



Region 12 SERRA International

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 24, 2014

Dick Petersen - Regional Director

Dear Fellow Northwest Serrans,

We are coming to a fun time of year, with Spring Leadership Planning Conferences being held all over the country. We have a lot of exciting things happening with new club building in Bellingham, Walla Walla, and even some interest in Boise, Idaho.

It is important that each club pay your current dues, so those attending the Serra International (SI) Conference July 10-13, 2014 will be eligible to vote for their own clubs, and carry proxy votes for other clubs in our Region. Additional information on delegate and proxy voting will be forwarded to you as it is received.

Region 12 is still in need of a Regional Director for the coming term. I have been Regional Director for 4 years, the maximum allowed by USAC Bylaws. My term ends on May 31st. It is now important that we have someone step up and take this leadership role for at least one year. Elaine Fields 1-E, Andy Tassani 1-N, and Ken Harris 1-S are our District Governors-Elect. This will be Ken's second term. A great big *thank you* to each of them for stepping up to the plate to help lead our clubs and our Region.

As you may know, USAC is now sharing office space with Serra International. We have both moved to a new location in downtown Chicago not far from USAC's previous office. This was done effective March 1 and will help both USAC and SI realize a substantial annual savings.

I am very pleased at how far we have come since September 3rd of last year. John Liston, the new Executive Director of both SI and SI Foundation, has done an outstanding job of listening to USAC and our concerns.

God bless you during this Lenten Season.
Dick Petersen, Regional Director

Daniel R. Jones, President USAC

Dear Fellow Region 12 Serrans,

I hope you are pleased with the positive results that have been accomplished in Serra in the last several months. Namely the dismissal of the law suit, the reinstatement of the United States Council of Serra (even though we never considered ourselves not a council), the approval of the Resolution of Unity by both the USAC and the Serra International (SI) Boards, the hiring of John Liston as the new Executive Director of SI and the SI Foundation; and now moving into one new location at: 333 West Wacker Drive, Suite 500; Chicago, IL 60606. All these steps were made possible by hard work and concentrated efforts by members of USAC and Serra International and Sean Yeo, our International President. Many of these steps will provide cost savings and we continue to look at additional ways to be more efficient while providing excellent services to our membership.

You might also want to be aware that a USAC long range planning committee (of which Dick Peterson is a member) has been meeting for several weeks and has come up with some very interesting ideas as Serra moves forward. The long range planning committee of SI (of which I am a member of) will meet via virtual phone conference on March 29. These, to me, are aligned with the motto of Blessed Junipero Serra "Always go forward and never look back".

So now is the time to pay both Serra International and USAC dues. Thank you to the many clubs in our region who have done so and continue on a regular basis. You are what we call the "Gold Standard Serra Clubs"!

Last, but most importantly, thank you for your efforts to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life. Quo Vadis Days, the Priest Appreciation dinners, Sisters' luncheons, vocation rallies, and college connections are just a few of the many events that our Serra Clubs do on a regular basis.

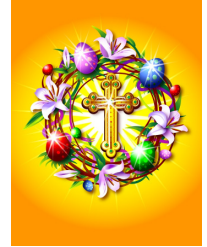
Please plan to attend the **72nd Serra International Convention in Sacramento, California July 10-13, 2014**. Only \$300 registration fee if submitted by April 15, 2014! Register online at SI Website:
<https://serra.org/index.php/serra-conventions/2014-sacramento-registration>

Blessed Junipero Serra – Pray for us!

Daniel R. Jones, USAC President



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Barrie Baird, Governor 1-E

Tri-Cities and Spokane Serra Clubs continue to thrive with enthusiastic, motivated leadership and well attended programs to include:

Tri-Cities

- ✦ As part of their Christmas party meeting on Dec 12th, the club **inducted 2 new members** and presented **Chaplain, Fr John Birk** with a Christmas gift of \$100.00.
- ✦ During the Feb 1st meeting, the club scheduled an annual **fundraiser** (move automobile's) **to raise funds for Seminarians**. Sent a \$500.00 gift to seminarian Kyle Ratuiste for his Transitional Deacon ordination.
- ✦ **Msgr. Ramirez** conducted a **"Spiritual Day of Recollection"** on Mar 15th.

Spokane

- ✦ A **"Day of Prayer"** at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC) led by **Fr. Rick Ganz, S.J.** in November was attended by about 40 Serrans from the **Spokane, Tri-Cities and Yakima** clubs. **First Friday Masses** were held followed by coffee and donuts with seminarians at Bishop White Seminary (BWS). **Luncheon meetings** on the second Friday of the month at IHRC included guest speakers **Bishop Skylstad** and **Fr. Richard Poole**, a recently returned Air Force Chaplain.
- ✦ More than 30 members were in attendance at the January 25th Saturday meeting. Our new Chaplain **Fr. McNeese** was the guest speaker.
- ✦ **Fr McNeese** hosted about 30 Serrans, along with several prospective new members at a **"Come and See"** event on Saturday, Nov 23rd at BWS.
- ✦ A pizza party was hosted at BWS for prospective and current seminarians on Sunday, Feb 23rd. There were **9 prospective seminarians** in attendance.
- ✦ **Bishop Cupich** celebrated Mass and **Inducted 6 new members** at IHRC on Feb 26th.
- ✦ Providing **"Serra Prayer Cards for Vocations"** to **Newman Centers at WSU and EWU**.
- ✦ Converted the **newsletter** to an on-line presence accessed at www.serraclubofspokane.com
- ✦ Hosted an **Annual Women Religious Appreciation Brunch** on **March 15th**. Mass was celebrated by **Bishop Blase Cupich** with a social and brunch to follow.
- ✦ **Anniversary Dinner** and Mass with Installation of 2014-15 Club Officers is scheduled for **May 31st**.
- ✦ **Clergy - Serra Golf Tournament** at Esmeralda Golf Course scheduled on **June 18th** with dinner to follow at Mary Queen Parish Hall.
- ✦ Primary sponsor for **Quo Vadis Days and VOCARE** during the month of **June**.

Yakima Serra Club

Although populated with active, sincere, spiritually rich and dedicated Serrans the Yakima Club has decided to "go their own way" (at least for the time being). In my opinion, two major factors have influenced this decision, one is they have been unable to maintain an active membership campaign for the past several years and two, through no fault of their own, and due to unavoidable re-assignments, their Chaplain position has been largely vacant.

Our visits to the Yakima Serra Club were most gratifying and fulfilling. We were impressed and grateful for their work in successfully hosting the previous Region 12 Spring Planning Conference and honored to have made their acquaintance. We wish them the very best and continue to join them in prayer.

*Blessings to all,
Barrie Baird, District Governor 1E*



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Ken Harris, Governor 1-S

The Serra clubs of district 1-S: Portland, Vancouver and Salem are thriving. Each has a solid base of membership and an active calendar of events. A goal of our district that has existed for several years has been to increase the number of clubs in our district. ("More easily said than done"). We recently lost our club in the Bend area due to a lack of members and the USAC-International conflict. Thus, the fact is the number of clubs has been reduced instead of a desired expansion.

The areas of particular interest for our district include at least one more club in the Portland area and, hopefully, an expansion to the South – namely the Eugene and Medford areas. In order for this to occur we need to find some potential Serrans in these areas and to determine what will be the meeting times and places for a potential Serra club in each area. An example of an attribute required is: when and where should a potential club hold its meetings that will be attractive to younger adults (those who have not yet reached the retirement phase of their life). The first step would most likely be to contact a pastor or pastors in one of these areas who would help Portland Serrans to contact other potential Serrans. The initial actions would include communication with our Archdiocesan Vocations Director and/or the Archbishop who could intercede for us. In any case our district has set a difficult but an achievable goal for itself. All prayers would be welcomed.

Portland Club Highlights.

- ✠ The Portland Club's annual *Kevin Van Hoomissen Honorary Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon* was held at the Double Tree Lloyd Center Hotel on Sunday afternoon October 27. Over 70 Sisters of the various Orders in the Portland area, and 45 members of the Portland Club attended this event.
- ✠ In November, the Portland Club assisted the Archdiocese Vocation Office in beginning a Parish Contact Person (deemed "Vocations Promoter") Program. The purpose of the program is to develop names of individuals in parishes throughout the archdiocese. The contact person in each parish would then be the individual the Vocation Office would channel information to for vocation matters, and assist in strengthening the parish vocation committee programs.
- ✠ December 4 was Portland's annual Christmas Party at St. Patrick Parish in Portland. Event was attended by Archbishop Sample, Archbishop (Emeritus) Vlazny, Msgr Peter Smith (recently announced as Bishop-Elect) , Msgr Donald Buxman (Vicar for Clergy), as well as many parish priests.
- ✠ February 23 our club held the Annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner at the Double Tree Lloyd Center Hotel. Archbishop Sample and Archbishop (Emeritus) Vlazny attended this event along with 60+ other priests and deacons.
- ✠ March 1 our club held our annual dinner honoring Seminarians from Mount Angel Seminary held at St. Patrick Parish in Portland.
- ✠ March 20 the Portland Club provided our support to the Vocation Committee of the Archdiocese in conducting the annual Vocations Rally. This year, 490 sixth grade students from Portland area parochial schools attended. Club members performed various assigned tasks and hosted lunch for the Vocation Committee and members of religious orders who presented information concerning their Orders.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Ken Harris, Governor 1-S (continued)

SALEM/KEIZER CLUB HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✠ We sent Christmas Cards to all the Seminarians at Mount Angel (a few who are in Rome), as well as our local Pastors.
- ✠ Supported 6th grade Vocations Rally on March 19 at Queen of Peace Church – supplied and served breakfast, lunch and snacks for the presenters and students
- ✠ Planning a BBQ for the seminarians at the Fr. Bernard Center in late April.
- ✠ Currently recruiting new members at our monthly speakers meeting at St. Joseph Rectory.
- ✠ Our recent speakers have been Father Odo, & Vocations Director at Mount Angel Abbey; Father Heuberger, Pastor St. Vincent Church Salem; Rolando Moreno, Pastoral Assistant St. Joseph; and Father Charles, pastoral Vicar St. Joseph.

COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✠ January 18th– Columbia River Serra held its 4th Annual Vocations Benefit dinner in Vancouver. All proceeds from the event went to support Quo Vadis and vocation events for the Archdiocese of Seattle. There were approximately 420 in attendance, including youth and adults, priests, seminarians, and religious to share in a most glorious and inspiring vocations event. Archbishop Sartain was our keynote speaker. Other speakers included Mother Teresa Christe of the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, Sister Krista von Borstel of Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, and seminarian Chris Hoiland of Mt. Angel Abbey to share their inspiring vocation stories with families and youth in our community.
- ✠ We finally have a website thanks to one of our newer members, Tim Tomassi. The link is: <http://www.columbiariverserra.org/>. Pictures from the Vocations dinner can be found on the home page.
- ✠ The Archdiocese of Seattle is sponsoring a Traveling Monstrance for Vocations. The Monstrance started in April 2013 right here in the Southern Deanery at St. James Catholic Church, spending two weeks at each church in the deanery for Eucharistic Adoration for vocations. Serra members traveled with the monstrance from April to November to help promote prayer and dedicated holy hours for vocations. The Traveling Monstrance is now moving up the I-5 corridor, and will ultimately end at the Cathedral in Seattle in May 2019!
- ✠ In October, members of Columbia River Serra traveled to Mount Angel to visit with seminarians from the Archdiocese of Seattle. We joined the seminarians and Fr. Dolejsi (Vocations director of the Archdiocese of Seattle) for a tour of the seminary, prayed Vespers, and then went out for pizza.
- ✠ In August, Columbia River Serra supported the *Ignite Your Torch* event in Olympia WA and participated in the Holy Hour for Vocations with Archbishop Sartain and over 250 youth.
- ✠ All our members continue to pray for and write letters monthly to all seminarians in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Upcoming Events:

- ✠ Ordination of Brian Thomson to the priesthood on June 7th. Brian is from Holy Redeemer, the parish of our Serra Chaplain Fr. Mitchell.
- ✠ Quo Vadis Days on June 23-26 at Camp Don Bosco. Serra clubs in the Archdiocese of Seattle provide funding and assist with meal and transportation to/from the camp at no cost to families.

***Ken Harris,
District Governor 1S***



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Dick Thorpe, Governor 1-N

District 1-N is busy preparing for the Regional Spring Leadership Planning Conference to be held April 4-6 in Edmonds. Nearly every club in the district is making a contribution to this important event because it is so important to the successful pursuit of our mission. Newly elected officers will receive a concentrated exposure to their duties from experienced past officers and experienced officers will glean new ideas and enthusiasm for their job of fulfilling their commitment to lead the other members of their clubs to further the mission of Serra.

But Spring Leadership Planning Conference is not merely a training conference, it is also an opportunity to socialize with other Serra leaders, do some planning for our coming year of Serra activities, and become reinvigorated to discharge our Serra mission.

On-going activities of the clubs of District 1-N, in addition to their regular meetings and correspondence to seminarians, include East-Side Serra preparing and serving sandwiches to Lazarus Center; and Tacoma, Seattle and Everett providing food and hospitality for monthly Discernment Nights for young men. Renton Serra sends the Serra Cross for Vocations home with a different family every Sunday to pray for vocations.

In November last year, Tacoma Serra helped the Archdiocese host an Operation Andrew gathering and Everett Serra did the same in February, this year. Renton Serra recently hosted a welcome dinner for their resident seminarian and last month Seattle Serra hosted their first Deacon Appreciation dinner. The members of Sno-King Serra (soon to be known as "Edmonds Serra") volunteer a spiritual bouquet for a different priest, sister and deacon each month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4, 5 and 6 - Spring Leadership Planning Conference in Edmonds.

April 12 - Tacoma Serra is hosting a Serra Retreat at Palisades.

May 13 - Everett Serra will host Priest Appreciation Day of golf, boating and evening banquet for the priests

May 21 - Seattle Serra will host over one hundred nuns for Sisters Appreciation.

June 4 - Cascade Serra will host our Seminarian Appreciation Dinner.

June 22-25 - Every club in District 1-N plus Columbia River Club working on Quo Vadis /CYO Camp Don Bosco

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thorpe, District Governor 1N

Always forward, never back. *Blessed Junipero Serra.*