I see myself as a powerful advocate for our organization and cultural heritage, promoting the values and traditions that Rosarians hold dear. I am passionate about my organization and possess the right attitude and dedication to make an immediate and significant contribution to our Council. I am committed to continuing to serve on the Council, celebrating, preserving, and upholding traditions and offering greater variety to increase member participation.

The Royal Rosarians are currently encountering significant challenges, particularly with the city's tarnished reputation, declining membership, and member engagement. As a goodwill ambassador, my dedication lies in ensuring our active presence at every positive city event, emphasizing the celebration of our community even during challenging times. Addressing the dynamic needs and expectations of our members is paramount. I suggest involving current members in our planning processes, encouraging their creativity, and exploring new strategies to maintain the vibrancy and relevance of our organization.

Member participation has dwindled, exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic on large gatherings. To creatively reengage members, we must prioritize building interpersonal connections between active and non-active Rosarians and recruiting new members who can infuse energy into our community. Promoting involvement through mentoring programs, organizing small group gatherings, and collaborating with organizations focused on nurturing younger generations will aid in retaining and attracting members. Additionally, I will promote leadership development within our organization by offering training programs and leadership workshops to empower our members to contribute more actively and develop their skills. Being transparent about expectations and continuously promoting our rich history and traditions will be crucial in maintaining a dynamic and dedicated membership. Let's work together to become even stronger. Thank you for your time and support.

Ken Yohe



Since joining the Rosarians in 2020, I have been an active member every year. I have been involved with the planning of Newsmakers as a Co-Chair for two years and then assigned Newsmakers as a council duty this year. Cherrie and I attend most membership meetings together and we participate in out of town and local events regularly. My business JTF Investigative Services LLC also routinely sponsors and provides financial support to Rosarian events throughout the year.

If elected to Council, I promise to continue to work hard on the duties that I'm assigned and support Prime Minister Mike Ware on the remainder of his year and then Amy Arasmith as she starts her Prime Minister year. I look forward to continuing to learn as I work with the leadership council team, past Dukes and Duchesses, and the senior leadership of the Rosarians.Thank you for allowing me to serve you and I look forward to another year should you choose to allow me to serve on Council.

I believe our most significant hurdle facing the Royal Rosarians in the coming years is financial. We have a great group of Rosarians but need to add new members. If we can add a significant number of applicants in the next year or two, that should take care of our budget problems through increased dues. It isn't just the increased dues, but the participation in the events that will help balance the budgets from our Hospitality week to our membership meetings. The fact is that the Rosarians rely on the active participation of members to fund all the different events we have. I will do my best to continue to try and engage our membership and get increased participation. My running for council is the first step in addressing it. As part of the leadership team, I will continue the work that Prime Minister Mike Ware started this year in hopes that we can get to a balanced budget and increased membership/participation.

Calendar



Rosarian Membership Meetings will be held at 5:30 pm at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center: June 13th.

Rosarian Council Meetings will be held at 7:00 pm at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center:July 15, August 12, September 16.

Rosarian Foundation Board Meetings will be held at 6:00 pm at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center: June 13 (annual meeting), July 24, August 28, September 25.

Detailed information for each event can be found online in the calendar section of the Royal Rosarian website.

Click here to visit the Royal Rosarian website

Jim Nielson's Truisms



"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it."

Albert Einstein

(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.)

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