Please join us on July 19th from 5:30-7:00pm at 2900 T Avenue, Suite A for this month’s Business After Hours hosted by SignDog Northwest.

In the Fall of 2015, the doors of SignDog NW opened. With over 19 years of experience in signs, Bradley Moore “The SignDog”, decided to follow his family and moved his sign shop from its roots in Ellensburg to Anacortes, WA. He has not looked back since! Brad, when asked said: “SignDog NW’s location on T Ave, in the industrial section of Anacortes, has allowed us to specialize in more boating-related needs including: boat names, vinyl and wraps. We also make other types of signs including: storefront signs, flags, a-boards, dimensional lettering, car wraps, custom stickers and more. I love this town and the way it supports local businesses. We are so grateful for our customers, many of whom we consider to be friends. I am so glad we moved here with the family and look forward to many more years in this beautiful place”

The sign shop, and Brad, also love to support local charities, youth sports and education - recently launching a “zipper merge” sticker campaign to raise money for A Simple Gesture Anacortes. In his off-time, Brad (also known as Coach Brad) is the Head Coach for the Anacortes High School Girls and Boys Tennis Team and enjoys spending his time coaching AAU basketball and hanging out with his two boys - playing sports and exploring the local area. We look forward to seeing you Thursday, July 19th from 5:30-7:00pm, and remember that gifts for the giveaway are welcome! RSVP to the chamber online or by calling the office at 293-7911.

The ANACORTES COMMUNICATOR
The Newsletter of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce
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a message from the chair

I am so happy and thankful that the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce put your trust in our recommendation to partner with the Northwest Marine Trades Association! The Anacortes Boat and Yacht Show was a complete success!

There were few complaints and there was much enthusiasm for future shows, including request for a fall show! All of the complaints are easily correctible. It is wonderful that our biggest problem is to figure out where to put all the vendors that have expressed their desire to come here.

For some statistics, we had 263 boats on display. There were 103 different marine trades represented, with 50 of them in the 10,000 square foot tent with complete with raised floors and pipe and drape.

52 wonderful volunteers (thank you, you know who you are) that greeted our 5,214 guests that were checked into the show. They came from British Columbia, Massachusetts, Boston, Oregon, Alaska and Australia.

We had a goal of the show netting a profit of $20,000, of which Anacortes Marine Trades would get 55% and the NMTA would get 45%. I am happy to say even though we don’t have a final number. We have made our mark!

We are looking for the show to grow and are looking to have two shows in 2019. One in May and the other in September.

Rick Star from the Anacortes Brewery reported that he gave a $1,080 his profits from the beer garden to the Anacortes Family Center.

I know that Anthony’s was pleased with the traffic they had and they are going to be ready for next year. The show brought money to town and we showed off our beautiful marina and town businesses. There are so many people to thank! Great job done by NMTA, we will have a great partnership moving forward!

- Mary LaFleur
owner ALT Insurance
Board Chairman

ambassador profile

Shona Martin is a financial planner and owner at Fidalgo Financial Planning. This is a ‘fee-only’ firm, meaning clients pay a flat fee for the planner’s time and knowledge. A ‘Fee-only’ planner acts as a ‘Fiduciary’, meaning they must legally give advice that is in the client’s best interest. She enjoys helping people understand their finances and achieving their short and long term financial goals. Specialties include helping families understand college funding options and working with people at a transition in their lives – such as marriage, divorce, widowed, and near retirement. www.fidalgofinancial.com.

Shona grew up in England and moved to Houston, TX in 1983. She met her husband in Texas and they moved to Washington to be near family. After raising their two sons in the Stanwood area, Shona and Chris decided to downsize to an active small town and chose Anacortes – where they recently completed a remodel of a small 1940’s home. Chris continues his career as a Firefighter in Kirkland and they both enjoy visiting their sons – one a Naval Officer, the other in college.

She joined the Chamber in 2017 and has enjoyed meeting many business owners, helping at Chamber events, and learning from key people in the community at Chamber luncheons.

Her hobbies include hiking in the mountains. In addition to regular hikes in the Cascades, she has completed two long-distance hikes in Europe, enjoyed hiking in Southern Utah canyons, and summited Mt Baker, Mt Shuksan and a 14000 ft peak in Colorado.
Congratulations to Therese Rudzis and Spencer Pope for graduating with the 2018 class of Leadership Skagit. These two were recipients of our chamber’s scholarships (the chamber funded one and an anonymous donor funded the other), and both were named team speakers at the graduation night event.

Our chamber first began investing in leadership development by providing scholarships with the Leadership Skagit Class of 2010. Since then we have sponsored ten scholarship recipients and two staff members:

Mike Trafton, Bank of the Pacific
Philip Prud’homme, formerly Barrett Financial, currently United Way
Josh Baldwin, Quantum Construction
Tammy Masalonis, McGregor Benefits
Jeff Paxson, Marine Detail Specialists
Rick Star, Rockfish Grill, Anacortes Brewery and H2O
Beth Meenaghan, Sustenance
Sandra Benton, Think Studios
Spencer Pope, Productive Dental Academy
Therese Rudzis, Skyline Moorage Sales

Experience in health insurance. Alice started at the Claims Department coding and editing claims, then moved on to Customer Service answering eligibility and benefit questions and resolving claims issues, and then to the Marketing Department where she learned plan benefits, actuarial values and underwriting guidelines, setting up and administration of health plans. Alice became an independent agent and this training has essentially been the foundation of her health insurance agency, Alice Bohnker Insurance Services, LLC, together with her personal ideals to share this knowledge with her clients and help service their needs with efficiency and integrity. The training enables her in her job as a health insurance agent to assist companies and individuals to select the appropriate plan and guide them in plan administration, as well as assist in claims issues and helping them understand their benefits.

The end product is total joy, when at end of day Alice could have peace knowing that to the best of her ability, she has given each company or individual her best. She looks back and is thankful to her former bosses and co-workers, as well as fellow agents, in the industry who shared their expertise for her to gain her proficiency. Alice is thankful for her clients in Anacortes and beyond for putting their trust in her. And to God she gives all the glory!
It was a weekend filled with activities for the whole family at the 29th Annual Waterfront Festival. A huge thank you to the many community groups, volunteers and the following sponsors for helping to make this community event possible!


Some of the many highlights include Anacortes Yacht Club free boat rides which hosted 421 passengers on the 15 boats used from the club members. Fidalgo Island Rotary went through roughly 1,000 boats, which created smiles and laughter all weekend long. The Quick and Dirty boat building competition, which included eight teams this year, raised money for local charities. There were more than 65 art vendors and 10 food vendors as well as nine Entertainers, the Anacortes High School Drumline, and the flyover by the Blackjacks.
Thank you to Lighthouse Memory Care for sponsoring our June luncheon, and also to Fidalgo Bay Resort for hosting and to Gere-A-Deli for the delicious meal. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Costco Wholesale
- Express Employment
- Fidalgo Bay Resort
- Leadership Skagit
- Lighthouse Memory Care
- Peoples Bank
- SeaBear
- Skagit Bank

Thank you to Island Adventures for hosting an exciting Business After Hours aboard their new boat the Island Explorer 5! Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Cascade Resources and Consulting
- Dan Stearns Photography
- Island Adventures
- Oyster Run, Inc.
- SeaBear
- Unique Romance Travel & Destination Weddings

2018 ambassadors

- **Chair**: Dan Maul - Fidalgo Artisan Yarn and Clothing
- Stephanie Bayless - Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
- Brandon Carter - Robert W Baird
- Crystal Eddy - Skagit Bank
- Megan Goldstein - Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Barry Harter - Central Payment Corporation
- Rich Heidecker - Chamber Member
- Mindy Holland - Interpreting Technology
- Shona Martin - Fidalgo Financial Planning LLC
- Jessica Nguyen - Peoples Bank
- Meagan Schwab - Peoples Bank
- Carol Van Iterson - Bank of the Pacific

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dreamcatcher4rent@hughes.net (email)
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The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and the Northwest Marine Trade Association received the Economic Development Partner award from the Port of Anacortes for their work on the highly successful Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show.
Thank you, volunteers!

May 2017 May 2018

Visitors 1541 1335
Phone Calls 136 59
Information Requests 109 15
Relocation Requests 18 15
Web Users 15,265 15,699
Web Sessions 18,159 18,758

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