**RE/MAX Gateway is looking forward to hosting the April Business After Hours. The suite has been renovated into a large, light and abundant 2600 square foot space, which currently has 13 brokers and is able to accommodate up to 25 brokers in house. Umpqua Bank’s retail lending department is also located inside the office and their staff will be on hand to meet with fellow chamber members.**

Whatcom County owner Lori Reece opened up the third RE/MAX office in Washington in 1992, adding Gateway with Blake Boatman in 2015. Thier offices are the largest RE/MAX entity north of Seattle. RE/MAX has over 100,000 agents in nearly 100 countries with the greatest worldwide presence overall.

Co-owners Lori Reece and Blake Boatman look forward to meeting more of the Anacortes business community at the Business After Hours Event on Thursday, April 21st from 5:30-7pm at 914 15th Street. They will offer beer and wine as well as a special tasting by Deception Distilling! Food will be catered by Gere-a-Deli! Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the giveaway!
April is one of my favorite months — the fields are a bloom, our guests are visiting from all over and we get a chance to showcase our island getaway. In this edition of the Anacortes Communicator you will have the opportunity to learn more about many of the things happening this month. Or hop online and go to www.anacortes.org/spring

We have now completed three promise learning experiences — over 150 community members have been through the sessions and have their own ways to deliver on our promise. Some of my favorites:

- Turn “welcome” into a VERB!
- To always be warm, welcoming and friendly…as though I am hosting a guest. I want guests to feel as though they just experienced a charming island getaway, that they share with others and return time and again.
- Offer a smile to everyone I meet, speak positively of our hometown, educate myself about our rich history, share with visitors, support local business, grow my business.
- I will never greet someone with a question again! This is KEY!
- I will express the natural beauty of our island and remind potential guests of the convenient proximity.
- Take the time to greet and welcome people/visitors/locals. Be nice, patient and openly friendly.
- It is our responsibility, and not just our leaders, to welcome visitors to Anacortes. Go out of your way to help visitors and their needs. Taking an interest in those visiting. Be proactive not reactive.

These interactive promise learning experiences provide you the opportunity to not only learn more about Anacortes and our island getaway, but also to learn from others on how they will live out our promise.

We have another session scheduled for May 24 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Majestic. Make the investment of your time to come and experience for yourself.

Valerie Stimac visited on March 3rd and 4th from Seattle — she checked into the Majestic on Thursday afternoon, and spent the majority of Friday (and a bit of early Saturday!) exploring the island.

Skagit Cycle offered her a full day’s bicycle rental, and she was able to dine at A’Town Bistro, the Brown Lantern, and Rockfish/H2O thanks to their gracious donation of gift certificates for her meals. Valerie also experienced the First Friday Artwalk downtown!

Follow her travels on her social media accounts:
https://www.facebook.com/valerie.valise
https://www.instagram.com/valerie_valise
https://twitter.com/Valerie_Valise
And learn more about Valerie at her blog:
http://www.valisemag.com

Amanda is scheduling travel writers throughout the year, if you know anyone in your sphere of influence who would like to supply meals, stays, or experiences, please let her know.
member profile

Fidalgo Island Quilters

Fidalgo Island Quilters, a long-time chamber member, celebrates its 34th anniversary this year with the biennial Quilt Show. Quilts in Bloom will be presented April 15-16, 2016, at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge. See the FIQ flyer in this newsletter.

The first meeting of FIQ was in 1982 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. From the original 23 charter members, membership has continued to grow. The first raffle quilt, a classic fundraiser for quilt guilds, was created in 1982, and the tradition continues.

FIQ sponsors lectures, retreats, community service projects, the Art Quilt Group, the Wearable Art Divas, and many activities that support and encourage members along their quilting journeys.

Kids’ Quilting Program: FIQ now has a project that introduces all fifth graders in Anacortes and La Conner School Districts to quilting as a skill and an art form. Backed by funding from the Anacortes Arts Festival through its Giving Back Program, FIQ has already reached over 400 students!

FIQ members assemble student-sewn blocks to create quilts for the American Heroes Project, Quilts of Valor, or the Anacortes Family Center. Kids learn about quilting and sewing and perform community service as well. In August, guild members go to the streets, hosting a booth in the children’s activity area at the Anacortes Arts Festival. To date, 17 quilts have been completed by the Kids’ Quilting Project. FIQ now offers follow-up classes to beginning sewers, hoping to raise a new generation of sewers.

The Guild is a registered non-profit organization whose mission is to create and distribute quilts to children and families in distress. The Skagit County Domestic Violence Center, the Anacortes Family Shelter, the Swinomish Family Shelter, Children’s Hospital, and Project Linus are current recipients. The Guild also donates quilts to Quilts of Valor and American Hero Quilts for wounded and retired armed forces members.

FIQ meets the first Monday of the month, September through June, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 9th Street in Anacortes. Meetings are at 12:30pm and 7pm. Visitors are always welcome, and no experience is required! Visit the guild website for more information, www.fidalgoislandquilters.com.

meet your board

Cory Ertel

Cory Ertel grew up in North Seattle, graduating from Ballard High School. After graduating from Central Washington University in 2006 with degrees in History and Political Science, Cory married Anacortes-native Naomi Kelly. After a few years living in South King County and the birth of their first child, daughter Natalie, Cory and Naomi moved to Anacortes in 2008.

Cory’s first job in Skagit County was as Government Affairs Director for the Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association (SICBA). In 2011 Cory went to work for Puget Sound Energy as Community Services Manager in Skagit County, and in early 2015 Cory went to work for the Shell Puget Sound Refinery in Anacortes where he serves as the External Relations Manager.

Cory has previously served on the Anacortes Planning Commission, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Board, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Board, Skagit River Salmon Festival Board and is an alumni of the Leadership Skagit Class of 2010.

Cory is currently a Board member for the United Way of Skagit County, Community Action of Skagit County, and is thrilled to serve on the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board, where his focus is economic development and helping achieve the Chamber’s vision “To be the most livable and economically vibrant waterfront community in the Pacific Northwest.”

Cory believes the strength of our community comes from the friendliness of our residents, our island’s natural beauty and livability, and the unique economic advantages held by Anacortes. Cory, Naomi and their children Natalie, Wyatt and Wade are proud to call Anacortes home, and hope to contribute in somehow making Anacortes an even better place for years to come.
YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE.
We take the burden of business supply management off your shoulders.
With an Ace Commercial Account, we deliver:
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experience anacortes

Next Steps - Learn about the Promise (part two)

The dedicated members of the Brand Promise Team spent hours discussing the words that would craft the Experience Anacortes promise. Learn about the meaning behind the key terms with these descriptors.

Our Promise -
Discover our beautiful Island Getaway, where everyone is welcomed as a Guest!
An authentic, vibrant seacoast community with wonderful weather and real people.

AUTHENTIC – genuine, real not fake, sincere, historic
SEACOAST – coastal, land adjacent to the sea
COMMUNITY – living plus tourism
WONDERFUL WEATHER – better climate, comfortable, temperate
REAL PEOPLE – not characters that are brought in, these people live and work here, we invest in our community, an attitude of caring, inviting

Stay tuned to learn more about the Experience Anacortes logo in next month’s newsletter!

volunteer profile

Kay Dow - loyal VIC
volunteer since 1992

Dale and Kay Dow retired to Anacortes in 1990 with fond memories of their “Port of Call” stop in June 1961 while honeymooning on the beautiful, quiet and pristine waters of the San Juans.

They started their life together in Port Angeles, Kay’s home town, progressing to Los Angeles and Stockton California then to Seattle, Dale’s home town. They raised their son, Rick, in Bellevue. They toured the state frequently as a family and marveled at the diversity Washington enjoys.

Their son Rick’s military career, marriage to his sweetheart, Kasie, and subsequent two sons gave grandpa and grandma good reason to visit areas of Texas, Arizona and Washington D.C. Sadly not to Germany and thankfully not to Iraq, Rick’s longest deployment. They have had the good fortune to revisit Anacortes many times over the years and loved it. The wonderful shops, island exploring and gentle sunsets entice them back again and again.

When Dale died in 2008 the comforting support of the families and of this marvelous community was memorable to Kay. So many loving thoughtful gestures of kindness and encouragement made Kay know she was still in the right place.

So life continues on for Kay, volunteering at the Chamber VIC at least once a week, at the library where she mends books, at Senior College, and at “whatever other mischief this aging body allows,” - her words.

Kay is thankful for the opportunity to be of some service to this very special community.

WASHINGTON: a Climate Leader
TOP 10 STATE IN LOW-CARBON EMISSIONS

While Washington’s population has grown by more than two million people in the last 25 years, our carbon emissions are lower than they were in 1990. That’s no accident. Our state has been a national leader in protecting the environment while creating jobs for Washington families.
ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL
30 Wineries, Gourmet Bites, Cheese and Chocolate

We are days away from the 8th annual Anacortes Spring Wine Festival and tickets are going fast! With 30 wineries from across Washington State coming to pour their wines at the Port of Anacortes Transit Event Center on April 9th the festival is the perfect event for wine lovers. A selection of local artisan cheese and chocolate makers will also be at the festival, sampling and selling their delicious treats. All of the wine at the festival will also be available for purchase at 10% off the retail price.

There is a full weekend of events to enjoy in Anacortes April 8-10th. Friday through Sunday the Anacortes Spring Boat Show will showcase 100 floating boats and boat services at the Cap Sante Marina from 10am-5pm each day. On Friday night Frida’s Gourmet Mexican Cuisine will host a winemaker’s dinner with Spoiled Dog Winery at 6:30pm. This five course meal includes a pecan and chipotle soup paired with Deception Red, fresh guava salad with Escape Blanc, and choice of three different entree and wine pairings. The Anacortes Farmers Market will hold their final winter market at the Depot on Saturday morning from 9am-2pm.

After the festival, enjoy live music at The Brown Lantern, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican, H2O, and The Rockfish Grill from 5pm-midnight. With the staggered start times you can stop by each venue and listen to flamenco, alternative folk, jazz, and dance music as you explore the tasty drink and dinner menus of downtown restaurants.

To learn more about the festival, see the full list of participants, and purchase tickets, go to www.anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival.

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank our 2016 Anacortes Spring Wine Festival Sponsors for making this festival bloom!

Waterfront Festival Gala Poster
Unveiling at Trident Seafoods

The 27th Annual Waterfront Festival poster will be unveiled on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at Trident Seafoods, 1400 4th Street, 5:30–7:00PM. Trident generously opens their doors every year, clearing their dry goods storage area to make room for one of the most festive events of the year! Trident provides Gere-a-Deli with some of their delectable products from the sea and the spread becomes simply amazing. Hosted bar presented by Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery/ H2O serving their hand-crafted beers and Washington wines. This event honors all sponsors who underwrite the Waterfront Festival and gives all a special preview of this year’s poster. Trident Seafoods is a vertically integrated harvester, processor and marketer of seafood from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Founded in 1973, they are a privately held, American owned corporation operating offshore processors and shore-side plants in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. They are proud to offer you their finest seafood products, “From the Source to the Plate.” Please RSVP online.
new members

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thefloatel@gmail.com
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Melody Young
melodydawnyoung@gmail.com
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(360) 474-7479
www.skagitguidedadventures.com
Stephanie Fernandez
steph@skagitguidedadventures.com

2016 Ambassadors

Taylor Bannister—Boys & Girls Club
Jessica Cantrell—RE/MAX Gateway
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker—Youth Dynamics
Sarah Jurkovich—Washington Federal
Shauna Marrs—People’s Bank
Dan Maul—Classic Style & Company
Catherine Mers—Windermere Real Estate
Bill Robards—Simply Yards Landscape & Design
Cathy Rockwell—Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
Therese Rudzis—Individual member
Veronica Spencer—Take Shape For Life
Tricia Sharp—Anacortes Candle Company
Carla Schipper—Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
Mary Staley—Marketing WITH Mary

member renewals

- Alice Bohnker Insurance Services, LLC
- Anacortes Construction Services LLC
- Anacortes Physical Therapy
- Berentson Plumbing
- Birch Equipment
- BrandStrategy, Inc.
- Crown Yacht Charters
- Fidalgo Living - Best Version Media
- Fidalgo Yacht Club
- Firelight Designs
- Gary Jacobson Attorney
- Irishman Enterprises
- Jennings Chiropractic, Inc., P.S.
- Life Care Center of The San Juan Islands
- Lighthouse Park R.V. Park & Mini Storage
- Lopez Islander Bay Resort & Marina
- McGregor Benefits
- Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor and Home
- Partianan Design
- Pearl Buttons, Inc./The Island Chicks
- San Juan Vineyards
- Savage Roofing
- Skagit Cycle
- Strandberg Construction, INC
- Toy Stories
- Turk’s Head

thanks...

Thank you to Scott Richards Insurance for sponsoring our March Luncheon, to the Swinomish Casino & Lodge for preparing such a delicious meal, and Mayor Laurie Gere for her wonderful State of the City presentation. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- ALT Insurance Group
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Construction Services
- Bank of the Pacific
- Bella Ve Permanent Make Up
- Bill Short - Port Commissioner
- Cap Sante Marina
- Express Employment Professionals
- Jennings Chiropractic, Inc, P.S.
- Majestic Inn & Spa
- Peoples Bank
- Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
- Port of Anacortes
- Samish Indian Nation
- SavIBank
- Scott Richards Insurance, Inc
- Simply Yards Landscape and Design
- Skagit Publishing
- Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
- Starbucks
- Steven Wilhoit - Anacortes Community Theatre
- Umpqua Bank

Thank you to ALT Insurance and Barrett Financial for hosting our March Business After Hours, complete with delicious corned beef and cabbage for Saint Patrick’s Day! Thank you also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Cathy’s Accounting and Bookkeeping Service LLC
- Jennings Chiropractic, Inc, P.S.
- Lighthouse Park R.V. Park & Mini Storage
- Lil’ Tugs Childrens Boutique
- Marketing with Mary
- Papa Murphy’s Take n’ Bake Pizza
- Peoples Bank
- Release Your Gorgeous Health with Veronica
- Toy Stories
Congratulations to owners Dave Yoder and Joe Lopez on the opening of Union Tavern. They hosted a fun ribbon cutting on February 25th. Pictured here from left to right are, community members, Chamber Executive Director Stephanie Hamilton, Heather Miller, Chamber Board Vice President Brian Johnson, co-owner Joe Lopez, Mayor Laurie Gere, co-owner Dave Yoder, and Union Tavern staff.

Congratulations Playhouse Dental, with their new Anacortes location. They hosted an open house ribbon cutting on March 2nd. Pictured here are Playhouse Dental staff, Dr. Sarah Hill, Mayor Laurie Gere, Chamber Board Vice President Brian Johnson, chamber staff, and community business managers.

Each year member of the Anacortes Sister Cities and the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce travel to Sidney by the Sea to celebrate the re-opening of the international ferry run. Town Crier Rich Riddell, Mayor Laurie Gere and County Commissioner Ron Wesen spoke to the gathered crowd on behalf of Anacortes - inviting our friends to the north to come and visit.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

PRESIDENT ELECT
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

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Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed and Breakfast

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

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Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company
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Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Chris Terrell How It Works
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District #103
Peter Whiting Northwest Yachts
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

CHAMBER STAFF

Stephanie Hamilton Executive Director
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Director
Laura Harter Events & Communications Director
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Director
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE BERENTSON

Vic (Visitor Information Center) Statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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April 30th

Saturday Shopping
9am-4pm

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www.AnacortesVintageMarket.com