

History of Probus Club of Mercer Island

On June 8th of this year Probus Club of Mercer Island marked 20 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. Today Jim Horn is serving as President of Probus for the 2008/2009 club year. A copy of that original 1988 proclamation by then Mayor Jim Horn can be seen on this link:

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 today.

Over the years many fine programs have been presented, recently including former Governor of the State of Washington Gary Locke, speaking on trade, social and industrial developments in China.