

U-CLUB NEWS



Rogue River Valley University Club

October 2017

Bill Thorndike ***October 12 Speaker***



Recently Club Member Bill Thorndike traveled to Slovenia representing the Crater Lake National Park Trust. The trip was set up to recognize and explore the new sister (brother) park relationship between Crater Lake National Park and Triglav National Park. Of special interest is the fact that the U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia is Medford-native Brent Hartley who hosted Bill during

the visit. Bill's presentation will include the capitol city of Ljubljana, four days in Triglav National Park and a visit to the Slovenian wine region of Goriska Brda. **Join Bill for a Slovenian alpine meal and a taste of the very unique Slovenian Lunar 8 wine.**

Reservations for this Thursday, October 12 lunch are due by Monday, October 9 and can be made by calling Lori at the Club at 541-772-4707 or online at this link: [October Speaker](#)

The Club's new membership badges should arrive shortly

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HOLD THE DATE

**The Club's 2017 Holiday Party will be held on
Thursday, December 14**

member

SPOTLIGHT

Leigh Johnson



University Club Member Leigh Johnson is a Business Development officer for People's Bank of Commerce. He graduated from Southern Oregon College (as it was then known), ran a variety of former businesses, was the long time manager of the offices of Congressman Bob Smith, and served two terms as a state representative.

Did you know:

- When eleven and twelve year he was fueling and cleaning fishing and patio boats at Bridge Bay Marina on Lake Shasta (the family business). His duties included teaching people how to water ski.
- His interest in politics stemmed from attending a Forest Service hearing at age 14. When asked if there was any public testimony to add, Leigh raised his hand and they called on him. His point was that recreation was important for the economy of Shasta County.
- Following his 1966 college graduation, Leigh was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1970 where he served two terms. Even though 1974 was a tough year to be a Republican officeholder, he almost survived the tidal wave. He was only 270 votes short.
- Leigh owned and operated Leigh's Sports and Hardware in Ashland whose advertising sign and slogan was: "Leigh has worms." Among other things, the store sold fish bait.
- Leigh also operated the bar and restaurant at the Lithia Springs Hotel (then known as the Mark Anthony). He named the establishment "Bottom of the Mark."
- When Congressman Bob Smith asked him to run his Congressional Offices from the District of Columbia, Leigh said he would only do the job if he could remain in Oregon, arguing that the offices would run better if he were right here in Oregon alongside the voters. Bob Smith agreed. Leigh served in that capacity for 14 years.



"Let us remember that the University Club has been here since 1910. The culture of the Club may need to change with the times but the tradition and fellowship needs to carry on for future generations." — President Jack Salter, August 2002

Many Club Members have previously provided for the Club's future in their estate plans and their generosity has helped create the experience you've enjoyed here.

Please consider helping to strengthen the Club's future by securing a bequest invitation form from [Jerry Jacobson](#) at 542-773-2727.

RVUC Scholarship Foundation

The Rogue River Valley University Club Scholarship Foundation was founded in 2008 by several Club Members and was granted permission to use the Club's name in its work. While it is a point of occasional confusion, the Foundation is an entirely separate corporation from the Club and has an independent governance board.



In 2017 the Foundation modified its scholarship application procedures and the Foundation board was extremely gratified by the character and quality of the applications which resulted.

Here are some excerpts:

From the Students:

All of the college savings my parents had saved for me went to my mother's hospital bills when she got sick. I have not lived with my father for four years. For the past three years I have lived with a legal guardian. I have just moved out this year and continue to live independently and provide for myself financially.

I would love to be an art teacher when I grow up and inspire those around me to create. In college I will be student teaching at North Medford High school's art classes and, on college graduation, will pursue a career teaching art classes within a high school.

What inspires me is that I will be the first one in my family to graduate college so I push myself to be the best I can be.

Schools the Foundation's 2017 Recipients are attending:

**Portland State University
Rogue Community College
Southern Oregon University
University of Portland
Western Oregon University**

I want to double major in public policy & economics and, while attending college, am going to be interning at the Oregon State Capitol Building where I hope to learn how to write legislation. After graduating from college I want to go to law school and, upon attaining my law degree, want to go back to the capital building as a staffer to write economic based legislation.

Continued on next page

If you would like to volunteer to mentor one or more of the Scholarship Foundation's recipients, please contact Carol Fischer at carol@cutler.com. Mentoring could consist of quarterly or semi-annual meetings or phone calls with a mentee as you and the mentee feel useful.

I became a parent, rather than a big sister to all five of my siblings, from the time I was eight years old and was left overnight with a one-year-old and expected to take over the daily chores.

From counselors:

She has been able to stay on track and achieve her goal to graduate high school even when faced with teenage parenthood and extreme housing obstacles. She is determined to make a better life for herself and her daughter.

He always gives thought to his assignments and works to produce mastery-level responses. He has a natural insight regarding literature and themes relative to humans and produces engaging written responses to the topics offered him. He is also always willing to revisit and revise work in order to earn consistently high marks. He is also very easy-going and good natured and gets along well with a variety of students.

She is amazing, not only because she is smart, curious, independent and self-motivated, but also because she is incredibly resilient. Life has thrown as many obstacles as it can into her path and yet she perseveres. She is just on the verge of giving in when she picks up the pieces and comes back stronger than ever. Scholarly hunger such as she possesses in one so young is unusual and it should be nourished.

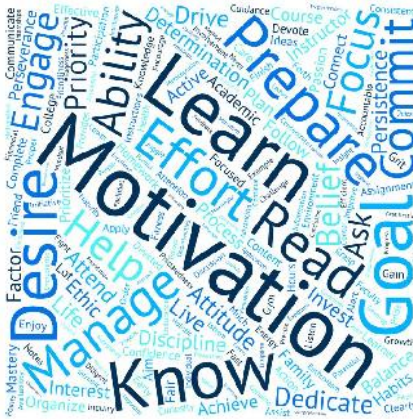
He is a force to be reckoned with. I look forward to volunteering on his election campaign some day.

She is a very strong person who has persevered through many traumatic family events. While grieving her mother's death, and figuring out what it's like to be a foster child, she has never given up on herself, lost her sense of humor or lost her way

toward achieving her goals.

In 2017 Club Members have generously contributed a record amount of support to the Foundation to support the college expenses of these 2017 scholarship recipients as well as other students awarded scholarships in previous years. (The Foundation's scholarship awards are annually renewable for up to four years for recipients.)

If you would like to make a new contribution to the Foundation, you can do so by contacting Julie McLaughlin djsimac@charter.net or Foundation president Jack Day JohnPDay@aol.com.



Some of this year's scholarship recipients, along with their high school counselors and Jack Day, at this year's Scholarship Foundation June 15 luncheon.

Founders Dinner 2017

November 9

The History Committee has been working its way through the decades of the Club's existence since Founders Dinner was established in 2014. This year's event will focus on the 1950s which we'll celebrate with some tidbits from the Club's past, a decade-appropriate bar and menu and the music of the 1950s.

Jefferson Public Radio music host, Craig Faulkner, has presented one of the nation's premiere oldies music programs on JPR for nearly 25 years. Craig will be on hand for Founders dinner to present the music of the decade along with both funny and serious stories about the artists who shaped American music in the 1950s.

Founders Dinner is \$45 per person. Reservations will open shortly when you will receive registration information by email. .

Who will receive this year's Bull Throwing Award?
Attend and find out!



MEMBERSHIP

**Do You Know Someone
Who Would Like to Join
the Club?**

A Personal Membership
Application can be
downloaded at:

**[Personal Member
Application](#)**

September Speaker Lunch

Craterian Theatre

Stephen McCandless

Stephen McCandless, Executive Director of the Craterian Performing Arts Company, spoke to the Club on September 14 and discussed both the Craterian's offerings and operation as well as his views on the community's cultural health.



Lunch and Learn

Steve Erb - October 10

“From Peer to Manager: Tips and Tricks on Handling the Transition”



This month's *Lunch & Learn* for a program titled “From Peer to Manager: Tips and Tricks on Handling the Transition” facilitated by Steve Erb. Mr. Erb has been in the banking industry for over 30 years currently serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer at People's Bank of Commerce overseeing Small Business Lending, the Home Mortgage Division, Marketing and Business Development and the Bank's five branches. His years' of experience make him keenly aware of the challenges associated with the transition from Peer to Manager having gone through it himself and having watched countless others in that transition. This will be a valuable hour for all young professionals!

Come join us. Registration is now open at [October Lunch and Learn](#).

Last Month's *Lunch and Learn* with Sandy Abell - Thanks Sandy!



Rogue River Valley University Club

218 West Sixth Street
Medford, OR 97501

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Rogue River Valley University Club
218 West Sixth Street
Medford, OR 97501

(541) 772-4707

admin@medforduclub.org

Visit us on the web at
www.rrvuclub.org