

### **History of Probus Club of Mercer Island**

On June 8<sup>th</sup> of this year Probus Club of Mercer Island marked 22 successful years as a great social club for retired and semi-retired people on Mercer Island.

Norris Bevan of Bellevue Rotary brought the concept of Probus to the United States after learning about it on a trip to Australia. The Probus Club of Mercer Island was formed in 1988. At the first meeting, then Mercer Island Mayor, Jim Horn, proclaimed June 8 as Probus Club Charter Day. A copy of that original 1988 proclamation by then Mayor Jim Horn can be seen in the *Club Information* box included on this website.

The officers who served for that first year of 1988/1989 were Dick Chappelle, president; Roger Trachy, vice-president; Leo Anderson and Chet Ferguson, co-secretaries; Walt Rodgers and Ed Morgan, co-treasurers; Ken Porter, program chairman; Lou Moncini, visits and entertainment; Bruce Heywood, membership; and John Nelson, publicity. Some of these men are still members of the club.

Currently, Bob Walker is serving as President of Probus for the 2010/2011 club year and Jim Horn is one of our many past-presidents. Over the years many fine programs have been presented, recently including Gary Locke, former Governor of the State of Washington and now President Obama's Secretary of Commerce; Secretary Locke spoke to us on trade, social and industrial developments in China.