chamber luncheon

Join us as we hear from Dr. Coyte Cooper, bestselling author, coach, podcast host, and speaker in the areas of High Performance and Brand/Culture Building where he specializes in helping people and organizations perform to their potential so they can achieve extraordinary things. He is the author of new #1 new release Make Your Mark book, the host of the Earn the Right to Live Your Dreams podcast, and a former NCAA Division I All-American. Dr. Cooper got his Ph.D. from Indiana University in Sport Marketing and was a college professor for nine years where he established a line of research in the area of branding and social media marketing.

The luncheon is sponsored by Skagit Land Trust, a local non-profit conservation organization supported by over 1,100 individuals, families and businesses that protects important natural lands for the benefit of the community and for future generations of people and wildlife. Working with communities, landowners, and partners, the Trust has protected more than 8,000 acres of land and 40 miles of marine and freshwater shoreline in Skagit County. This January, with help from more than 450 families, businesses, and organizations, the Trust was able to conserve Kelly’s Point and Yellow Bluff on Guemes Island. For more information on Skagit Land Trust, visit www.skagitlandtrust.org.

The lunch will take place at Fidalgo Bay Resort, Thursday, March 8th, 11:30am-1:00pm. Please RSVP and pay online or in the chamber office to receive the $18 luncheon rate. Payment at the door at the time of the luncheon will be $20. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!

business after hours

ALT Insurance Group’s Mary LaFleur and Remax Realty’s Kelli Lang are excited to host the next Business After Hours! March 15th from 5:30 -7:00 at: 819 Commercial Ave on the main floor! Bein dis be just befur St. Paddy’s Day, we be servin up some swalley and corned beef. Folks need to be gettin on the green and the Paddy’s Day party hat! There will be a prize for the best attire! We look forward to seein yall, Not on yer nelly should you miss this one! Come a quarter til and stay until you hit the four spring night club!

Find out more by attending our Business After Hours, Thursday March 15th from 5:30 - 7:00pm for food, fun and excellent door prizes! Please RSVP online or by calling 360-293-7911. Gifts for the giveaway are always welcome!
a message from the president

One of the most tangible benefits of your membership is attendance at our monthly luncheons. Whether you join us to hear a “State of…” report or to play fun networking games, one thing is for certain here on Fidalgo Island: our members enjoy getting together.

You will notice that we are raising our lunch prices this month for the first time in eight years from $15 to $18 per person (if paid ahead). We are attempting to stay in line with expenses, while giving you a consistent price year over year into the future as the state minimum wage increases.

For years we have been extra blessed with low pricing from our member caterers. They have given us deals because they recognize the value of promoting their services to a larger audience. However, in recent years, with the change in minimum wage and other factors, the cost of doing business for these food providers has increased dramatically.

Please know that these luncheons are not fundraisers for the chamber; they usually barely break even. We produce these events to provide the community with information and to give members the opportunity to get to know each other.

Another way to think about your lunch attendance: the networking and programming are an $18 investment and the lunch is free!

I look forward to seeing you at the March luncheon; Coyte Cooper is an excellent speaker and I am sure he will Flip the Script.

- Stephanie Hamilton, President
board member profile

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 preschool. 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 ten 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 Board of Directors as Treasurer.

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.

member profile

Apothecary Spa

The award winning Apothecary Spa at the Majestic has been a relaxing retreat for the Anacortes community for the past 7 years. Anna and Ben Holm took over ownership of the spa July 2011 and started building a dream team. As a full service day spa with over 12 specialized therapists there is a wide variety of services to meet your body’s needs. You can come in for a special day or sign up for our monthly Elite or Essential Membership program. With amenities like the eucalyptus steam rooms, soft robes and relaxing sanctuary, you can truly make a day of it at the spa. The spa team encourages self care by building unique services based on your individual needs; and helps educate every guest to provide a complete wellness experience.

They are excited to expand this year! Anna and Ben bought the Knutzen building at 320 E. Fairhaven in Burlington to create their dream wellness center. The center will feature a full bulk herb Apothecary, himalayan salt therapy room, float tanks, multiple treatment rooms as well as a variety of specialists. The wellness center is pleased to host a community room as a small lecture space for workshops, classes, and group meeting space. The center’s Master Herbalist, Erin Vanhee, has already began offering Integrative Herbal Classes and a Community Free Herbal Clinic.

Keep an eye out for the Wellness Directory later this year. The spa has taken over our local directory and will be expanding it to all of Skagit County with the goal to help everyone be their best self.

Peoples Bank

A higher level of service.
YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE.
We take the burden of business supply management off your shoulders.

With an Ace Commercial Account, we deliver:
• Janitorial and sanitation products
• Property management supplies
• Paper products and more

Contact our B2B specialist Brent at brobi@aceanacortes.com or call 360-402-5589 or apply online today at TheSupplyPlace.com/05588

Mystic Sea Charters
Whale Watching Cruises
Orca/Humpback
May 4 – Oct 8
710 Seafarers Way, Anacortes, WA
1.800.308.9387
MysticSeaCharters.com

VIC profile

Vicki McNeil

Until settling in Anacortes in 1994, Vicki spent much of her life feeling like a bit of a vagabond. Born in Colfax, followed by a childhood spent moving every few years throughout Washington State, then a BA in English from WSU and eventually on to Berkeley with her husband Bill, who was pursuing a PhD. Those years of protest and upheaval were eye-opening indeed for a small-town girl from Colfax, and Vicki was enraptured. Derry Bowles, a longtime VIC volunteer and friend, joked for years that while she was getting caught up in anti-war protests, he (being the Berkeley chief of police at the time) was probably tear-gassing her.

Between Berkeley and Anacortes were years lived in San Diego, CA; Newport, RI; Bonn, Germany; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Paris, France; the Bronx; and Mohegan Lake, NY. Vicki decided to return to her roots in western Washington after Bill passed away in 1993, and settled on Anacortes as the perfect new home for her and her son Nathan. (Daughter Emily stayed in New York City, so at least there was an excellent excuse to visit back east and eat delicious bagels on a regular basis!)

Vicki has put down deep roots in Anacortes since that last relocation twenty-three years ago. She worked at Watermark Book Company for fifteen years, and has been a regular volunteer at the Waterfront and Arts Festivals as well as nearly ten years at the Visitor Information Center. As her husband Paul says, she went from telling people what to read to telling people where to go! She says that one of her favorite things to do is to ride on the Washington State Ferries.

As this newsletter comes out, Vicki has decided to take time off from the VIC and do some traveling with her family.

ribbon cuttings

Congratulations to
prêt-à-porter RESALE BOUTIQUE, Tracy Whitener and family! Her store is located at 716 Commercial Ave.

Congratulations to the team of the ELMM Clinic. Their clinic is located at 1500 Commercial Ave. Visit their website for clinic information, elmmclinic.com
**30 Wineries, Gourmet Bites and a Wine Shop all under one roof!**

The town is going to be abuzz with activity on April 7th for the 10th annual Anacortes Spring Wine Festival. We welcome 30 wineries from across the state, local restaurants dishing up delightful food pairings as well as samples of amazing chocolates, cheeses and oil and vinegars. On site wine shop so you can take home some of your favorite wines.

Tickets on sale now, $80 for the VIP experience which includes 90 minutes earlier entry (beginning at noon) so you can have a more intimate time with winemakers, a collectors swag bag and special lounge area. General Admission is just $55 with entry at 1:30pm. Designated Driver tickets also available and all can be purchased from the website. The festival ends at 5:00pm.

For a full list of wineries, food pairings and to purchase tickets, go to [www.anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival](http://www.anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival).

You can also keep up to date with the event on our Facebook page, Anacortes Spring Wine Festival.

Thank you so much to our sponsors that make the Anacortes Spring Wine Festival possible:

**Magnum Sponsor**

Andeavor

**Cask Sponsors**

Anacortes American Apothecary Spa
Bank of the Pacific Heritage Bank
KAFE Radio
KISM Radio
loanDepot
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
TCC Verizon, Cellular Connection
Trident Seafoods

**Bottle Sponsor**

Pacific Party Canopies
Peoples Bank
Reisner Distributor Inc.
Savi Bank
Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Skagit Bank

**Bota Sponsor**

Fidalgo Bay Resort
Scott Milo at the Framemaker
Tri County Recycling
Thanks...

Thank you to Puget Sound Energy for sponsoring our February Luncheon. Thank you also to Gere-A-Deli for preparing such a delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Bella Ve Permanent Makeup & Healing Arts
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Bunnies By The Bay
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Central Payment Corporation
- Hillcrest House, LLC
- Puget Sound Energy
- The NOAH Center

New Members

Mariners Rest
Chris MacKenzie
(206) 293-7336
marinersrest@outlook.com
1302 7th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
Vacation Rental

Color Street
Tracy Rodgers
(360) 708-7754
go2tracy@gmail.com
1511 8th
Anacortes, WA 98221
http://Tracyrodgers.com
Business Consultant

Rosenbusch Photography
Kristen Rosenbusch
(248) 763-9325
kristen@rosenbusch.us
619 Commercial Ave, Suite 34
Anacortes, WA 98221
Photography

2018 Ambassadors

Chair: Dan Maul - Classic Style & Company
Stephanie Bayless - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
Jeremy Carter - Washington National Guard
Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
Rich Heidecker - Youth Dynamics
Mindy Holland - Interpreting Technology
Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
Amber Rains - Bank of the Pacific
Richard Riddell - Edward Jones
Sarah Sanders - Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Veronica Spencer - Take Shape For Life
Mary Staley - Marketing WITH Mary
Carol Van Iterson - Bank of the Pacific
Brianna Vyrostek - Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Charles Yousling - Waddell & Reed Inc

Member Renewals

- Chicago Title Company
- City of Anacortes
- Clark, Duane
- Coconut Kenny’s
- CPI Plumbing & Heating
- Decker, Tom & Wong, Nancy
- Edward Jones - Gary Thramer AAMS
- Edward Jones - Jeffery Pleet
- Gere-a-Deli
- Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Island Transport Ferry Service, Inc.
- Judd & Black
- Les Schwab Tire Center
- McCary Creative
- Pacific Marine Center
- Port of Anacortes
- Portalis LLC
- Reisner Distributor Inc
- RIS Insurance
- Salvation Army, The
- Samish Indian Nation
- San Juan Lanes/Bar & Grill
- Scott Richards Insurance, Inc.
- SeaBear
- Sheley’s Floral & Gifts
- Skagit Bank
- Smith, Ron & Anne
- The Store
- Tracys Furniture
- Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings
- Washington Federal
- Williams & Nulle CPA, PLLC
- Windermere Real Estate

Thanks...

Thank you Mayo Home Team of Caldwell Banker Bain for hosting the February Business After Hours at ACME Creative. Thanks also to the following businesses and individual members for bringing a giveaway prize.

- ACME Creative
- Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Bar
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Can Nap Inn
- Classic Style & Company LLC
- Jennings Chiropractic, Inc., P.S.
- Release Your Gorgeous Health
- The Mayo Home Team @ Caldwell Banker Bain

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http://Tracyrodgers.com
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The Anacortes Waterfront Festival is a treasured event, kicking off the summer season here on Fidalgo Island. This community focused, family event brings thousands of guests to Anacortes the first weekend of June.

Planning for the festival has begun and there are many ways that your business can be involved. You can become a sponsor of the festival, join the festival committee, have your business operate a children’s activity booth, volunteer at the info booth, or put a team together to compete in the Quick and Dirty Boat Building demo.

Sponsorship of the Anacortes Waterfront Festival is a great opportunity to highlight your business, show community involvement and be part of a weekend of activities in Anacortes. There are many sponsorship levels available with promotional opportunities for your business.

Contact Nancy Rytand, nrytand@anacortes.org, to discuss the best way to involve your business in this popular community event.

The 2017 Waterfront Festival is just around the corner! Save the Date!

2018 Poster Unveiling at Trident Seafood Thursday May 3rd 5:30-7:00 pm
chamber officers

Executive Board

CHAIRMAN
Mary LaFleur ALT Insurance

VICE CHAIRMAN
John Olsen Ancortes Oil & Vinegar Bar

TREASURER
Gina Walsh Peoples Bank

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Dennis Richards Island Hospital

PAST CHAIRMAN
Brian Johnson Ancortes Construction Services

Board of Directors
Sandra Benton Think Studios
Cory Ertel Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Kristi Gabrelse Windermere
Mayor Laurie Gere City of Ancortes
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Diana Jordan-New Bank of the Pacific
Lori Maul Classic Style & Company
Reid Meyers Law Office of Reid E Meyers
Jeff Pleet Edward Jones
Leslie Powell Lighthouse Memory Care
Teresa Wainman San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill
Mark Wenzel Ancortes School District
Allen Workman John L. Scott
Dan Worra Port of Ancortes

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

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!

Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH
DEcadent Northwest Wine Tastings
Food Bites from Local Restaurants
Beautiful Intimate Island Setting

VIP Admission: noon to 5:00pm
General Admission: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Tickets include etched tasting glass, unlimited wine tasting, food bites, plus chocolate & cheese tastings.
anacortes.org/spring-wine-festival

Coast in. Hang out.™