Please join us on February 16, 2017 from 5:30-7:00 pm for our business after hours at the Island Hospital Center for Pain Management, see below for location details.

Millions of Americans suffer from chronic pain, far too many accepting that pain is just part of growing older. Pain keeps many from enjoying full lives by limiting activities, costing them thousands for care and affecting emotional well-being. Island Hospital recently welcomed pain specialist Xi Bei Tian MD to provide interventional pain treatments at the newly expanded Center for Pain Management. Dr. Tian utilizes a range of treatment options, including injections and radio-frequency therapies, to block the pain at the source.

Geoffrey Godfrey FNP, MSN, continues his holistic approach to pain relief at the same location, 2511 M Ave., Suite C, in the southeast corner of the lower level of the IH Medical Office Building.

NOTE: To attend the Business After Hours, enter from 26th Street and park on the street or behind the building. The Pain Center cannot be accessed from The Walk-In Clinic on M Avenue since its open until 8 p.m. For a map with parking options, please contact Dennis Richards at 299-1310 or (better) drichards@islandhospital.org.

Please join us Thursday, February 16th from 5:30-7:00 pm, gifts for the giveaway are welcome!
a message from the board chairman

As we move into 2017, it is time to reinvigorate our groups, committees and divisions where the true work of the chamber is completed. We also feel that participation in these groups should be beneficial to you as the volunteer. Making new connections and friends is an integral reason why businesses join a chamber, and your volunteer work offers that.

Our chamber is divided into divisions (which represent all members), trade groups, and festival committees.

Divisions
Marketing & Promotions; Strategy Statement: Tell positive stories about Anacortes and help local entities (businesses, civic organizations, chamber members, etc.) to become part of the story. To be good stewards of our promotional responsibilities, creating public outreach programs that encourage visitors to invest in our community.

Economic and Community Development; Strategy Statement: Lead the partnership among the business community, land owners and developers, the city, the port and other organizations to communicate, develop leadership opportunities and support and develop programs that benefit the economic core of Anacortes. A key factor of this division is workforce development.

Trade Groups
We currently have two active trade groups – you need not be an active chamber member to be included in a trade group; the Anacortes Marine Trade Association as well as the Retailers Group.

Committees
– each of our three major events has a committee: Spring Wine Festival, Waterfront Festival and Bier on the Pier. No set schedule – but lots of fun!

We hope you find one of these where you would feel included. Please call the chamber office for dates and times of meetings or for more information.

Brian Johnson, Chairman
Anacortes Construction Services

meet your board

Gina Walsh

Gina Walsh began her banking career many years ago in Bellingham starting with a part-time job while her young daughter went to pre-school. She was quickly promoted to Operations Manager and eventually took an interest in real estate lending. That path took her from loan processor to escrow officer to credit administrator, finally settling in as a closing administrator at a bank in Bellingham. Her husband Nick had been working for the Anacortes Fire Department for almost 10 years when he was promoted to Division Chief for EMS and Training. This promotion required them to move to Anacortes, which they had intended to do when he was hired. Life became busy with three kids and they put the move on hold without even realizing it. This was the push they needed and wanted to finally make their home in Anacortes.

Gina is currently an Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager and Real Estate Loan Officer at Peoples Bank in Anacortes where she is very involved in the community as a member of Anacortes Rotary and the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce. Previously, Gina has been very active in the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation volunteering for a number of years at the Festival of Trees Gala and as Chairman of the Children’s Breakfast in 2014 and 2015. She previously served on the board of Whatcom/Skagit Housing and Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center.

Gina’s first year in Anacortes included volunteering at the chamber booth at the arts festival helping kids paint the buoys that decorated the crab pot Christmas tree this year, as well as taking tickets at Bier on the Pier. She has just accepted the role of secretary in the noon rotary club and she and Nick have joined the International Project Alliance Committee. She is looking forward to helping out at the Anacortes Family Center whenever she can and is always looking for more ways she can give back to the community.

Gina lives in Skyline with her husband Nick, their daughters Stella, 12 and Izzy, 11, and with frequent visits from their oldest daughter Emma, 22, who also lives in Anacortes and works for Peoples Bank in Burlington. Izzy is a dancer at Skagit Valley Academy of Dance in Mount Vernon where she has danced since she was three years old and is currently on their competitive dance team. This takes the family on many adventures in fundraising and traveling to competitions. Stella is in the Challenge program at Anacortes Middle School which, along with taking classes at Anacortes Community Theatre and piano lessons, keeps her very busy. The family has a sailboat moored in Skyline and get out whenever they can.

The entire family is so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in Anacortes where they have been embraced by the community since day one and feel they have really found their home amongst the beauty of the surroundings and the warmth of the people.
Owners John Atkinson and Dick Mathes purchased the flower business from Burr and Shirley Sheely twenty-two years ago. John is from a small Illinois town where his aunt and uncle ran a flower shop. John started working at a large flower shop in Champagne, IL while studying ornamental horticulture at the University of Illinois. After graduating, he took the advice of one of his professors: “work at many different shops before settling into your own business.” John worked for many years in Bellevue and has many stories. He did flowers for the Seahawks and the Sonics (Lenny Wilkins years), Longacres racetrack, and the occasional Hollywood movie star. After working in seven very different shops, John is very happy to have located in Anacortes. After a major renovation in 2001, Sheely’s has evolved into its current state, selling gifts and home interior items along with the gorgeous flowers: beautiful lamps, throws, greeting cards, and lots of unique gifts like the glow-in-the-dark jellyfish paperweights.

Of course lots of flowers move through the store from many locations. Sheely’s takes every step possible to send out the freshest product possible, whether it is from South America, California, Canada, or locally grown. John and Dick are avid gardeners, bringing in seasonal flowers like dahlias in the summer and winterberry at Christmas. They raise hundreds of winterberry bushes that are harvested and sold by the truckload all over Seattle to other florists and nurseries.

Sheely’s is getting ready for a busy Valentine’s Day -- one of the busiest days of their year. They bring on extra workers to accommodate the volume of orders. We have a great crew. And of course they have their wonderful dogs, Sadie and Daisy, to help. The traditional roses are from Ecuador, but there will also be lots of different flowers for those Valentines who love lilies, orchids, or beautiful garden mixes of all kinds of flowers.

In Anacortes they have learned that you never know who will walk in the door. What an amazing parade of people wanting to “say it with flowers.”

Looking for a way to promote your business this spring? The Anacortes Spring Wine Festival is a great opportunity to highlight your business, show community involvement and be part of a weekend of activities in Anacortes this April.

Over 1,000 guests will flock to the historic Port Warehouse on April 8, 2017 to sip wines from a selection of 30 wineries from across Washington State and taste delicious bites created by our local caterers and restaurants. Wines will be available for sale at the event with a 10% discount off the retail price.

The town will be hopping all weekend with the Anacortes Spring Boat Show running Friday through Sunday at the Cap Sante Marina and the Anacortes Winter Farmers Market at the Depot on Saturday morning from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.
Keep Washington Competitive While Funding Education – 2017 Legislature is in Session

Excerpt from AWB Legislative Priorities

A number of fiscal challenges face lawmakers in the 2017-19 biennium. Fully funding pension obligations, maintaining an adequate safety net, and amply funding K-12 education are prominent among those challenges. Since the state Supreme Court’s 2012 McCleary decision, the legislature has made significant investments in basic education, having made steady progress complying with the court’s ruling. Despite recent progress, the legislature must take action in the 2017 session—addressing teacher compensation and district reliance on local property tax levies—in order to meet the 2018 deadline.

Additionally, 2017 will see discussions on how to address major changes to and interpretations of tax laws that have resulted in uncertainty, inconsistency, and inequitable treatment for taxpayers.

Washington’s employers are under constant pressure. Washington collects the 4th highest business share of state taxes, and the 6th highest business share of state and local taxes among the 50 states.

It is imperative that 2017-19 legislative challenges are met and resolved in a way that does not inhibit Washington’s ability to attract, maintain, and grow economic opportunity statewide, compete with lower-cost states, and upholds certainty and fairness for taxpayers.

CTE Funding

It is estimated in the next five years 740,000 jobs will open up in Washington State. We need to ensure a workforce that is prepared. Career and Technical Education courses provide 21st century skills that Washington State’s employers are looking for.

Providing CTE courses in the K-12 system provides options for our diverse student population in their K-12 education, which translates into long-term high paying careers once they leave the school. The costs for CTE courses can be significantly more expensive because of the equipment and faculty expertise needed. It is important that the funding formula for CTE Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) is adequate to support the programs.

Senate Bill 5183 and its companion in the House 1282 will increase the funding for (MSOC) over the next two biennium’s and implement a multiplier that will provide a steady funding formula for CTE programs.
Keep the Cheer Here for 2016 was a great success – 4,637 cards were turned in, compared to 4,063 in 2015. Because more cards were handed out than were turned in, we estimate that around $500,000 (that’s a half million dollars!) were kept in Anacortes.

Double Punch Wednesday did contribute to this, and shoppers were so very excited about this new aspect of the program. Participants won weekly prizes again this year, and have been thrilled with “the gifts that keeps on giving” as one winner said.

Pictured here is our Grand Prize Winner, Tye Smith

“Keep The Cheer Here is gaining momentum each year and is a valuable way of thanking local customers for shopping with small business.”

-- Kat Peterson, The Good Stuff Arts.

HUGE Thanks to our INCREDIBLY generous community for participating in the Safeway Farberware Stamp Drive. Thanks to you, AFC received nearly 350 pots and pans! That’s 35 FULL sets!

A special thanks to our community partners for making this happen: Anacortes Family Center Board President Bonnie Bowers, the Anacortes Police Department, the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, Soroptimist, Kiwanis and Rotary, a number of churches and businesses, hundreds of individuals and of course Safeway (checkers and managers were so patient and supportive). This exceeded our wildest expectations and truly left us awe-struck at the magnitude of people’s thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you SO VERY much!
- Dustin Johnson, Anacortes Family Shelter

ANACORTES

Annual Boat Show
The 20th Anniversary Anacortes Boat Show, will take place at the Cap Sante Marina at 1019 Q Avenue in Anacortes, Washington Thursday April 6th through Sunday April 9th

Multi Chamber After Hours

Thursday, February 9
4pm - 6pm
1220 Anderson Rd, Mount Vernon

Since 1973, Dimensional Communications has helped a wide variety of clients maximize their investment in technology by providing customized solutions. Their senior management team understands the highly critical role we play in our customers’ success.

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COCONUT KENNY’S  
1005 Commercial Ave  
Anacortes, WA 98221  
360-899-4438  
www.coconutkennys.com  
We are tropical themed, casual dining family restaurant. Amongst our great menu we are known for our Pizza and Hawaiian Bread Sandwiches. We also offer beer and wine.

WESTERN PRINCE WHALE WATCHING  
SAN JUAN ISLAND  
PO Box 418  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
360-378-5315  
https://orcawhalewatch.com  
Whale Watching and Wildlife Tours departing from Friday Harbor, WA, just 90 miles north of Seattle. The original whale watch company in the San Juan Islands.

2017 ambassadors  
Ericka Bakkom – E Fresh Design, LLC  
Taylor Bannister – Boys & Girls Club  
Jeremy Carter – Washington National Guard  
Barry Harter – Central Payment Corp.  
Rich Heidecker – Youth Dynamics  
Brenden Jones – Key Bank  
Sarah Jurkovich – Washington Federal  
Jeri Kaufman – Welcome Wagon  
Kristy Mahoney - Land Title & Escrow  
Dan Maul – Classic Style & Company  
Nicole Peterson - John L. Scott  
Richard Riddell – Town Crier  
Bill Robards – North Sound Pest Solutions  
Cathy Rockwell – Cathy’s Accounting  
Sarah Sanders – Cap Sante Court  
Veronica Spencer – Take Shape For Life  
Mary Staley – Marketing WITH Mary  
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc

new members  

ribbon cutting

Congratulations to the team at Coconut Kenny’s on your grand opening on January 25th! Chamber members and Mayor Gere were on hand to celebrate the opening of the 6th restaurant for brothers Chay and Lee Tan. Welcome to Anacortes!

thanks...  
Thank you to the Anacortes School District for presenting, to Youth Dynamics for sponsoring our January Luncheon and to Gere-a-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal our January luncheon. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.
• ATL Insurance Group  
• Anacortes Arts Festival  
• Bella Ve Permanent Makeup & Healing Arts  
• City of Anacortes, Police Department  
• Interpreting Technology  
• Jennings Chiropractic, Inc., P.S.  
• Lighthouse Memory Care  
• Louis Auto Glass, Inc.  
• Papa Murphy’s  
• Welcome Wagon  
• Youth Dynamics

Thank you to the My Biz Pro for sponsoring (and H2O for hosting) our January Business After Hours. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.
• Anacortes Brewery  
• Cascade Resources & Consulting, LLC  
• Jennings Chiropractic  
• Lakeside Industries  
• Lighthouse Memory Care  
• Lili’ Tugs Childrens Botique  
• My Biz Pro  
• Papa Murphy’s

member renewals  
• Anacortes Financial Associates  
• Coldwell Banker Bain  
• Estvold, Marc L. AIA  
• Gateway Bed & Breakfast, The  
• Homeplace Special Care Center  
• How It Works  
• Island Hospital Foundation  
• Oppel, Curt @ John L Scott Real Estate  
• Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.  
• Thrive Community Fitness  
• Vivi’s Kitchen
In 2007 by mayoral proclamation, Richard Riddell became the Official Crier to the City of Anacortes - now a world champion town crier.

He is almost a native of Anacortes, having missed the status by 15 years when he moved with his parents to Anacortes from Juneau, AK as a teenager.

As the “town crier,” Richard represents the city in competitions all over Canada, the U.S, and Europe. He captured the label of American Champion his first time out in competition in Annapolis, MD, later Champion of Bermuda, and then Overall Winner at the World Invitational Town Crier Championship held in Kingston, ON in 2013. Richard is the first and, so far, only American crier to win a world championship title. He was honored for this feat in the Washington State House of Representatives.

He also gets to lead our city’s parades and many celebrations throughout the year as well as welcome the many tourists from the American Cruise Line ship that visits our community in the Fall and Spring.

Richard’s grown-up job is that of a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments. He is currently looking to open a new office in Anacortes and very much looks forward to serving the financial needs of his clients in the prettiest place on earth.

Richard lives in the Skyline neighborhood of Anacortes with his wife of 18 years, Johanna, and two high school aged kids. “Someday they’ll talk to us again!”

**ambassador profile**

**Rich Riddell**

**Your Anacortes American print subscription now includes premium access to local news and online-only content from your computer, tablet or mobile device. Visit goanacortes.com!**

**Join us for Chamber Chat!**

**DATA SECURITY - What does that really mean?**

Many terms regularly flood current media outlets: Security breach, ransomware, exploit, botnet, PCI DSS compliancy, HIPPA compliancy, IRS compliancy, corporate espionage, malware, spyware, adware, viruses, trojan, keylogger, Rogue website… In fact, there are so many terms that we cannot possibly list them all here. What do these terms mean to you and to your business? How can you navigate the ever changing landscape of computers and security?

Join Adrian Santangelo, founder of Interpreting Technology, on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm at the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce (819 Commercial Avenue, Suite F) to learn about the key data security issues businesses can face today. Learn what to watch for, how to help prevent malicious individuals from stealing important company and customer data, and learn how to ensure you are meeting compliancy requirements.

Interpreting Technology • 360-419-5555 • support@intptt.com • Your Geeks of Choice!

Register on line at www.anacortes.org or by calling the office at 360.293.7911.

**February 9, 2017**

**3rd Annual Dine Out To End Homelessness**

Eat out & the profit from your meal will be donated to help

**Participating Restaurants Include:**

- Island Espresso
- Dad’s Diner
- Penguin Coffee
- A-Town
- Gere-a-Deli
- Rockfish Grill
- H2O
- Pita J’s
- Adrift
- Secret Cove
- Brown Lantern
- Majestic
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza Factory
- Bob’s Chowder
- Union Tavern
- Frida’s
- Bastion

**RAFFLE TICKETS! $20/each or 7 for $100**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

1st Prize: Isadora’s Fine Jewelry Piece valued at over $6,000
2nd Prize: Set of Jennifer Bowman acrylic paintings $550 value
3rd Prize: The "Anacortes Experience" shopping spree $600 + value
Executive Board

CHAIRMAN
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services

VICE CHAIRMAN
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed and Breakfast

TREASURER
Mary LaFleur ALT Insurance

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

PAST CHAIRMAN
Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters

Board of Directors

Patti Anderson Williams & Nulle
Sandra Benton Think Studios
Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Kristi Gabrielse Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co
Diana Jordan-New Bank of the Pacific
John Olsen Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Bar
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Leslie Powell Lighthouse Memory Care
Gina Walsh Peoples Bank
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District
Peter Whiting Seattle Yachts
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Anacortes

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton President
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Director
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Director
Nancy Rytand Events & Communications Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

Thank you, volunteers!

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

Experience Anacortes

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

Decadent Washington Wine Tastings
Food Bites from Local Restaurants
Beautiful Intimate Island Setting

VIP Hour from 12 noon to 1:00pm
General Admission 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Tickets include etched tasting glass,
unlimited wine tasting, food bites,
plus chocolate & cheese tastings.

anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival

Must be 21 or older with valid ID. No children or pets allowed.
Port Warehouse Event Center, 1st & Commercial Anacortes, WA 98221

Coast in. Hang out.™